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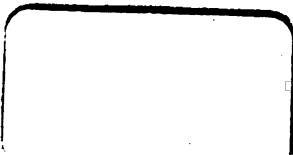
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**THE**  
**STATISTICAL ACCO**  
**OF**  
**S C O T L A N D**



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
*MINISTERS*

OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES,

---

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

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VOLUME THIRTEENTH.

*"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."*  
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

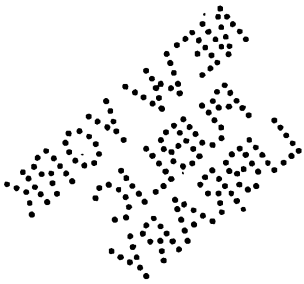


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M,DCC,XCIV.



# C O N T E N T S.

Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1791-3.	Increase.	Decr.	Page.
1 Inverbervie, or Bervie, -	655	1200	545	—	1
2 Nigg, - -	1261	1133	—	128	13
3 Carnbee, - -	2293	1041	—	252	23
4 Inveraven, - -	2464	*2244	—	220	34
5 Dalry, - - -	891	†1100	209	—	45
6 Keanethmont, - -	791	830	39	—	66
7 Kintore, - - -	830	862	32	—	81
8 Strathmartin, - -	368	340	—	28	95
9 Liff and Bervie, -	1311	1790	479	—	101
10 Keanoway, - - -	1240	†1500	260	—	123
11 Abernethy and Kinchardine, - -	1670	1769	99	—	179
12 Meldrum, - - -	1603	1490	—	113	153
13 Muirhouse, - - -	623	462	—	161	161
14 Strathdon, - - -	1750	1524	—	226	171
15 St Andrew's and St Leonard's, -	4590	4335	—	255	185
16 Cockburnspath, -	919	883	—	36	221
17 Clafburn, - - -	999	1490	491	—	227
18 Kirkpatrick - Fleming, - - -	1147	1542	395	—	248
19 North Yell and Fetlar, - - -	1098	1346	248	—	278
20 South Uist, - - -	2209	3450	1241	—	292
21 North Uist, - - -	1909	3218	130	—	300
22 Barray, - - -	1150	1604	454	—	326
23 Anwoth, - - -	531	495	—	36	343
24 Garvald and Baro, -	774	730	—	44	353
25 Carmichael, - - -	899	781	—	118	364
26 Alvie, - - -	1021	1011	—	10	375
Carried over,	33996	38170	5801	1627	

\* This was the number in 1779. No return is made for 1793.

† " Nine years ago, says Mr Macgowan, the population was about 1000 and now must be greater; Earl Galloway's village being already four times larger than it formerly was." The population in 1793 may therefore be fixed at 1100.

‡ In 1785, those who were of the age of going to school were 1200. The whole population, therefore, in that year, may be fixed at 1500.



No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1791-3.	Increase.	Decr.
	Brought over,	33996	38170	5801	1627
27	Channelkirk, -	531	600	69	—
28	Rathven, -	2898	3524	626	—
29	Dunfermline, -	8552	*9550	998	—
30	Monifieth, -	1421	1218	—	203
31	St Martin's and Cambusmichael,	1083	†1000	—	83
32	Kiltarlity, -	1964	2495	531	—
33	Cargill, -	1897	1720	—	177
34	Lochcarron, -	771	1068	297	—
35	Glenrathen or Linrathen,	1165	†900	—	265
36	Hutton and Gorrie,	993	583	—	410
37	New Luce, -	459	400	—	59
38	Langholm, -	1833	2582	749	—
39	Echt, -	1277	963	—	314
40	Borthwick, -	910	858	—	52
41	Balmaghie, -	697	862	165	—
42	Ghillary, -	2751	2568	—	183
	Totals,	63198	69061	9236	3973
			63198	3373	
	Increase in 1791-3,		5863	5863	

\* The North Ferry is legally in the parish of Dunfermline, but its population is not included. The population of the estates of Urquhart and Logie, near Dunfermline, but which are legally in the parish of Inverkeithing, is included. See p. 436.

† The number of examinable persons is 800.

‡ By computation, from the register of baptisms and burials.

### ERRATA.

Page 88. line 10, for *is*, read *are*.

— 144. — 11, for full stop, mark comma.

— 146. — 33, for *their*, read *there*.

— 177. — 11, for *register*, read *registers*.

— 194. — 3, for *rectoralis*, read *rectorales*.

— 320. — 9, for *Highland*, read *Highlands*.

— 607. — 2, &c. for while Langholm church-yard, and the church-yards of Wauchope and Staplegordon are still used by many families to bury, read, (after a full stop) With Langholm church-yard, are the church-yards of Wauchope and Staplegordon, where many families still bury.



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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

PART XIII.

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NUMBER I.

PARISH OF INVERBERVIE OR BERVIE,

(COUNTY OF KINGARDINE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,  
PRESBYTERY OF FORDOUN.)

*By Mr WALTER THOM of Bervie.*

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*Name, Extent, Burgh of Bervie, &c.*

THE name seems to be taken from the rivulet of Bervie; with the addition of the Gaelic word *Inver*, which, in its signification, applies particularly to the situation of the town of Inverbervie, but in common writing and speaking is now in disuse. This parish was formerly a part of that of Kinneff; but as there was no bridge on Bervie water, the minister of Kinneff agreed to keep a

VOL. XIII.

A

suffragan

suffragan at Bervie, to accommodate the people in that quarter of his parish; and the Lords for the Plantation of Kirks, in the year 1618, disjoined Bervie from Kinneff, and increased the stipends of both incumbents. The power of presentation is vested in the Crown. The extent of this parish is inconsiderable, being only about 2 miles long, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile broad; from E. to W. it rises in a gradual ascent, and terminates at the top of a high hill. On the east corner of the parish, the burgh of Bervie is situated; and on the southmost part, the village of Gourdon stands. The burgh of Bervie consists of three streets, which form nearly three sides of a square, and contains about 110 dwelling-houses. The original plan of the town seems to have been laid out in a very judicious manner, but it has not been adhered to; for the houses are set down irregularly, according to the fancy of the builders. Bervie is the only royal burgh in the county of the Mearns, and its charter was granted by David II. in the year 1342. When returning from England, he was forced, by stress of weather, to land at the water-mouth of Bervie; and it is said, that having met with great hospitality and kindness from the inhabitants, he bestowed on the town a royalty, as a mark of his particular favour: The place on which he landed, to this day bears his name, and is called Craig David. James VI. in the year 1595, renewed the charter, and confirmed all the privileges and immunities granted by King David\*.

*Fisberies,*

\* By this charter, the public property is distinctly marked out; indeed it comprehends nearly the whole extent of the parish; but the property which now belongs to the town is confined to a piece of barren moor, a few acres of haugh ground, and a range of braes, about a mile in extent, which afford a little grass for the cows belonging to the inhabitants of the town, in the summer season. By this charter, "full power is given

to

*Fisheries, Manufactures, Markets, &c.*—Bervie seems at some period to have been a considerable fishing station, for lines, hooks, and shells, have been dug up in different parts of the town; but beyond the memory of man, there have been no professional fishermen, probably they have removed to the village of Gourdon, which is a more eligible situation for carrying on that business. Bervie has been long famous, or rather infamous, for an illicit and illegal trade in teas, spirits, tobacco, &c.; but the ruinous and baneful trade of smuggling is now much on the decline, being confined to the *running*\* of a few hundred ankers of spirits annually, and by a set of worthless desperadoes, who do not belong to the town, but bring their goods to Bervie beach, for the sake of conveniency, and an easy landing. In the year 1750, a branch of a sail-cloth manufacture was established by a company of merchants of Montrose, and was long carried on with great success, but about 12 years ago was entirely given up; however, the  
weavers

to the free burghesses of the said burgh, and their successors, to make, choose, constitute, and create, a provost, bailies, dean of guild, treasurer, councillors, officers," &c. &c. Accordingly a provost, 3 bailies, dean of guild, treasurer, and 9 councillors, are annually elected, but not by the "free burghesses," as expressed by the charter, in direct language, but by themselves: However, I believe self-election is not confined to Bervie alone, but is the universal practice of the Scotch burghs. The tradesmen of this burgh have no regular corporations, of course they have no office-bearers as in other towns, but they have a small fund established. By mutual consent, each member pays so much on entry, and quarterly. This money is generally applied in purchasing meal, which they sell out to the members of their own society. Bervie is one of the burghs in the Aberdeen district, and accordingly votes for a representative in Parliament, by a delegate chosen by the town-council, and the election takes place in the burghs by rotation of Parliaments.

\* *Running*, is a phrase which the smugglers in this part of the country use for landing.

weavers are still, and have long been in the practice of purchasing flax, which they spin, weave, and bleach, each for his own account: The quantity of cloth thus manufactured is inconsiderable, but it finds a ready market in our country-fairs, and generally sells at the rate of 1 d. Sterling a-yard, above the current price of cloth of the same quality, whitened at a regular bleachfield. The bleaching of cloth was a considerable trade five or six years ago, and is still continued, though not to half the extent. About 15 years ago, a manufacture of coloured threads was established in Bervie, and is still carried on. The threads are sent to the London market, where they generally find a ready sale. This manufacture employs, in all its parts, about 50 people. Three years ago, a machine was erected on the haughs of Bervie, for spinning linen-yarn: This machine was the first of the kind in Scotland. Although exceedingly imperfect at first, it is now brought to a considerable degree of improvement; the yarn it spins is of a good quality, and fit for any sort of manufacture whatever. The proprietors of this machine have also the thread-manufacture, mentioned above, so that all the yarn spun by the machine is made into threads. The house is not yet filled with machinery, but will contain from 600 to 700 spindles, when full, and employ about 60 boys and girls, and 20 or 30 men and women. Two years ago a sail-cloth manufacture was established, which employs 14 weavers, and a proportional number of other hands. A lint-mill was built last year on the haughs of Bervie, which is likely to meet with encouragement. There are also two mills for cutting barley, and they cut about 1300 bolls yearly, which is generally carried up the frith of Forth. There is likewise a corn-mill, to which the tenants of the parish are thirled. In last December, a distillery,

tillery was erected in the neighbourhood of the town of Bervie, on a small scale. On the beach of Bervie, there is a salmon-fishing, which yields the proprietors, Viscount Arbuthnot and Mr Barclay of Ury, £. 120 Sterling yearly rent. The salmon are of an excellent quality; and when plenty, are sold at a reasonable price, from 2½ d. to 4 d. a-pound. Bervie water abounds with trouts and eels, which are caught by the rod in the proper season. In the town of Bervie, there are nine shops, which retail to the town and country around, soft ware, grocery goods, &c. There are five ale-houses, for retailing beer, spirits, &c. besides a tavern, which is intended principally for the accommodation of travellers, and the genteeler sort of company in the town and neighbourhood. It is to be regretted, that the consumption of spirits is so considerable in this place; it must have a great effect to corrupt and debauch the morals and manners of the people. A weekly market was established about 18 months ago, which is a great conveniency to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, as it affords a regular supply of butcher-meat, meal, and every thing else which the country produces. A weekly market was attempted about 30 years ago, but did not succeed, as the demand and consumpt for provisions was not then so considerable as now. The increased consumption of provisions is not owing to any increase of population, but to the extravagance of the labouring people, and the high wages they receive.—Two fairs were held last year on the town's moor, and will be continued annually; the one in May, the other in September: These fairs will be an advantage as well as a conveniency to the inhabitants of the coast-side; for it is in public markets that farmers transact the principal part of their business,



ness, such as, the buying and selling of cattle, horses, and grain, engaging servants, &c. \*.

*Stipend; School, Poor.*—The church was built in the year 1781. The stipend † is 4 chalders of victual, 400 merks of money, with L. 50 Scots for communion-elements. A process is just now depending for an augmentation. The manse is a decent house in the town of Bervie, and the glebe about 4½ acres.—The salary of the schoolmaster is 100 merks, and the perquisites of the session-clerkship may amount to L. 2, 10 s. or L. 3. On the whole, his income will not exceed L. 18 or L. 20 yearly.—The poor are about 12 in general; and all the assistance they get is about L. 28 a-year, divided among them, which arises from the interest of some money lent out, and the weekly collections at the church-door.

*Village of Gourdon.*—This village is situated on the south corner of the parish. It consists of 42 habitable houses, besides stables, barns, and granaries. There is a harbour, but it is neither commodious nor safe, being of difficult entry, and much exposed to the violence of the S. E. winds: However, there are eight sloops, or small barks, in all about 300 tons burden, belonging to Gourdon. They are employed in carrying lime and coals to it, and from thence they carry grain occasionally coastwise. They give employment to 24 hands, including the masters:

\* A ploughman, capable of sowing, gets from L. 8 to L. 10 yearly, and his victuals; and a maid-servant, from L. 5 to L. 6; a boy, from L. 2, to L. 3; a day-labourer, 1 s. a-day; a mason, 1 s. 8 d. a-day; a joiner, 1 s. 1 d.; a tailor, 8 d. and victuals.

† This account of the stipend was transmitted by the Rev. Mr Groll, minister of the parish.

masters: It is only in summer that such small vessels are able to navigate the seas: In winter, they are laid up, and the sailors betake themselves to fishing, at least the most industrious of them do so. There are annually imported into the harbour of Gourdon about 3000 bolls of lime-shells; from 700 to 800 bolls of Scots, and about 2000 barrels of English coals, which supply the country for a few miles round. There are about 4000 bolls of grain exported yearly, and which are generally carried to the ports in the frith of Forth, or Glasgow and Greenock, by the canal. About 30 years ago, 50 bolls of Scots coals were sufficient to supply the demand at Gourdon: For many years after that period, the inhabitants were much in the practice of using peats or mosses as fuel, but the mosses are now nearly exhausted; and the expence of labour has become so high, that peats are dearer than coals; of course, the demand for coals has very considerably increased within these 10 or 12 years, for coals are the only fuel which is now used in the town of Bervie, and neighbourhood; but the partial and unjust tax on them prevents a greater consumption; it is expensive to the manufacturer, and oppressive to the poor; a tax, which by no means can yield to Government a compensation adequate to its extensive oppression and pernicious effects. Before the year 1768, no lime was imported to be used as a manure; and for a few years after that period, about 200 bolls were found sufficient to supply every demand. About 30 years ago, there were 3 fishing-boats, of a large size, besides smaller boats or yauls, which in all employed 30 fishermen; but now there are only 4 small yauls, and 12 men employed in the fishing, and they earn but a scanty pittance, being old and decrepid men, they are unable to work at any other business, and must linger out a miserable existence, with little hope of ever being better; for the fishing-business

finch seems to be much on the decline on this coast, owing to the great scarcity of fishes, particularly of the species called haddocks. Within these 10 or 12 years, the haddocks have left this coast almost entirely. In the year 1782, a prodigious storm happened on this coast, the wind blowing with uncommon violence, raised the sea in such mountainous billows, as to produce effects almost like an earthquake; and since that storm, the haddocks have every year become scarcer. The ground on which the haddocks were found, was a continued bed of mussels, (the favourite food of that fish), clusters of which the fishermen use to draw up frequently with their lines; but since that storm, the bottom has been entirely covered with sand. The mussels being destroyed in this manner, of course it behoved the haddocks to remove to a more favourable station; however, a few cod-fish are still caught, and they sell at a very extravagant price, at least five or six times the price they were formerly sold for\*. Of late years, a good many herrings have been taken in the proper season, both by the fishermen of Gourdon, and the salmon-fishers of Bervie, which they sell in the neighbourhood at the rate of 3d. a dozen. Crabs and lobsters are also taken on the coast, and among the rocks.

*Country part of the Parish.*—There are about 780 acres of arable land here, as much more waste and uncultivated moor, and a few acres of pasture. The low lands are a fine loam of considerable depth, and the high grounds a mixture of clay and gravel. According to the best calculation,

\* Dr Blagden ascribes the scarcity of haddocks to the effects of electricity. If lightning had destroyed the haddocks, it is wonderful how it should have spared cod-fish, which have been caught in greater abundance since the year 1782 than formerly.

cultivation, there are usually employed in raising turnips 40 acres; pease and beans 30; sown or artificial grasses 200; potatoes 100; wheat 27; flax 5; bear and barley 217; oats 157. There are 6 principal farms, the largest of which does not exceed 144 acres of arable land, and the smallest not under 25. There are also 12 other tacks or subtacks, the largest of which is 20 acres, and the smallest only 5. There are 16 ploughs, 67 horses, and some oxen, employed in farming; also 16 ploughmen, about 12 maid-servants, 12 boys, and 10 barn-men, besides the farmers, or tenants themselves, some of whom manage or work a plough with their own hands. Within these 12 years, very considerable improvements have taken place, and almost a total alteration in the appearance of the fields, and quality of the soil; the farms being made more compact by excambion, and the fields much improved by liming, manuring, and straighting. The good effects of these improvements are perfectly obvious, from the rise of land-rent; for about a third part of the parish, (lying below the high-road, and contiguous to the sea-coast), is now let from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 the acre, whereas it formerly yielded the proprietor no more than 10s. or 12s. Nor does it appear, that the farmers are now less rich and wealthy than formerly; their manner of living evinces rather the contrary. There are only 2 proprietors in the parish; the Viscount Arbutnot and Mr Barclay of Ury; the latter of whom is a very spirited and judicious farmer: He was the first who introduced a proper mode of husbandry and culture in this part of the country; he prescribed and laid down to his tenants certain rules for the management of their farms, to which they are obliged to adhere by the tenor of their tacks, by which means he not only increased the value of his property, but enabled the farmer to live more comfortably and easy. The farmers in general

pay part of their rent in grain, which they are obliged to drive to the distance of 12 miles, if necessary. Viscount Arbutnot's tenants are bound to furnish his Lordship a day's service of their whole reapers annually, and also to drive his coals and peats for family use. Such kind of service is called bondage. During a storm, a considerable quantity of sea-wear is thrown ashore, which is carried off and laid on the lands, and is esteemed an excellent manure, especially when the crop following is bear or barley.—The real rent of the parish may amount to about L. 700 Sterling; the valued rent is exactly L. 1815 : 13 : 4 Scots.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the population then was, 655. The parish at present contains about 985 souls: The town of Bervie, 607: Village of Gourdon, 188: The country part of the parish, 190\*.

*Marriages and Births for 40 Years past.*

	Marriages.	Births.	
		Males.	Females.
From 1750, to 1760.	55	From 1750 to 1760,	101    95
1760 to 1770.	51	1760 to 1770,	129    95
1770 to 1780.	56	1770 to 1780,	128    128
1780 to 1790.	84	1780 to 1790,	131    105
	246		902

*Miscellaneous*

\* Extract of a letter addressed to Sir John Sinclair, April 26. 1793, by the Rev. Mr Croll. "For a great many years before the present manufactures were established here, the number of catechisable persons, that is, those at or above eight years, amounted to about 400. Since the introduction of the manufactures, that is, in about 15 years and 6 months, the number of catechisable persons is more than 800; and I suppose the number of souls to be about 1200 at least."

*Miscellaneous Observations.* By a map of the county, it appears the parish contains exactly 1660 Scots acres, or 2339 English. There once existed in Bervie a religious establishment, of the order of White Friars, but nothing now remains, nor has tradition handed down any thing concerning them but the name. Opposite to the town of Bervie, stands the rock of Craig David, in the parish of Kinneff, it is a conspicuous land-mark for mariners, and is seen at the distance of 15 leagues: I mention it here, because it is generally known by the name of Bervie Brow. Bervie water is the only river in the parish. It rises in Glenbervie, (about 8 miles from the sea), and meanders in a variety of beautiful curves. A view from the bridge of Bervie towards the house of Allardice, about a mile up the river, affords an agreeable and pleasant prospect, but not remarkably picturesque. By the projection of the rocks on each side of Bervie bay, when an easterly storm sets in, the sea rolls in mountainous billows, and presents a picture truly sublime. The crashing of the waves on the shore is heard at the distance of 10 or 12 miles. The air is wholesome and salubrious, perhaps more so than in several of the inland parishes; but when the wind blows from the east, it is exceedingly sharp, and is the cause of many of the inhabitants being seized with rheumatic complaints, which are every year becoming more prevalent, and generally attack people in the spring or autumn. As a trait of the character of the people of this parish, they are by no means addicted to litigation; are too wise to give their money to lawyers, and neither plague their heads with politics nor religion. There may be one or two Dissenters in the parish, but they are not natives. They live tolerably contented with their situation, no wise engaging in the political squabbles of the present day, perfectly unacquainted with Thomas Paine or Edmund Burke. Tradition hands down a fanciful account of the name of Guthrie

rie in Bervie. When King David came up to Bervie, his servant desired a fisherwoman to get a fish for the King's supper. "Cut two," says his Majesty: "I'll get three," says the woman: "Well," replies his Majesty, "Cut three, for ever shalt thou be." The revenue arising from the town's property, &c. does not exceed L. 35 yearly. Were it double or triple the sum, it is to be doubted if it would be applied to any useful purpose, so that the smallness of the revenue is not a matter of much regret. The inhabitants of Bervie have contracted with a man, to bring in water to the town by pipes; the sum necessary to defray the expence, is to be raised by a tax of 1s. on each hearth. It would be of great advantage to Bervie, and the neighbourhood, if a harbour could be got at the water mouth; but the expence must be a great bar to the scheme, and the sea runs so high in a storm, that a small vessel could not easily take the harbour. A new bridge over Bervie water is to be built soon for that purpose: his Majesty has been pleased to give L. 1000. Several committees have been held to consider the propriety of establishing turnpikes in this county.

NUM-

## NUMBER II.

## PARISH of NIGG,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ROSS, PRESBYTERY OF TAIN.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MACADAM.

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE meaning of the word *Nigg* or *Neig*, as it was formerly written, is uncertain. Some suppose that it is a corruption of the word *Nic* or *Nook*, and that this parish is so called, because it lies in a corner of the country; but there is no great ground for this supposition, as there are few, if any instances, of the Gaelic names of places being corrupted; especially in those parts where the Gaelic continues to be the living language of the country. The more probable opinion is, that it is a Celtic term, expressive of the peninsular situation of the place, it being almost surrounded by water; and what, in some measure, corroborates this opinion is, that the parish of *Nigg*, in the shire of *Kincardine*, is exactly similar in situation to this parish. The parish of *Nigg* is above 5 miles long, and in some places between 2 and 3 broad. It lies from S. W. to N. E.

On



On the S. E. it is bounded by the Murray frith, on the S. and S. W. by the bay and frith of Cromarty. In the S. E. side of the parish, there is a hill, commonly called the hill of Nigg, which rises at a place called Shandwicke, and extends about 5 miles along the shore of the Murray frith, terminating at a place called Dunskeath, nearly opposite to Cromarty. Some parts of this hill are now covered with large plantations of firs in a thriving condition, other parts are let out in grass to pasture cattle. The face of the hill, hanging over the Murray frith, is, in some places, covered with grass and heath, abounds with medicinal herbs, where, some time ago, a number of goats were kept, whose milk, from that circumstance, was remarkable for its good qualities in restoring health. But a great part of the face of the hill is rocky, and accessible only to the birds of the air. The eagle, all the different kinds of hawks, build their nests in these rocks, some of which are several hundred feet in height. In them also great flocks of cormorants and other sea-fowl take up their residence, in their return from Caithness and the Northern Isles, whither in the summer season they repair to hatch their young. On the declivity of this hill, and exposed to the north, lies a considerable part of the arable grounds of this parish, and which are reckoned of the best quality, being a rich loam, with a clay bottom. At both extremities of the parish, the soil is light and sandy. During the winter season, a great part of the parish is wet, occasioned by the rains, which, falling on the hill, and distilling through the earth, ooze forth in springs in many parts, even of the arable grounds. Towards spring these dry up, and seed-time generally commences about the 10th of March. In the one end of the parish they begin to sow barley in the beginning of April, in the other end they begin not till about the middle of that month. During the spring months, vegetation is rather slow, owing to the strength



bolts, partly barley, partly meal. On some farms, the rent is paid in kind, and on some others the victual is converted into money, from 10 s. 6d. to 13 s. 4d. the boll. The rent of the land varies, according to the quality of the soil. The lands of the best quality are let at 2 bolts an acre. And what is most remarkable, the rent of a considerable part of these lands has not been augmented for 200 years back, and yet at present it is as high as the land can possibly bear. There are 9 proprietors in the parish, none of whom reside in it at present\*.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 1261. The population is rather on the decrease, owing to the union of farms, and several places where cottages once stood, being now inclosed and planted. At present, the examination rolls of the parish contain 933 souls, in which are inserted all who are 6 years of age and upwards. From the average number of births, those under 6 years of age, supposing them all to live, cannot amount to 200 more. The principal part of the inhabitants is employed in husbandry. In this parish there are 4 blacksmiths, 8 wrights, 2 coopers, 7 millers, 12 weavers, 9 tailors, 12 shoemakers, 1 flax-dresser, and 31 fishermen. This last class of men have, for 6 years past, subsisted themselves and families chiefly by raising crops of potatoes, the fish

\* *Price of Labour.*—The stated wages of day-labourers, are from 6 d. to 8 d. a-day. The amount of the wages of farm-servants, cannot be easily ascertained; for though their fee is inconsiderable, yet they have a great deal of perquisites, which make the whole of what they receive to amount to from 12 to 14 bolts of victual annually. The servants being generally married, and having families, prefer receiving their wages chiefly in victual. A capital defect in the mode of farming practised in this parish is, that they employ too many servants. Maid servants receive of wages from L. 1, 6s. to L. 1, 12 s. annually. All other tradesmen are paid by the piece of work which they execute.

ish on the coast having mostly left it. This circumstance has occasioned a considerable advance in the price of that necessary article of life; so that what 10 years ago could be purchased for 5 d. will now cost 2s. 6 d. The average number of births is something above 20. The number of deaths cannot be ascertained with precision; because, of those buried in this church-yard, the greater part is from the other parishes in the vicinity. The number of marriages is about 6 annually.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.*—Nigg is one of the menial churches that belonged to the bishoprick of Ross. Behind the church is still to be seen the foundation of a large house above 90 feet in length, which goes under the name of the Bishop's House, though not the place of his constant residence; and the hill already mentioned is, in old charters of the lands of the parish, called the Bishop's Forest. One of the vaults of the house remained entire in the year 1727.—The present church was new built in the year 1727, and underwent a thorough repair about two years ago. There were of old different chapels or places of worship; particularly one at Culish, where there is a small inclosure that goes by the name of the Chapel-Park. Scarce a vestige of the building remains. There was another at Shandwicke, the walls of which stood pretty entire till within these few years.—To the admission of the late incumbent there was a violent opposition on the part of the common people, headed by some of the heritors, and which terminated in a secession of almost the whole body of the people from the Established Church. Nor could the minister, though a man of sense, and greatly useful to the people by his medical skill, ever procure a decent auditory in the place. After residing among them above 30 years, the number of his hearers did not exceed 60 persons; and though those who at present attend wor-

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ship in the parish-church, greatly exceed that number, it is to be remarked, that they are chiefly composed, not of the original inhabitants of the parish, but of those who have removed hither from other parishes; nor can it be expected that the present generation will return into the bosom of the Established Church. The examination roll of the Established Church contains only 260 persons, while that of the Secession contains 673.—The King is patron. The stipend is 10 chalders barley, with the vicarage-teinds, which, about 30 years ago, are said to have amounted in value to from L. 16 to L. 20 Sterling; but at the admission of the present incumbent, they amounted only to from L. 6 to L. 7, and are still sinking in value, from the decrease of sheep in the parish; so that it is likely they will soon be inadequate to defray the expense of collecting them. There is a good manse, with offices, which have been lately repaired, and a glebe of rather more than four acres of good quality.—There is a parochial school, but no school-house at present; the heritors, however, have ordered one to be built. The salary is only L. 8 : 6 : 8; a paltry consideration to induce any young man, who has been at the expense of a liberal education, to undertake an office of all others the most slavish and fatiguing. The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge have been pleased, of late, to appoint a school-mistress for this parish, to instruct young girls in the different branches of education necessary for that sex, which, it is believed, will prove of singular benefit to the place; as heretofore it was impossible for parents to get their children educated, but by sending them to towns, which, by reason of their poverty, and the high rate of board wages, very few of them only were able to do.—Here, as in most other parishes in the North, the poor form a considerable part, who have no funds but what arise from the weekly collections in the church, and the interest of L. 20 Sterling, which was lately mortified for the benefit

benefit of the poor by a widow lady in this place. The number upon the poors roll is 28, who receive yearly the scanty pittance of from 3 s. to 10 s. a piece, according to their respective necessities. But in this parish there are several other poor persons, who belong to the Seceding meeting-house here, and who receive no public charity, as the weekly collections of this society, of which they are a part, are appropriated to another purpose. The only resource, therefore, on which they depend for subsistence, is begging from house to house.

*Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.*—Near the place of Shandwicke stands a large obelisk. On the one side of which are cut the figures of different animals; on the other a cross handsomely executed. The former is supposed to be a much older work than the latter; and the tradition is, that the stone was erected in memory of a shipwreck suffered opposite to that place, by the Danes, when they were wont to infest the northern coast; in which shipwreck three sons of the King of Denmark are said to have perished, and to have been buried where the obelisk stands. Adjoining to it there is a piece of ground, which carries the appearance of a burying-place. The foundation of a wall surrounding it remains, and marks of graves, both there and at the chapel, are to be seen, and in digging the ground human bones and skeletons have often been found. As to the particular time of the invasion and shipwreck, nothing is handed down\*.—There was another obelisk in the church-

\* There are two circumstances which serve to confirm the tradition, and the fact to which it refers; one is, that the obelisk already mentioned is commonly called in Gaelic *Cloch Charrnig*, i. e. the stone of the rock; the other is, that the rock opposite to Shandwicke, where the shipwreck happened, is, from that event, known to seafaring people by the name of

church-yard of Nigg, said also to have been erected there by the Danes. The sculpture upon it is still entire, and is much the same with that of the other monuments left by that people, consisting of figures of animals, and of weapons used either in war or hunting. It stood till about the year 1725, when it was thrown down by a remarkable storm of wind, which at the same time threw down the belfry, and broke the bell of the church. The Rev. Mr Cordiner, who, in his progress through this country had occasion to view these obelisks, has favoured the public with some account of them, and has likewise given plates of them in his useful and entertaining book.—Where that range of rocks, which overhang the Murray frith, terminates, at a place called Dunskeath, on a small moat, situated above the sea, once stood a fort, of which mention is made by Sir David Dalrymple, in his History of Scotland, vol. I. p. 121. built as far back as the year 1179, by William, surnamed the Lion, King of Scotland. The ditch around the castle, and the entrance to it, may still be observed; but nothing of the wall, or of the stones of which it was built, remains. It was built with a view to suppress disorders in the country, and to disperse and destroy robbers, and other persons, who came to plunder, as may be collected from its name, Dunskeath, or Dunsca, which is compounded of two Gaelic words, *Dun*, a “Fort or Castle,” and *Scath*, “Destruction” or “Dispersion.” The farm adjoining to it is still called Castle Craig.—In the place of Ankerville, a part of the  
property

*The King's Sons.* That rock lies not a half mile distant from the shore, and there is a great depth of water on each side of it. It stretches 2 or 3 miles in almost a straight line from E. to W. and is not to be seen at high-water; and this, a few years ago, occasioned the loss of a ship belonging to the Orkney's, bound for Crossarty, which in a fair evening, standing in too near the shore, struck upon the rock and went down directly; the crew having only time to save themselves by the boat. The top of the mast was seen for several weeks above water.

property of Mr Cockburn Ross of Shadwicke, in a bank removed at more than the distance of a mile from the sea, and raised many feet above its level, there is a stratum of oyster shells of considerable extent, and above a half foot in depth; they lie about three feet below the surface of the ground, and underneath them there is a stratum of fine sand, like that on the sea-shore. It is difficult to account for their being there, without supposing the ground to have been some time covered by the sea; and to conceive that, from the elevation of the ground, we must suppose the sea to have ascended to a height that would make it overflow a great part of the ground, not only of this, but of the neighbouring parishes.—In that extensive piece of ground, called the Sands of Nigg, and about a foot under the surface, there is a stratum of different kinds of shells, of considerable depth, many boat loads of which are annually dug up by the fishermen of a neighbouring parish, and made by them into lime of a superior quality. It is some time before the pits from which they are taken, fill up and become solid, which renders these sands dangerous, and sometimes fatal to passengers, especially to strangers, some of whom falling into these pits before the tide is thoroughly gone, unhappily lose their lives.—In that range of rocks which over-hang the Murray frith, there is a number of natural caves, some of which are so capacious that they could contain from four to six hundred men a-piece. The entrance to them is narrow, but within they widen to a great extent, are of an amazing height, and of a depth which no man would incline to examine. There are drops of water constantly distilling from the upper part of these caves, which, gradually petrifying, make them to appear above like an arch of the finest marble. In these, different birds take up their residence, and numbers of pigeons hatch their young in them.

*Disadvantages.*



*Disadvantages.*—One great disadvantage which the farmer in this place labours under, is the high multure which he pays to the mills. If he send eight bolls of corn to the mill, he must leave one of them for mill-dues. But the principal disadvantage, and which above every other thing retards all improvement in agriculture, is the want of fuel, of which no kind whatever, young fir-trees excepted, is to be found within the parish; and these fir trees, or thinnings of the woods, are generally sold at such a rate, that it would be much easier for the people to provide themselves in coals. The fuel used in this parish consists chiefly of peat and turf, of which they carry from the distance of five or six miles; and in cutting and carrying which, the farmers and their servants are employed for the whole of the summer season, to the total neglect of every thing that might improve and benefit their farms. And what is still more distressing, many of them are under the necessity of going through the sands to fetch home their fuel, and must therefore by night and by day watch the opportunity when the tide is out, so that it is no unusual thing to see them set out for the mofs at the time when others go to rest. The badness of the roads, and the great distance which they have to go, occasion them great expense in carts and harness; and after all they have but most uncomfortable fuel. If the season be wet, they generally lose their labour, being not able to carry their fuel out of the mofs; and what they carry home is so wet, that it will not answer for fire. It was therefore with the highest satisfaction they learned, that it is intended to bring a bill into Parliament, to repeal the duties payable on coals carried coastwise to the North, as it will enable them to procure fuel at a cheaper rate, and with far less drudgery, and at the same time will permit them to direct their attention to agriculture, which at present, from the above-mentioned cause, is too much neglected by them.

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF CARNBEE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST  
ANDREW'S.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER BRODIE.

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THEY who are judges of the Gaelic, say, That Carnbee takes its name from two words, *carn* and *bee*, or *bray*, which signify, " Birch-hill." This derivation seems the more probable, as there is immediately to the north of the church, which stands high, a pretty large inclosure, which to this day goes by the name of the Birch-park, though there is no one alive who remembers having teen a single birch growing in it. This parish is near 4 statute-miles in length, and about the same in breadth. From the church, all the way to the west end of the parish, there is a ridge of rising ground, which stretches in a pretty straight line, nearly through the middle of the parish. Upon this  
rising,

rising ground, there are several little hills, of a conical form, of which the most conspicuous are, Carnbee-Law, Kellie-Law, Gellandhill, and Canner-Law. Upon the top of some of these, particularly Kellie-Law, is an immensely large cairn of stones, of various kinds and sizes, which evidently appear to have been collected with much labour, and thrown together, probably for the purpose of perpetuating the remembrance of some great event, or with a view to kindle a fire upon the top of the cairn, to warn the country at a time of public danger. On the south side of these high grounds, all the way down towards the coast, you have a great extent of fine rich fertile ground, which commonly produces most luxuriant crops of all kinds. The soil here, has, in general, a mixture of clay in it; some of the fields are of a loamy nature; others consist of deep rich black earth; and almost all of them have a gentle slope towards the south and east. That part of the parish, which lies to the north of the rising grounds above mentioned, is much more adapted for pasture than tillage, though there are some of the lands, (those particularly at Cassingray), where, in dry seasons, they raise as rich crops of bear and oats as in any part of the parish.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Two farmers, (out of 32), pay about L. 300 Sterling of yearly rent; the rest from L. 30 to L. 120. On their farms, in whole, they employ about 248 work-horses, many of them in value about L. 20. One farmer lately refused 100 guineas for 4 of his best work-horses. Oxen are not much used here for the plough, though the kinds they raise are large, and very fit for the purpose. When sold to the graziers at 4 year old, or so, they generally fetch from L. 8 to L. 12. After the month of March comes in, the farmers here commonly carry on all their labour

labour with horses, and seldom above 2 to a plough. The old Scots plough is still used by some, but in general those of a more modern construction are preferred. They have sown for some time past, at an average, about 350 bolls of wheat, 360 of barley, 300 of pease and beans, and upwards of 900 of oats; very few tares, and no rye. Upon every farm, you see a field of turnip, and even those, who do not in common use them for the purpose of feeding for the butcher, find great advantage in giving a few of them every day during the winter and spring to their young cattle, and milk-cows. Every farmer sows a considerable quantity of clover and rye-grass; were it not for this and his turnip-crop, it would be impossible for him to keep his farm in good heart. There are no sheep bred in the parish for the market; but in the beginning of this century, there were some thousands. The few fed in it at present, during the spring, summer, and harvest months, are all for the use of private families. There are nearly two thirds of the whole parish inclosed and subdivided; and those who let their parks from year to year to the graziers, generally draw from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 2, 5 s. the acre. Considerable quantities of flax-seed are sown here, but it does not commonly yield a plentiful return, excepting in the north part of the parish. Potatoes are raised in great abundance upon every farm; they seldom export any; at an average, it is supposed every farmer raises from 20 to 60 bolls of this most useful root. Last crop, however, owing to the wetness of the harvest, they had scarce a third of their usual increase. When their horses are not at hard work, they commonly give them one feed a-day of potatoes, which it is thought has a fine effect in keeping the belly open. They were wont to boil the potatoes, but now generally give them raw, and think they do fully as well in that state. Some

of the farmers, who have made the trial, find, that wheat given in small quantities to their young cattle, in February and March, they have a fine effect in sharpening their appetite for the dry straw, and preparing them for being put out to graze in the spring. The valued rent of the parish is L. 10,202 Scots\*.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population then was 1293. At present, the number of souls is 1041.

Males,

\* *Price of Labour &c.*—Men servants hired for the purpose of husbandry, generally have from L. 5 to L. 8 of wages, and their victuals, besides what they call bounties, which commonly consist of as much ground as will sow two or three sippies of flax-seed, or as many pecks of potatoes; articles these which usually turn out greatly to their account; as after work hours, they are very industrious in weeding and keeping the ground clean. The farmers are in use of paying to their women-servants, hired by the year, only L. 2, 10 s. but with their perquisites, or bounties, they make about L. 3, which are the common wages given them in the families of gentlemen residing in the parish. The demand for yarn from Elie, Kirkcaldy, Dundee, and other manufacturing places, is so great, that the women here who earn their bread by spinning upon the two-handed wheel, can, it is said, with great ease, make from 5 d. to 7 d. a-day. The price of labour of all kinds is increased about  $\frac{1}{3}$  within these few years. A shilling is now the common wage of a day-labourer, during the spring and summer-months. In the time of harvest, they pay to the man-reaper the same wages as above, and give him his victuals besides. A woman-reaper gets 9 d. or 10 d. and her victuals. A few years ago, Sir Robert Anstruther, who had a large farm in the parish in his own possession, cut down almost all his oats and barley with the scythe; but his example has not as yet been much followed by the farmers in general, though many of them employ the common scythe with great success in cutting down those fields of barley or oats, which have been intentionally sown thin, to let the clover and rye-grass come up thick.

Males, - - -	502	Widows *, - - -	43
Females, - - -	539	Bachelors, who have	
Of the above are mar-		houses, - - -	18
ried, - - -	348	Wrights, - - -	5
Who have of sons,	217	Smiths, - - -	8
Daughters, - - -	272	Weavers, - - -	15
Men-servants, hired by		Tailors, - - -	9
the year, - - -	82	Masons, - - -	3
Women-servants, do.	50	Farmers, - - -	32
Widowers, - - -	11		

There are 21 heritors. The only nobleman who has a landed interest here, is the Earl of Kellie; a family, who, for near two centuries, have had their principal residence in this parish, and been universally esteemed and respected by all ranks. The castle of Kellie, where his Lordship resides, is a very large and strong building, with stately apartments, which the present Earl has lately fitted up in a most elegant manner, and laid out the pleasure-ground about the place with great taste. This parish, about 70 years ago, was much more populous than at present; as at an average of the births between the years 1713 and 1725, there appear from the records to have been yearly about 46 baptisms; and it is probable, there were a few more, as the parents then were not under such necessity of having their children registered as they are now, in consequence of the act, laying a duty of 3 d. upon each marriage, baptism, and burial, in every parish, paupers excepted.

\* It may be worth remarking here as a pretty uncommon case, that there is at present residing in the parish, a widow woman, who in her married state, about 20 years ago, brought forth three children at a birth. All of whom are alive, and in good health.

cepted. But from the average of births, taken from the year 1781 to 1793, there have been only 27 births yearly. This decrease of population is evidently to be ascribed to the two following causes. The first is, that at present, the whole lands in the parish, (excepting what some of the proprietors keep in their own hands), are let in tack to 32 farmers; whereas, in the beginning of this century, they were divided among at least 5 times that number. The second cause to be assigned, is, that some years ago, there were coals wrought to a pretty considerable extent, at Over-Carnbee, Balcormo, Cassingray, and in some other lands in this parish, whereas now there is not any one coal-work going on within the bounds of the parish; the necessary consequence of which has been, that a great many of those colliers, and other work-people in that line, who were wont to find constant employment here, found themselves under the necessity of going elsewhere for business, in the way to which they had been accustomed.

*Prospect from Kellie-Law, &c.*—The prospect from the church of Carnbee is uncommonly fine; it stands high, and is comfortably sheltered from the north by a clump of fine old trees; but when, in clear weather, you go west, and ascend to the top of Kellie-Law, which is about 800 feet above the level of the sea, and near three statute-miles from the coast, you have then one of the most delightful views to be seen in almost any part of Scotland. Immediately below to the south, the eye is delighted with the near view of a rich beautiful stretch of country, a great part of which is enclosed and subdivided, and in a high state of cultivation. The small towns and royal boroughs upon the coast, though far from being in so flourishing a state as before the Union, add greatly to the beauty and richness of the prospect; so does the range of towns on the  
opposite

opposite coast from Edinburgh, all the way east to St Abb's head, and the frith of Forth, with the shipping constantly going up or down, present a grand object always varying. It is remarkable in this hill, that the soil of it in general is equally good and deep with the most fertile grounds below, and the ascent so gradual from the west, that carriages, with safety, may go to the top of it.

*Birds of Passage, &c.*—The birds of passage here are dotterel, woodcock, swallow, cuckoo, and lapwing. Of these last, it is observed, that they have of late returned much earlier in the season than they were wont to do, probably owing to the uncommonly open winters we have had for some years past. But all these birds of passage, the gentlemen and farmers too would heartily welcome to a longer visit among them, could they only get free of the crows, which are very destructive in the spring to the wheat, and every other kind of grain. At the same time, the destruction they do in this way, very probably is in a great measure balanced by the very effectual assistance they give in destroying the cob-worm: Of this there was a satisfying proof lately in this parish. A servant of the Earl of Kellie, who had just finished the sowing a rich field with oats, was much vexed to see it in a little covered all over with crows; in various ways did he endeavour to drive them off, but all in vain, till at last he shot some of them, when, to his great astonishment, upon opening up their stomachs, he found them quite full of cobworm, and not one grain of oats.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church of Carnbee is a very old building of Gothic construction, with pillars, &c. It has undergone many expensive repairs within these



these 40 years, and from the faulty state of some parts of it, the heritors it is probable will find it more for their interest to build a new one, than to keep in good repair the old fabric. The Earl of Kellie is patron. The manse and office-houses were built about 60 years ago. It is a commodious house, beautifully situated, but will also soon need repair. The minister's stipend at present is, 5 bolls of wheat, 40 bolls 1 peck and 2 lippies of bear; 66 bolls 3 firlots 2 pecks and 3 lippies of meal; and L. 243; 16: 10 Scots money, of which L. 60 Scots for communion-elements, with a glebe between 7 and 8 acres.—The parochial school-house was built about 50 years ago, and is in good repair. The master's salary is L. 6. He has besides L. 7, 10 s. yearly, being the rent of a few acres of land, mortified by a predecessor of his for behoof of the schoolmaster of Carnbee. His school-fees are, 1 s. 6 d. for teaching English, 2 s. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin or arithmetic, the quarter; his income may be about L. 40.—From the list kept of the poor, it appears, at an average, there are 8 yearly upon the public funds of charity in the parish. Some of these have allowed them 5 s. and others only 2 s. a-month. When industrious householders come to be in want, as soon as the session have proper information of the same, they generally get conveyed to them what will buy a firlot or two of meal, a cart-load of coals, or help to pay the surgeons bill for medicines and attendance, when they have been long in bad health. Poor however as they are, they seem very averse at first to take any assistance from the public funds, in so much that instances have occurred of their returning the money, though not many months after they found themselves under the necessity of applying for it. About 60 or 70 years ago, it was very common here for householders in rather poor circumstances, to apply to the kirk-session for the loan of a small sum of money, for which they granted bill.

ill Frequently it happened, owing to a variety of different causes, that these bills turned out good for nothing. The kirk-session therefore, about 10 years ago, judged it expedient, that instead of lending out any small sums for the future to parishioners in the above predicament, that they would rather at once give them in charity, according as the funds would admit, a part or perhaps the whole of what they humbly proposed to borrow. This plan has had a very good effect, in so far as it has prevented some from borrowing of the kirk-session, what it is too probable they never would have been able to repay, and what was, perhaps, too great a sum to have been allowed them out of the funds upon the head of charity. Besides it has prevented the minister and elders, from being under the disagreeable necessity of prosecuting any of their fellow parishioners, for the recovery of small sums due the fund, at the same time that they know now, with more certainty, what annual-rents, &c. they have to deburse. At present, besides the Sunday collections, (which one day with another through the year amount to about 3 s.), they have L.255 of a capital at interest. It may in some respects be considered as a loss to the poor in the parish, that there are only two of the heritors who reside in it, the Earl of Kellie, and Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaiskie. The loss, however, is in a great measure made up by the charity of those respectable families, who at present occupy the houses of some of the non-residing heritors, and by the kind attention of some of the non-residing heritors themselves, who in years of scarcity have most seasonably contributed to their support.

*Character of the Parishioners, &c.*—They are in general a sober and industrious people, religiously disposed, and mind their own affairs. In the last age, when smuggling

was

was carried to a great length in this neighbourhood, many of the farmers and others were, by various means, induced to give assistance to the smugglers, in carrying away and disposing of vast quantities of foreign spirits, which had a very bad effect upon their health and morals. Happily, however, that illicit trade is in a great measure abandoned, and the farmers, with their servants, now employ themselves to much better purpose in improving their lands.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 4 respectable families of the Episcopal persuasion; also 6 families who attend an Antiburgher meeting, and about 50 more who join themselves to the Kirk of Relief; but when they have no sermon there, they commonly attend the Established Church; and it is but just to remark here, what must give pleasure to any one possessed of the benevolent spirit of Christianity, that there is nothing of that blind furious zeal among the sectaries in this age which too often disgraced the former. The sectaries and those who attend the Established Church, live together in Christian charity, and act very differently to one another in society, from what the Jews of old did to the Samaritans.—It would be much for the advantage of the parish in general, were more attention paid to the cross roads, and a greater proportion of the statute-work allowed for putting them in some better repair. Were the proprietors, while enclosing and subdividing their lands, to allot more of their ground for planting, it would in a few years be a considerable advantage to themselves and the public, as there are large tracts of ground in many parts of the parish which cannot be employed to better purpose. Sir Robert Anstruther, and John Patullo Esq; commissary of St Andrew's, have of late shown a very proper example in this way, which it is to be hoped will soon be followed by  
other

other proprietors. There are not many trees of great size in the parish, but near the castle of Kellie are some fine old ones, particularly a beech, which is 16 feet in circumference, and 30 feet high before it branches. There are some excellent lime and free stone quarries, and plenty of coal in different grounds in the parish. There is one lint and three corn mills.

## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF INVERAVEN,

(COUNTIES OF BANFF AND ELGIN\*, SYNOD OF MORAY,  
PRESBYTERY OF ABERLOUR.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES GRANT.*

*Name, Extent, Rivulets, &c.*

THE parish takes its name from the Gaelic word *Inver*, "Entrance," and *Aven*, the name of a stream which has its source in Lochaven, which lies among the hills between Braemar and Strathspey, and after running about 20 or 22 miles, falls into the river Spey, near the house of Ballendalloch, and about an English mile above the church, which is scarce 150 yards from that river's side. The parish is computed about 12 miles long, and its breadth is in some places 3, in other parts 2, and in one part only one mile.—From the entrance of Aven into Spey, the parish extends southward on both sides of Aven, till it meets with the parish of Kirkmichael in Strathaven. About a mile below, where the two parishes meet, and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the parish-church, the water of Livet empties itself

\*The greatest part is in Banff-shire.

self into *Aven*, near the ruins of an old castle, called *Drummin*. From the confluence of *Aven* and *Livet*, the parish extends S. E. up both sides of *Livet* about 7 miles nearly\*.

*Population,*

\* All this part of the parish is called *Glenlivet*. About a mile from the confluence of *Aven* and *Livet*, *Tervy*, a rivulet, (which has its source in *Belrinna*, a high mountain, intervening between the parish of *Aberlour*, and a part of the parish of *Inveraven*), after running through the *Davoch* of *Morange*, and a little way through the lower part of *Glenlivet*, falls into *Livet*. *Morange* lies eastward from the lower part of *Glenlivet*, and between it and a part of the hill of *Belrinna*. From the mouth of *Tervy*, up *Livet* about half a mile, lies *Achbrake*, where the Protestant meeting house is built, the itinerant minister officiates and the Protestants in *Glenlivet* and *Morange* attend divine worship. At the distance of half a mile eastward from *Achbrake*, the burn or rivulet of *Altachoynechan* falls into *Tervy*; and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, almost up this burn, and S. E. from its mouth, the battle of *Altachoynechan* in October 1594 was fought, between *Huntly* and *Argyle*, in which the latter was defeated. About 2 miles from the Protestant meeting-house, and up *Livet*, *Cromby*, a rivulet, falls into it on the south side. *Cromby* rises between two hills on the south side of the head, or higher part of *Glenlivet*, and after running a short way, passes by the *Scala*, (or *Scalan*, as it is commonly called), a Popish seminary or college, erected upwards of 80 years ago. As *Scala* is the Latin word for a ladder, it perhaps got that name from a steep road, (called the ladder), leading from the head of *Glenlivet*, up a steep hill to *Strathdon*. Be that as it may, there are 8, 10, and sometimes 12 children of Popish gentlemen taught at the *Scala*; and there also (I have been told) some priests were educated and put into orders. There *Mr George Hay*, a Popish bishop, at present resides, and there is a master besides, who teaches the youth. From the *Scala* *Cromby* runs northward for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, to the foot of the *Bochle*, (a little hill), on the S. E. side of which is *Bedavochle*, where is a school-house for one of the Society's schools, and in which the itinerant minister also preaches one Sabbath every six weeks. From the part where *Cromby* first washes the *Bochle*, it runs northward with a little winding about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, till it meets with *Livet*. From the entrance of *Cromby* eastward, and up *Livet* more than a quarter of a mile, is *Caanakyle*, where the Popish priest resides, and where on the bank of *Livet*, about near 200 yards from the priest's house, is lately built a new man's-house, with stone and lime, and slated. From the man's-house to the *Sowie*, a small farm not far from the head of *Livet*, are long 3 miles.

*Population, &c.*—The following is a state of marriages and baptisms, from the parish register, from 1781 to 1790, inclusive :

Years.	Marriages.	Baptisms.
1781	22	28
1782	8	19
1783	10	18
1784	4	7
1785	6	22
1786	8	13
1787	7	15
1788	7	11
1789	10	16
1790	3	7
	85	156 *

No register of burials is kept in the parish, nor could it be easily done ; because, besides the church-yard, there are two other burying-places, one upon the east side of Livet, near 4 miles from the parish-church, near the walls of the old chapel of Dounan ; and another, almost 5 miles higher up the glen, on the west side of Cromby, and opposite to the Bo-  
chle.

\* The Papists were never forward to enter the baptisms of their children into the parish register. Their marriages, unless when the priest married them clandestinely were generally registered, because their marriage banns were regularly proclaimed in the church. But since the repeal of the penal statutes in England, they publish their marriage banns at their mass house, and not at the church ; and never insert either their marriages or baptisms in the parochial register ; whereby the taxes, appointed by law, are evaded, and the schoolmaster, who is session-clerk and keeper of the parochial register, loses his dues, which are part of the emoluments of his office. Some years ago, I was told by some Papists, that their priests forbade them to enter their childrens baptisms in the parish register, because they kept a list of the children they baptized. And it must be acknowledged, that many of the poorer sort among the Protestants often omit to enter their childrens baptisms in the parish register, on account of the tax, and the dues of the clerk for inserting them.

chle. It is called the Bütterlach, and was consecrated more than 40 years ago, by two Popish bishops, to be a burying-place for the Catholics, but few are yet buried in it\*.—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 2464.—About 28 years ago, when I took an exact list of all the people in the parish, both old and young, they amounted to 2200; and, in 1779, when another exact account of the people was taken, they only amounted to 2244 souls. Of this number 850 are Roman Catholics.

*Heritors, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—Sir James Grant of Grant is patron of the parish. The Duke of Gordon, and General James Grant of Ballendalloch, are the only heritors in it. Mrs Penuel Grant, of Kilmachlie, mother of the late Major William Grant of Ballendalloch, and widow of the late Captain Alexander Grant of Ballendalloch, who was brother to the present General Grant, liferents a great part of the lands of Kilmachlie, and the whole Davoch of \*Morange. The church seems to have been built upwards of 200 years ago, as appears from an inscription upon a stone above the door of an isle, (which at first was joined to the church, and intended for a burying-place to the then family of Ballendalloch, but was many years ago disjoined from the church, and is now in ruins), the date of which is  
1586

\* There was in old time also, a chapel and burying place on the east side of Livet, about half a mile above the Protestant meeting-house, called Chapel Christ, but very little remains of the chapel are to be seen, and the burying ground, with what was deposited in it, has been washed away by a small rivulet, which runs between it and Nevie, and by the water of Livet. There was also once a chapel, and burying ground on the west side of Aven, in the estate of Kilmachlie, almost opposite to the mouth of Livet; and the farm-town, in the midst of whose land it is, is from it called Chapel-town. There are evident marks of graves, with stones set up at the heads of some of them; and hard by is an excellent spring, which emits a large stream of water. But none have been buried at this place for time immemorial.



1586\*. A new manse was built in summer 1775, but the walls drew water, till they were rough plastered (or, as it is termed, harled) on the outside. The offices were new built in 1769, and have since been twice thatched with heath, but still let in rain water. The stipend was modified in 1769 to be 800 merks Scots, and 60 merks Scots for communion-elements, with 48 bolls of meal, at 8 stone weight the boll. The glebe consists of 4 Scotch acres and 28 falls; but of these there are only about 3 acres 2 roods and 17 falls that are arable. There is besides grafs for two small cows, but no grafs for a horse †.—There is a school-house built within the church-yard, and slated. The schoolmaster's salary is only 12 bolls of meal, at 9 stone weight the boll. There may be in winter time between

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\* In 1711 the church got strong new deals (or, as they called it, fark-ing) put upon the couples, but few new couples were put in. And as the lower part of the inner half of the back wall, in one place had sunk down from the half above it, and the other half on the outside in that place seemed to bend inwards, and some of the couples were rotten; the heritors, in 1790, agreed with a mason to repair and uphold the church for seven years. He caufed underfoot (as they term it) the inner part of the back wall that had sunk down, and took down the outside half of the fore wall, half the length of the house, and rebuilt it. He also put in a few new couples, rough plastered the walls on the outside, and pointed the slate.

† The presbytery of Aberlour, therefore, in April 1791, decreed 3 roods and 36 falls of arable land nearest to the kirk and glebe, with 23 falls of grafs, also bordering upon the glebe, as grafs for a horse. This decret of the presbytery, General Grant suspended, and interdicted the minister to possess the ground. Against the suspension and interdict the minister entered a protest; but as he is an old man, and saw the process would be expensive, he did not insist to discuss the suspension and interdict. He therefore compromised the affair with General Grant, upon receiving a small piece of arable land, and some pasture ground, (not so near to the glebe as what the presbytery had appointed for him), a part of which was over-run with broom, and a part of it was a quagmire and overspread with alder. This he is to possess during his incumbency, and to pay for it a rent of 10 s. Sterling annually. But General Grant has since made a large road through it.

30 and 40 scholars, but in the summer season the number amounts only to 12, and rarely to 20. In Glenlivet, there is one of the Society's schools, which is ambulatory between Deskie and Badavochle, being stationed sometimes at the one place, and sometimes at the other. The former master of this Society school had L. 22 Sterling from the Society; but the present has only L. 15 Sterling, which is really too little in Glenlivet. In the winter season he may have sometimes 90 scholars, but in the summer time they often do not exceed 20.—The inrolled poor in the parish, are 38 Protestants and 29 Papists, in all 67 persons. The Roman Catholics, as they have their own collections made in the mass-house, get no part of the collections gathered up in the church and meeting-house; but they get a share of the interest of the mortified money. About 15 years ago, there was L. 100 Sterling, which the kirk-session lent out on interest; and as neither of the two heritors would accept of it, they were obliged to lend it to such persons as they thought good and sufficient, and would take it. Accordingly, they lent about L. 61 Sterling to one landed gentleman, and about L. 35 Sterling to another, who were both thought good and sufficient when they received the money; but, in a few years afterward, both of them became bankrupts; whereby not only several years interest was lost, but also half the principal. The collections in both church and meeting-house, amount annually only to about L. 6 or L. 7 Sterling: Therefore, as the collections amount to so small a sum, and no assessment is laid upon the parish for their support, the poor are often obliged to travel and seek their maintenance.

*Soil, Agriculture, Plantations, Sheep, &c.*—The soil is not all of the same kind. In the lower part of the parish, the land is, in some places, light and dry, and naturally produ-  
ces

ces broom ; in other places it is deeper and wet, and in some places mossy. In the higher part of the parish, as in Morange, (a great part of which lies upon limestone,) it is clayey and wet, and in some places mossy ; but when the season is neither over dry, nor over rainy, it produces excellent crops. In Glenlivet, the lower part of it is loamy, or mixed with clay ; in the higher parts of it, the land is in some places mixed with clay, and in some places mossy ; but when the season is moderate, it yields excellent crops. There is in the head of Glenlivet, an excellent marl-pit, and the farm of Tomalinan, beside whose land the marl-pit is, lies mostly on a rock of limestone. Some who have large farms, when a part of them is sown with barley, they sow the same also with grass-seeds, which yield good crops of grass. Oats, barley, and pease, and, in some dry land, rye, are the grain generally sown. No wheat is sown, except in the mains or manor of Ballendalloch, and there, for the most part, it thrives well, because fallowed and well manured. The rent of the whole parish was stated before the Court of Teinds in 1768, to be L. 13,771 : 12 : 1 Scots ; but since that time has considerably increased.—The parish, except where it is washed by the river Spey, is surrounded with hills, which are covered with heath, unless in some very wet places, where some rough grass grows also. The sides of Spey, Aven, and Livet, abound, in many places, with birch and alder. There grow also oaks on the banks of Spey and Aven, in some parts belonging to General Grant's estate. The General has also some plantations of firs, which are thriving well, and beautify the country. As the land of most farms, (except where it is clayey and wet,) hath many small stones in it; the old Scotch plough is made use of ; but at Ballendalloch, and two or three more places, the English plough is used. Many have their ploughs drawn

drawn by oxen, few by horses only; but the poorer sort yoke some cattle, and put two horses before them.

Meal is sold just now here at between 15 s. and 16 s. Sterling the boll, of 9 stone weight; oats and fodder at L. 1 and a guinea the boll of victual, *i. e.* as much oats is given for the boll, as, by the estimation of two judicious honest men, will make 9 stone weight of meal; barley, with fodder, is sold a little higher, especially, if weighty and good, and fit for malt and for the still.—It is said, there may be about 2500 sheep in the parish; some of them are of the Linton breed, (bought when lambs,) with black faces and feet. Some are of the old Scotch breed, altogether white. The Linton breed are the largest and biggest, and their wool roughest. The others are less than the Linton kind, and their wool softer and finer. It is said, that sheep housed or cotted in the winter season, have finer and softer wool than those that are allowed to run in fields, and are kept there all winter. The best wool is sold sometimes at L. 1 Sterling the stone weight. Last summer the soft wool sold at 1 s. Sterling the pound, of 24 ounces. Every the least farmer, if near the hills, keeps sheep, but none have farms for that purpose alone, and some of the richest farmers keep no sheep, because not lying near the hills.

*Bridges and Roads.*—In summer 1792, General Grant caused build a good stone bridge of three arches over Aven, about half a mile above the house of Ballendalloch, and a good road was made to and from it, which will be of great service and benefit to those who travel from the low country to Strathspey and Badenoch. There is also a stone bridge of two small arches built over Livet, about two furlongs below the mouth of Tervy. It is said to have been built many years ago at the expense of some of the Dukes of Gordon, or Marquisses of Huntly. About 16 years a-

go, General Grant, to render the intercourse between Inveraven and his estate of Morange more easy and expeditious, at his own expense caused a large road for carriages and carts, to be made from Inveraven to Morange and Glenlivet, over the hill of Carnocay, (a ridge of hill extending from Belriannas, south-west to Aven, as far as his right extended;) and when the road reached to the Duke of Gordon's property, it was carried on by the statute-work of the country. Across this road runs the rivulet or burn of Tommore in Inveraven, (which has its rise in the north-west side of Belriannas;) he, therefore, that it might be no hindrance, at his own expense also, put a stone bridge of two arches, 8 or 12 feet wide, over it; but, in a few years afterward, (in 1782), the burn, when greatly swelled by an impetuous torrent from the hills, undermined the foundation, and carried it away, together with the meal-mill and all its implements, (which was a quarter of a mile below it on the same burn), into Aven. This was a great loss to the parish and travellers, as the burn, when it is big, cannot be passed but by a bridge. The Duke of Gordon also caused a road for carriages to be made from Glenriannas, up through Glenlivet, to Tomantoul in Strathaven.

*Fish.*—There come plenty of salmon up Spey; but they are taken here only by the angling rod and line. There are also very good trouts in this river. The salmon is sold in the first of the year, at 4 d. the pound; in June, it is sold at 2½ d. and 2 d. the pound; and in July last summer it was sold for 1½ d. the pound. A few small salmon go up Aven, and there are large good trouts taken in it. There are trouts also in Livet, Tervev, and Cromby.

*Antiquities.*—There were upon an eminence on the east side of Aven, and a short way up from the house of Ballendalloch,

dalloch, a few long stones inclosing a small piece of ground, which was said to be a Druidical temple. The most of the stones have been taken away, except one very broad, thick and long stone, which stands still there: And opposite to this, on the west side of Aven, upon a rising ground amidst the corn-land of Bellaviller, is such another place, where several long, broad stones, encompass about 72 square yards of ground; some of the long stones are broken, but several of them still stand whole. Such another temple there is in the lower end of Glenlivet, on the east side of Aven, upon a hillock, or small rising ground, a little below the mouth of Livet, called the Doun of Dilmore. I never heard that oaks grew around those places; but there are oaks growing between the water of Aven and the temple, near Ballendalloch; and there grow oaks on the west side of Aven, opposite to that at Delmore, but none grow near to that at Bellaville.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are only two houses where the ferry-boats on Spey and Aven are kept, that sometimes keep a dram of whisky to accommodate passengers who may lodge with them, but seldom have ale. There are also two stills for aquavitæ, or whisky, in the parish. This spirit is no doubt hurtful to the constitution, and also to the morals of the people.—I know only four houses or cottages which have been pulled down and left uninhabitable within the last ten years, and four that have been new built in that space of time.—The fuel here used is peats, of which there is no scarcity in a dry year, because in every corner of the parish there is plenty of moss, or of that black, soft, oozy ground from which peats are digged; but the peats are not in all parts equally good. Some are of an excellent quality, hard, when dried, make strong fire,  
and

and are not soon wasted. Others are, when dry, light and spongy; and though they soon take fire and get into a blaze, they are soon consumed into ashes. The climate in Glenlivet is colder than in Inveraven; for in Glenlivet there will be a pretty deep snow, when there will not be much in Inveraven; and sometimes the people of Inveraven will plough, sow, and harrow, when they cannot do so in Glenlivet. The reason of this is, because Glenlivet is higher and surrounded with hills more than Inveraven is.

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## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF DALRY,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY,  
PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT).

*By the Rev Mr ALEXANDER M'GOWAN.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

DALRY, which probably signifies "Royal Dale," seems to derive its name from a beautiful piece of level ground, frequently overflowed by the Ken, called the Holm of Dalry. The church stands almost in the centre of the four parishes of Glenkens, which, according to tradition, were anciently but one, of which the church stood almost on the same spot where that of Dalry now stands. It is not easy to ascertain when Kells and Balmailille were detached and became separate parishes; but it is well established by authentic documents, that Carsfairn, so lately as about the year 1640, was constituted of a part of Dalry and a part of Kells; and these parts of Carsfairn still pay stipend to the ministers of Dalry and Kells respectively, as well



well as to their own. The greatest length of Dalry from N. to S. is about 15, and its greatest breadth from E. to W. about 10 miles.

*Soil, Agriculture, &c.*—The rental of the parish about nine years ago was upwards of L. 2200 Sterling a-year; and by this time some farms have been let at more than twice the rent of that period. The soil of several farms towards the south end is abundantly capable of cultivation. Not only the Holm of Dalry and of Grennan, but even the hard land of Bogie, and many other farms, when manured and well cultivated, yield excellent crops of oats, rye, and barley. Such farms as are unfit for cultivation, which class includes about nine-tenths of the parish, are in general excellent pasture. The greater part of the hills above the Black Water are green; the rest are mostly heathy. The Earl of Galloway, who is the principal heritor of this parish, in order to raise the rent of his lands around the village called St John's Clauchan, has, during that period, offered feus of ground for houses and gardens, on reasonable terms, to such persons as would build there; and the plan has succeeded so well, that the village is already four times as large as it formerly was\*.

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\* The feuars already pay his Lordship for the lands which they possess, not only a greater rent than the former tenants paid, but even than others in the neighbourhood pay for lands of the same quality. And as the demand for lands generally increases with the number of feuars, it is probable that on a new lease, the feuars will rather give a little more rent for their possessions than be deprived of them. We may add, that the manure and culture bestowed upon these lands by so many persons, every one of whom could cultivate and manure more than he possesses, evidently tends to enrich and meliorate the soil. These facts sufficiently show how much it is the interest of the proprietors of improveable lands, to encourage feuing, and the division of large arable farms into small: but besides promoting their own advantage, they may by this method do an important service to their country. By this method, not only a generous man, but even a mi-

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Those spots of land which we call crofts are generally allowed to be at least twice as valuable as the same spots in their original state. Some, indeed, have alleged, that lands, which are naturally very rich pasture, or have been made so by improvements, are damaged by tillage. However this be, with respect to lands which are naturally poor and scanty of soil, it is, if not self-evident, at least an undoubted fact, well known to every husbandman of experience, that the more they are cultivated and manured, the fitter they must be for pasture, when prepared for and applied to that purpose. Of this fact any one may have ocular demonstration in the farm of Grennan, which has been long almost entirely used for pasturage. The greater part of it is hard land, yet some of it the best pasture of any in the parish. The hard land in this farm is of two kinds, commonly distinguished by the names of outfield and infield. The former is that which has been generally applied to pasturage, seldom tilled, and scantily manured, which, therefore still continues to be the poorest part of the farm. The latter is that which, lying nearest the farm-houses, has been frequently tilled and plentifully manured, which, therefore, is now the finest pasture in the farm, except in dry summers, when the holming land, from the depth as well as from the moistness of the soil, is greatly preferable. What has been said, seems sufficient to convince proprietors of arable lands which are not exceedingly rich, that they are not damaged, but improved by tillage and manure.

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ter. may without expense, nay, with clear profit, afford lodging and subsistence to many an honest and industrious family: for if a farm let to one man, yields the proprietor only L. 100 a-year, but would yield him L. 150, if let to ten, is it not manifest that he would gain L. 50 a year, by letting it to 10 instead of one? By this method he would be a gainer, not only in respect of the additional rent, but also of the superior melioration of the lands when possessed by many, to that which would be expected, if they were possessed by one.

But how shall we convince the farmer, that it is his interest, as well as the proprietor's, to manure and cultivate the poorest of the arable land in his farm, even in preference to the richest? If he possesses an extensive farm, we might find it almost impossible to remove all his objections: but if he possesses only a small farm, and has a lease of it for a considerable number of years, the business will not be difficult. His necessities will oblige him, at least if he be a man of any experience, to observe the very method which we would propose. If there are any of his lands in so good a condition for pasture, that he could scarce expect to make them better, and at the same time needs them for that purpose, he will not rashly break them up to the detriment of his cattle: but if there are any of his land which he sees to be of little value for pasture, yet capable of cultivation will he not naturally consider, that here, without any considerable loss of pasture, he may, by manure and culture raise corn for the subsistence of his family? Though, on a superficial view, it may appear paradoxical, experience will soon convince him, that by manure and culture the poorest lands may be rendered the fittest for corn: for where the soil is very rich, the crop may make a fine show till it begin to shoot, or put forth the ears; but then the slightest rain lays it down to the ground, where it lies till it rots, or, at best, it produces ears, partly empty, and partly not half filled: whereas the poorest lands, if they are dry, and have a moderate depth of soil, though ploughed deep, and plentifully manured, will produce crops not apt to be too luxuriant, and to be laid down by rain, but hardy, and with ears plump and full. The greater part of the arable lands in this parish are naturally so poor, that without manure they do not yield a crop of any value; but when properly manured and cultivated, they produce corn, if not in as great abundance, yet of a superior quality to that

that which is raised in the lower parts of Galloway, where one may have at a moderate rate plenty of lime, of marl, or of shells.

These manures, at this distance, are so expensive, that few farmers here think of procuring them; yet, of the two former, some have made trial with considerable advantage. Mr Newall, of Barkeoch, was probably the first in this parish who improved any considerable extent of land with lime, the effects of which are still remarkable after a period of near 20 years. The minister of this parish, who was settled in 1783, having but a small glebe, and, excepting a few spots, of the poorest quality imaginable, as was manifest from that small kind of broom which over-runs thin tilly land; nay, besides in many parts so full of rocks, that most people would have thought it impossible to render these parts arable; yet, with great industry and expense, not only quarried out and removed most of these rocks, but with picks and levers deepened the most shallow and tilly parts of it, so as to render them arable: and as, after all this labour and expense, such land would have produced nothing without manure, he brought lime from Tongland, which is 20 miles distant, and even from Kirkcudbright, which is two miles farther; and having made a composition of the lime with earth and dung, overlaid the greatest part of the glebe, and has thus, for several years past, though on so unpromising a soil, raised as good crops as any perhaps in Galloway. Many persons, who were acquainted with some of the spots which were formerly bare rocks, were amazed to see them produce such crops, and could scarce believe their own eyes, though in reality there was no miracle in the case: for when the rocks were quarried out to a proper depth, and plenty of earth put in their place, with a dressing of the compost mentioned, it would rather have been a miracle, if such parts had not

yielded as good a crop as the rest. On one little field he made an experiment of the different effects of lime, marl, and dung in producing a crop of oats. The part which was limed produced a crop, which, even in a wet summer, stood firm till it was ripe, or at least only leaned with the weight of the ears, which were indeed very plump. The part which was dunged was in every respect similar: but the part which was marled produced a crop which, though not taller than the others, yet was soon laid close to the ground by the rain; the consequence of which was, that some of the ears were no better than chaff, and the best were far inferior to those of the other two. He is not so rash as from this single experiment to deduce any conclusion to the prejudice of marl; yet, as he found that though it might be brought in boats up the Dee, and then opposite to Newgalloway, the nearest post-town, which is not above three miles distant, this land-carriage, added to the water-carriage from Carlingwork Loch, which is about 12 miles from Newgalloway, rendered it more expensive than lime, he therefore prefers the latter to the former: Nay, though lime at this distance costs him 2 s. 1 d. and more frequently 2 s. 2 d. the bushel, containing three Winchesters, he thinks it the cheapest of all manures for land at any considerable distance from the dunghill, as six single cart-loads, each containing five bushels, are sufficient for an acre of thin hard land, to make it yield a good crop of oats; a quantity which is six times as soon carried the same distance, and scattered on the land, as the quantity of dung or marl which would be sufficient for the same extent. The tenant of Bogue, which is one of the best arable farms in the parish, and the fittest for lime, has lately begun to bring lime from Closeburn or Barjarg, which to him is nearer than Tongland. The good effects of it are already so evident, that others are following his example.

Though

Though we are strongly disposed to recommend to farmers here the use of lime, and are convinced, that if they have a long lease they must be gainers by it, yet we must candidly own, considering the expense of it at this distance, that farmers who are near the places where plenty of it may be obtained, partly from the certainty of not being disappointed as to the quantity which they want, and partly from the carriage being easily accomplished at very little expense, may be greater gainers by the use of lime, though they pay for their lands the acre double the rent which is paid by the farmers here; nay, perhaps the former, with the advantages they possess, could pay a higher rent for their lands, and yet be greater gainers than the latter, though they had their lands rent-free. Hence it is evident, that the proprietors of lands here ought not to exact for them such a high rent as is paid for those which are more advantageously situated, and that if they wished to have a great rent for their lands, they should, in the first place, encourage their tenants to render them really valuable, by enriching them with lasting manure. If a tenant undertakes to lime any considerable extent of land, the proprietor surely ought, on this account, either to give him his farm at a lower rent, and for a longer period than otherwise he would have done, or to allow him a proper recompence for every real improvement. But let no public spirited farmer here, who has a lease of such length as to indemnify him, conclude from what has been said, that he ought not to lime his lands, because his profit by the operation cannot be near so great as that of the farmer, who is at far less distance from lime or other lasting manure, or because his landlord is not disposed to give him the full recompence of his expenses. Though he has little profit at all, let him do something for the benefit of his country, and of posterity. Whoever makes a single acre of land  
fertile,

fertile, that without improvement would have remained barren, or even makes an acre of good land considerably better, is more entitled to the esteem of mankind than all the train of conquerors, ' From Macedonia's madman to ' the Swede.'—As the distance here from the most valuable manures is so great, it were much to be wished that the farmers, though some of them do a great deal, yet would still do a little more with such as they have in their power. By paring and burning the surface of mossy and benty ground, as is the custom in many parts of Scotland, great quantities of ashes might be produced, which, for the time they last, are as good a manure as lime. By gathering into heaps, while full of sap, thistles, fern, ragweed, all sorts of green vegetables, and covering them with earth till they rot, an excellent manure may with a little industry be procured. The dung and urine of animals, which are manures that suit every soil, and are, for the time they last, as effectual as any, might be preserved more entirely than they generally are, and mixed with other ingredients to make them cover a greater extent of land. The channel of the cow-house or byre might, especially in summer, if the cows lie within, be covered with thin turf, or surface earth, together with chaff, straw, or litter of any kind, by which means the stale of the cattle, and the sap of their dung, might be very completely preserved. As the sap of a dunghill is the most valuable part of it, and yet is in the greatest danger of being at least partly lost through inattention, it may be preserved by the following method:—Make the seat of your dunghill either in a place naturally hollow and dry, whence the sap may have no descent, or in a spot naturally dry, and artificially dug to a considerable depth, or banked all round with earth to a considerable thickness; cover the bottom two or three feet deep with the finest surface earth you can conveniently find; on  
this

this hay dung and fine earth alternately ; smooth the surface of the dunghill ; cover it entirely with a little earth to prevent the sap being exhaled by the air, and keep it always pretty broad above, that it may receive and retain as much of the rain as may keep it from being too much heated, or, as we call it, fire-fanged, which would render it almost useless. By this method of preserving the sap, it is evident you may have your dunghill twice as bulky, and equally fit for every kind of crop, as you could have it if you neglected this method. The effect too of this manure upon the land will be equally lasting with that of dung unmixed : nay, upon a thin tilly soil, the fine earth, saturated with the sap of the dung, is the best improvement that can be invented ; at least it is much better than lime itself, without the addition of rich earth.—The holm of Dalry, and some hard lands about the village, are possessed by the feuars, who have been at great pains to enrich them with manure, as otherwise the hard lands in general, though warm and kindly enough, would have yielded no crops of corn sufficient to repay the expense of seed and labour, not to speak of rent ; and even this holm, though naturally the best land in the parish next to the holm of Grennan, produces in general but a very poor crop without manure, yet with manure it produces excellent crops. To a curious observer it is entertaining to see in this holm the various mixture of a soil, whose component parts are the same, *vis.* clay and sand. Here three varieties deserve special attention. One is, where there is too much of the clay mingled with the sand ; another is, where there is too much of the sand mingled with the clay ; and the third is, where the two are so happily mixed, that neither of them is above or under the due proportion requisite to render the soil fertile. It is only on the spots where this happy mixture obtains, that one may expect a good crop even without manure ; but



but on the parts where either of the two former varieties takes place, the crop without manure will be but of little value. It is much to be regretted, that when the holm of Dalry was divided and let to the feuars, the divisions had not been made with a little more attention to please the eye of the spectator, as well as to promote the convenience of the possessor. Had the different enclosures been laid out as much as was possible in rectangular figures, and fenced with thorn-hedges, instead of stone and turf fences, they would have been both more beautiful and advantageous. For though at the upper end of this holm an embankment was erected above ten years ago, which prevents the Ken from overflowing a considerable part of the holm next to the high lands, as it formerly did, yet there is still a considerable part of it, which is often overflowed, and then the crop is in the utmost danger of being swept away by the deluge. Thorn hedges would have prevented the crop from being carried away by a flood, and would have been sufficient fences to the different enclosures; so that if any one of the possessors had been at more pains than the rest, to enrich and prepare a field for sown grass, he might have reaped the produce himself, without being exposed to the encroachments of his neighbours; whereas the stone and turf fences are insufficient to secure this advantage; for besides being too weak and low to stop every kind of cattle, they are liable to be dashed down and swept away by the floods; and thus are rather hurtful than beneficial to the possessor, though he pays for them a high rate of interest, and is bound to keep them up, or at least to leave them so at the end of his lease. Hence it is evident, that if the different enclosures were sufficiently fenced with thorn-hedges, they would be far more valuable to the possessors, by saving them the expense of herdmen, preserving their pasture from their neighbours cattle, and affording them an opportunity

opportunity of raising sown grafs with advantage. In most other parts of the parish, however, the stone fences that have been erected for several years past, are made of such a height and strength, as to be both good fences and a comfortable shelter for cattle in the time of a storm.

*Woods, Rivers, &c.*—Along the Ken, which is the boundary between this parish and Kells on the west, for six miles or more, there are some natural woods of considerable extent. That of Earlston, so called, according to tradition, because it was some time a hunting seat of the Earl of Bothwell, the husband of Queen Mary, is far the largest. Here are also some plantations of fir, several of which are very old and stately. Above this are those of Todstou, Cleugh, Glenhold, and Arndarroch. At Ardoch, which is above a mile distant from the river, there are some excellent trees, both natural and planted. It is much to be regretted, that the greatest part of the pasture-farms, towards the north and east, have no woods or plantations to shelter the cattle. The principal river in this parish is the Ken, which takes its rise near the northern extremity of it, and running south west 8 or 9 miles, parts it from Carsfairn till it meets with the Deugh, which divides Cairsfairn almost into two equal parts, of which that between the Ken and Deugh was taken from Dalry. There, taking a new direction, it runs almost south till it meets with a rivulet from Kells, called Palharon. Thence it runs nearly south-east, with many beautiful windings till it meets with the Garpool, a rivulet which, for a considerable way, is the boundary between this parish and Balmaclellan. The farther description of its course belongs to the history of Kells or Balmaclellan. It is proper, however, to observe that this river, though generally, is not always the boundary between this parish and Kells; for there is a part of this parish, consisting of a piece of fine holm, called

ed the Mukle Isle on the west side of the river, formerly the property of the Earl of Galloway, now of Sir William Millar of Glenlee. In this river are pike, trout and salmon, which last, except in high floods, cannot get farther up than the fall at the head of Earlston lin, where one may often be highly entertained, with seeing how high they spring up against the water spouts, and then fall back into the water below, repeating this unavailing labour till they are quite exhausted with fatigue. The Black-water, and the burns of Earlston, and of Stronriggan, are the only rivulets worth mentioning in the parish, and they all abound in trout. The lakes or lochs in the parish, contain excellent trout, and are much resorted to by fishers. Those of Boston, Knocksting and Knockman, are but small. That of Lochinvar is of considerable extent, scarce less than three miles in circuit, and containing an area of 50 acres.

*Antiquities, &c.*—In Lochinvar, we see the remains of an old building with bridges, said to have been a castle belonging to the Gordons, anciently knights of Lochinvar, and lately Viscounts of Kenmure. Not much above a mile from this loch, there is a large pile of stones covered with a kind of whitish moss, which has therefore probably got the name of the White Cairn, and no doubt, like many others in Scotland, has been in ancient times a burial place. At a small distance from this, is another of smaller size, which however is said not to be a sepulchre of the human species, but a monument or trophy of an heroic achievement performed by the first knight of Lochinvar, who on that very spot had the good fortune to kill a wild boar which infested that part of the country. At that period the kings of Scotland were wont to bestow some signal honour or reward on any person, who could give evidence that he had  
killed

killed one of these noxious animals \*. At a small distance from the church of Dalry, and just at the brink of the Keel, there is one of those eminences called moats, which is still almost entire, and appears to great advantage from the Kells side of the river. From this moat, one has a delightful view of the river, and of the landscapes on each side of it. There is another moat in Lochrenny, on the border of Glencairn, but it makes no conspicuous figure, as it stands on a low spot of ground. In the church-yard, there is an aisle of the old church, now quite detached from the new, which is the burial place of the family of Kenmore. There is also a square piece of ground enclosed, with a blackish wall about 7 feet high, with a bowl supported by a standard at each

\* The Laird of Lochinvar, as the story is told, after his pursuit and conquest of the boar, finding himself weary, having cut out the tongue and put it in his pocket, lay down near the spot where he slew him, and fell asleep. In the mean time a gentleman, called Seson, who had also been in pursuit of the boar, finding him overcome, and his conqueror asleep, immediately cut off the head and carried it to the King, representing to him, that he himself had killed the boar, and was entitled to the reward which his Majesty was wont to confer on the conqueror of such an animal. The King, not suspecting his veracity, rewarded him accordingly. The Laird of Lochinvar having awoke, and missing the boar's head, conjectured what had happened; and therefore went with all possible expedition to Edinburgh, and presented himself before the King, expressing his apprehension that the reward of merit had been bestowed on an impostor. To convince the King of the imposition put upon him, he produced the tongue from his pocket, affirming, that if the head which had been presented to his Majesty were inspected, it would be found to want that very tongue. The head accordingly having been examined, the King was perfectly satisfied with the evidence of the laird's representation, and asked him, how he had killed the boar. May it please your Majesty, says the laird, I just "gored him down." Very well, says the King, as the reward of your merit, you shall be henceforward *Goredown* knight of Lochinvar. Ever since that period, a boar's head has been assumed in the armorial ensigns of the Gordons, perhaps whether or not connected with the knights of Lochinvar, afterwards Viscounts of Kenmore.

each corner, which is the burying place of the Newalls of Barkeoch. In the farm of Stronfraggan, there is a large cairn,

\* There is one tombstone which deserves to be mentioned, as the memorial of two martyrs who suffered a violent death, in the time of the late persecution for religion in Scotland. The inscriptions, which are as follows, though in a rude style, sufficiently describe their cruel and undeserved fate.

“ Here lyeth Robert Stewart, son to Major Robert Stewart of Ardoch, and John Grierfon, who were martyred by Grahame of Claverhouse, for their adherence to Scotland's Reformation, and Covenants National and Solemn League.”

Behold, behold, a stone's here forc'd to cry  
Come, see two martyrs under me that lye :  
At water of Dee, who slain were by the hand  
Of cruel Claverhouse, and's bloody band.  
No sooner had they done this horrid thing,  
But's forc'd to cry, Stewart's soul in heav'n doth sing,  
Yet strange ! his rage pursu'd even such when dead,  
And in the tombs of their ancestors laid ;  
Causing their corps be rais'd out of the same ;  
Discharging in church-yards to bury them .  
All this they did, 'cause they would not perjure :  
Our Covenants and Reformation pure :  
Because like faithful martyrs, for to die  
They rather chus'd, than treacherously comply  
With cursed Prelacy, the nation's bane,  
And with indulgency, our church's stain.  
Perjur'd intelligencers were so rife,  
Shaw'd their curst loyalty to take their life .”

In the village called St John's Clauchan, is preserved with great care, and shewn to strangers, a stone which is called St John's chair. The church having been consecrated to the Apostle John, both the adjacent village and the chair assumed his name. In the farm of Bogue is shown a flat stone, of no great size, on which is inscribed P. G. VII. which is supposed to have been the foundation stone of a little chapel, built in the time of Pope Gregory the VII. of which, however, no other vestige now remains : but as in the same farm there is a place called Chapel-yard, as in the farm of Gleugh, there was some years ago, a dwelling-house called the Chapel-walls,

cairn, nigh which, in a rivulet that runs by it are two large stones, somewhat resembling human figures; one of them is about 10 feet long and quite entire, the other is a little mutilated. In the farm of Altrye, near the top of a hill, there is a trench which seems to have been digged, capable of containing about 100 people. As in this trench one has a view of two different roads, at a considerable distance, without being observed by those persons who travel upon them, the Whigs or Cameronians, as they are usually styled, are said to have frequently made use of it during the time of the persecution in Scotland, both as a place of refuge, and of observation. Hence it obtained the name of the Whighole, which it bears to this day. At Bentrack and Manquhill, two contiguous farms, are the remains of buildings, which are said to have been the residence of an ancient branch of the noble family of Galloway. A few silver coins, not extremely ancient, somewhat larger than shillings, were found in a small rivulet near an old house in the neighbourhood. Before the succession of James VI. to the crown of England, it was usual for the people on the borders of the two kingdoms of Scotland and England, to make depredations on one another. As by these the inhabitants of Annandale sustained great damage, they were wont to claim indemnification from the more westerly counties, which, if not contributed, they made effectual by their own exertions; and as the easiest method of obtaining their end, frequently drove away the cattle of the neighbouring counties. Hence it became necessary for the inhabitants of these counties, to devise means of concealing their cattle. Sometimes they removed them to a great distance from the public roads,

walk, and as in many other parts of this country, there are standing houses, or vestiges of houses, which still bear the name of chapels, it is manifest that these have been once very frequent.

roads, sometimes they hollowed the ground behind any eminence, even near the road, and enclosed the place with a dike or wall to confine them. In a farm of this parish, a more simple, yet not less effectual device, was employed to conceal them. A dike was made round a craggy rock on the side of a hill. Into this enclosure the sheep were driven, and at a distance not being distinguishable by their colour from the rock, escaped observation. There are still some vestiges of a great road through the head of this parish, from Ayrshire to Dumfries.

*Heritors, &c.*—Many of the lands in this parish have changed their proprietors within these 10 or 12 years. The family of Kenmure, had a landed estate here of L. 500 a-year, which was lately purchased by Mr Oswald of Auchincruive. Mr Newall of Barskeoch, Mr Rorison of Ardoch, Mr Agnew of Ochiltree, and Mr Macmillan of Anchirshinnoch, all had lands here, which were lately purchased by Mr Forbes of Callendar. Some of those ancient proprietors resided in the parish, whose seats were then its great ornaments; but at present there are only two residing heritors, Mr Alexander of Mackilston, and Mr Hunter of Lochinvar.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was rebuilt about 22 years ago, and is one of the best in the Presbytery, but is at present in great need of repairs. Mr Newall of Barskeoch, now residing at Rammerscales, is patron. The manse was built in 1784, and is of an elegant form, but never was water tight. The walls of the offices threaten to fall in a short time, owing to the badness of the foundation. The stipend since the year 1783, has been L. 95, exclusive of L. 5 for communion-elements. The glebe, though somewhat augmented a few years ago, is still very small

small compared with some in the neighbourhood, scarce exceeding 11 acres of land, which in its original state would have been thought high rented at 8s. the acre. The present incumbent, though at an expense almost equal to the original value of the land, has rendered it at least twice as valuable as formerly. This parish has a fund of about L. 1000, which was bequeathed to it by a Mr Johnston; to erect a school-house, and maintain a schoolmaster capable of teaching Latin. At this school, the parishioners have the privilege of getting their children taught gratis. In former times, this school was one of the most famous in the southern parts of Scotland, and was crowded with scholars from many distant places, as the salary with the Candlemas offerings, procured a comfortable subsistence for a man of superior parts and education. But in late times, though the schoolmasters have possessed abilities and literature equal, if not superior to those of the more ancient masters, yet few scholars have come from distant places to attend them. The reason is, that learning is now so common, that there is scarcely a parish schoolmaster of 10 in Scotland, who is not able to teach Latin and Greek, with accompts and some practical parts of the mathematics; in short, every thing necessary to prepare the young student for the university, as well as to qualify the man of business for acting his part well in any ordinary occupation.—The number of poor in this parish is between 12 and 20, and may be expected to increase with the increase of the village. They are supported by the weekly collections and the interest of about L. 150, of which Mr Forbes of Callendar, when he became an heritor in the parish, gave L. 10, 10s. and Mr John Wallace, late merchant in London, bequeathed L. 5. The rest had been accumulated when the number of the poor was smaller. The heritors and their tenants, have never yet been obliged to assist themselves for their support; but as the funds for this purpose



purposes are now too small, there will probably be a necessity for such assessment in a short time, unless the funds be increased. The whole collections in a year scarce exceed L. 12, and for a considerable time past, the quarterly distribution has been near L. 6, sometimes upwards. Any of the poor who are able to travel, are permitted to beg through the parish, and have therefore a smaller allowance at the quarterly distributions.

*Population, &c.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the numbers were then 891.—Nine years ago they were about 1000, and now must be greater, Earl Galloway's village being already four times larger than it formerly was. The number of births in the parish is annually about 50; of marriages about 5; of deaths about 9 or 10. The number of tradesmen in the parish is about 33: weavers and their apprentices 10, tailors 4, shoemakers 6, smiths 4, masons 4, joiners 5. Diseases are not frequent here, except such as are common to children. Consumptions indeed seem to be more prevalent now, than they were in former times. There are several both men and women in this parish above 80 years of age, and one man who is said to be above 100.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The wages of common labourers, which used to be not many years ago 4 d. a-day in winter, and 6 d. in the other seasons, with victuals, are now increased to 6 d. in the short, and 8 d. in the long day. Mechanics in general get higher wages than common labourers. Masons get 1 s. 2 d. and joiners 1 s. with victuals. The common labourer, however, for mowing in the hay season, gets from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. with victuals. The wages of common servants are near double of what they were about 10 years ago. A ploughman gets from L. 4 to

L. 5 the half year; a dairy maid from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2, and others in proportion. The high price of labour here is almost as great an obstacle to the improvement of arable farms, as even the distance from meal and lime. It is worth observing too, that servants here, and in some of the neighbouring parishes, do far less work than in many other parts of the kingdom: In Ayrshire and in the Lothians, for instance, a ploughman in the morning before he goes out to work with his horses, and at night after he comes in, threshes as much corn a-day, as one here does whose stated employment is to thresh; for except at winnowings, you are to expect no more of the thresher than the common hours of working, with such pauses and intervals as take up near a half of the time; and of those who labour in the fields, you are to expect no work at all before they go out, or after they come in, except in the long nights of winter, when they assist the barn-man in winnowing your corn, if you have fanners for the purpose. The price of every article of provision, except meal and potatoes, is much higher than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Beef, mutton, and almost every kind of animal food, cost at least a third part more than they did before the period mentioned. The demand for sheep and black cattle from England, has partly occasioned this rise. The reason why potatoes are cheap is, that almost every householder endeavours to get as many planted as he thinks will be needed in his family. Besides what he plants in his garden, though he possess no more land, he can generally obtain a considerable quantity, by gathering fern or any kind of weeds, rotting them before the threshold of his door, and mixing them with his ashes and the cleanings of the street, or road near his house, for which compost, almost any farmer will allow him a crop of potatoes, or as much exhausted land as he can thus sufficiently manure. Some who have little or no manure, give the farmer

farmer so many days work in harvest, as they can agree upon, for manure as well as land for potatoes; but the farmers would now rather pay them the common wages, than allow them any manure, unless on far higher terms than formerly. Hence it is manifest, that the demand for potatoes cannot generally be great. When there is any however, it is easily answered by the farmers, who generally plant a few more than they have occasion to use in their families, in order to enrich some of their poorest, or to cleanse some of their foulest lands. This end might be equally well obtained by a crop of turnips, but here these are scarcely ever raised, except a few in gardens for the use of the table. Meal is still cheap, because there is little demand for grain till seed-time, and even then it is not great, as feed-corn is sold about 2 d. the Winchester bushel, cheaper in the lower parts of the country, and few farmers here have proper granaries for keeping a considerable quantity of corn safely after it is threshed. The cheapness of meal and potatoes is, one main cause of the high price of labour. Every article of merchant goods is here very dear, on account of the great inland carriage. Though there is plenty of peats in the moorish parts of the parish, yet the villagers can get almost none but at the distance of two or three miles, nor coals nearer than Dalmeellington, which is upwards of 20 miles distant. The dearth of fuel is a great obstacle to the establishment of manufactures. The roads through the parish are in general very bad, though, since the conversion of the statute-labour into money, they have been considerably improved. The principal roads through the parish, are one leading from Kirkcudbright to Ayr and Glasgow, and another which leads from Newton Stewart, now N. Douglas, to Edinburgh and Dumfries, by way of Monnithive. A bridge over the Ken, between this parish and Kells, would be of great advantage to the public, as the river

is sometimes impassable even with boats.—The inhabitants of this parish are in general a peaceable, social, hospitable, obliging, humane and well disposed people. Many of the principal farmers, not to speak of heritors, besides all the qualities mentioned, possess a measure of information and politeness, which render them agreeable companions to men of superior rank and education. It is remarkable, that even the most idle, dissipated, and worthless part of the inhabitants, are not destitute of all those good qualities which distinguish the rest. Scarcely any of them, for a long period, have been convicted of capital crimes, though there are a few, especially in the village, who are said to be addicted to fraud, pilfering, lying, evil speaking, and several other immoralities.—The number of sheep, (besides a few goats), is about 13,000, of black cattle about 1650, of horses about 140, of carts about 40, and of ploughs about 40. The method of managing sheep and black cattle in this part of the country, is fully described by Mr Anthony M'Mil'an of this parish, in the 2d part of his Treatise on Pasturage, and Essay annexed. The same author has published also several Treatises on Law and Forms of Writs.

## NUMBER VI.

## PARISH OF KENETHMONT,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE DONALDSON, formerly Minister of Kenethmont, now of Rathven.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, and Climate.*

THERE is some difference of opinion respecting the derivation of the name *Kenethmont*. Mr Gordon, my predecessor, conceived an idea, probably from a tombstone, to be mentioned afterward, that one of the Kings of Scotland of the name of Kenneth had been buried on the mount, where the church is built; and that from him, the parish was called Kennethmount. Others, write *Kinsethmont*; which, persons skilled in the Gaelic, derive from two original words, the one signifying, "Head," and the other "Mofs." Nor does this derivation appear perfectly

scely satisfactory, as the eminence on which the church stands, is towards the foot of the moor\*. This parish is about 6 miles long from E. to W. and 3 broad from N. to S. It is six miles from Huntly, the nearest post-town, 30 from Aberdeen, and 24 from Banff, and the other towns on the Murray Frith, to the mouth of the Spey. The parish may contain about 6500 acres Scots, and in the following proportions nearly :

	Acres.		Acres.
Infield, - -	960	Plantations, - -	340
Outfield, - -	2770	Mosses, - -	150
Meadow and Pasture,	980	Moors and Heath, -	1300

The soil in general is a light loam; and, when properly cultivated, produces luxuriant crops. The surface is diversified with hills and eminences, some of them planted with trees of various sorts, which in a short time will beautify the country. Of these, the hill of Christ's kirk is not the least beautiful. It is of considerable altitude, and has two green tops, which have a pretty effect at a distance. The parish is well watered. It abounds in springs, rills, and streams, sufficient for meal-mills. Some of these proceed in an eastern direction from one channel to another, till they reach the Don, which falls into the sea at Aberdeen; others turn towards the west, lose themselves

\* Kenethmont has a parish in whole, or in part, annexed to it, named Christ's Kirk. At what period this annexation took place, I have not been able to discover. But that it was once a separate parish, admits of no doubt. For the burial-ground is still in use, the ruins of the kirk remain, and the incumbent of Kenethmont is in possession of the glebe. But the name of Christ's Kirk, as a parish, is at present never used, being applied solely to the farm, which surrounds the glebe and burial-ground. It is in the east end of the parish, at the distance of about 4 English miles from the present church.

selves in the Bogie, which communicates with the Devon, and along with it, runs into the Murray Frith at Banff—From the high situation of Kenethmont, it is natural to conclude, that the air is good, and the climate healthy; and experience confirms the conclusion. In winter, the air is frequently piercing, and the snow sometimes deep; but in winter, as well as in summer, the people in general enjoy good health, and many attain to old age. They are not subject to epidemic diseases. The influenza, which, not many years ago, prevailed over the greatest part of Britain, was unknown here. And equally fortunate have they been since the above period, in escaping putrid sore throats, and dangerous fevers, which broke out in the neighbourhood, and proved fatal to many. Of uncommon longevity, I can produce no instance. It may, however, be mentioned, that Mess. Garrioch and Gordon, my predecessors, both died of old age. The former officiated 10 years at Forbes, and 50 at Kenethmont; and the latter, 7 years at Cabrach, and 40 at Kenethmont. And during my incumbency, which lasted above 11 years, there died 16 or 17 persons above 80 years of age.

*Heritors, Agriculture, &c.*—There are 4 heritors or proprietors of land; the Duke of Gordon, Colonel Hay of Rannes, Mr Gordon of Wardhouse, and Mr Wemyss of Craighall. The three last generally reside, and direct their attention to the improvement of agriculture, rearing of cattle or plantations. Some of the heritors have introduced the modern improvements of agriculture, and raise excellent crops of grain and sown grass. They have their fields divided into convenient enclosures, and kept in high cultivation. But their example has not been hitherto imitated by their tenants, who in general persevere in the old method of farming. The part of the farm fit for cropping consists

consists of infield and outfield. The former has its name from being kept under continual culture; and the latter, from being allowed to go to ley or pasture, after bearing a certain number of crops. Of the infield, one-third is annually prepared for bear, and two-thirds are laid down with oats. The third intended for bear receives a fallowing in autumn, and remains in that state till spring, when it is harrowed, manured, and gets the seed furrow. After reaping the bear, this field is understood to be in a state of culture, capable of yielding two crops of oats successively. Each of the other two-thirds, in its turn, undergoes a similar preparation, and is expected to make the same returns. Of the outfield, there are two sorts, a better and a worse. One half of each is generally in ley, and the other under tillage. The better sort usually remains in a state of rest for 5 years, and is prepared for cropping, by watering, liming, folding, or pasturing; adding to this last method, if it can be spared, a little manure of any kind. With this preparation, it is judged fit for breaking up and bearing 4 or 5 crops of oats in succession. Instead of the common Scotch oats, when a field has been limed or watered, it is not unusual to sow it with barley oats, which are reckoned 10 days or a fortnight earlier. The worse sort of outfield receives a ploughing early in summer, and remains in that state till towards seed-time, when it gets a second ploughing, and is sown with a small black hairy oat. This is a bad unproductive grain, not much used; and, with proper culture, might easily be dispensed with, and totally extirpated. By the above mode of cultivation, the average produce of the bear may be 5 returns, of the common and barley oats 4, and of the small black oats 3. Turnips and potatoes have, for many years, been cultivated by the heritors with great success, and the tenants raise a few of each sort for family use only.



The soil is well adapted for flax, but the cultivation of it is ill understood, and seldom or never attempted, except by the heritors, and that on a small scale, though there are two lint-mills in the neighbourhood. The Scotch plough, somewhat improved, is in pretty general use; and as it is well adapted for removing obstructions in ill cultivated fields, the preference in its favour in such circumstances cannot be condemned. Many, however, of late, begin to use ploughs of the English construction, and acknowledge their superiority, in ease and neatness, in turning the furrow. The advantages of carts are so many and so well understood, in all the operations of farming, that they are in universal use. The crops usually raised here have been stated above, and the extent of the sowing and produce may be nearly as follows:

Bear,	Bolls,
300 bolls of barley, at 5 returns,	1500
1300 bolls of oats, at 4 returns,	5200
Total, ——— 6700 bolls *.	
	If

\* *Seed-time and Harvest*—The time of sowing depends on the season. Oats are generally sown in March and April; lintseed and potatoes in the beginning of April or end of March; bear in May, and turnips from the 1st to the 20th of June. Harvest begins about the end of August for beginning of September, and the crop is for the most part got in by the end of October. In 1782, sowing did not begin till the middle of April; and, as the summer was cold, and the snow early, the grain was not gathered in before Christmas. The crop was remarkably deficient, and many would have suffered in the north of Scotland, had not the aid of Government, and the exertions of the opulent and humane afforded a seasonable supply to the needy. By the failure of the crop in this parish, the circumstances of most people were reduced, but none suffered for want. In times of general calamity, it is pleasant to record acts of generosity. The heritors in general were very indulgent to their tenants, and accepted less than their due. One gentleman whose rents, according to the custom of the country, were payable in money and meal, charged the deficient meal, to the extent of several hundred bolls, at half the current price, which was L. 1 the boll. These lenient measures, in addition to the aid of Government, rendered the situation of this parish tolerably comfortable.

If we add to the above, 40 acres of turnips, 10 of potatoes, and 40 laid down with grass seeds, we shall not be far from the truth. The produce of the parish, in ordinary seasons, is more than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. The overplus, if there be no demand in the neighbouring parishes, is carried to the Huntly or Aberdeen market. The valued rent is L. 1817 : 13 : 4 Scots; but as the rents are all paid in money and meal, the real rent must vary with the price of grain. It may be L. 900, and perhaps never exceeds L. 1000 Sterling\*.

*Services.*—On Colonel Hay's estate, no services are required, except in hay-harvest, and these are of so trifling a nature, as to be scarce worth mentioning. Two or three of the farmers indeed, most contiguous to the moss of Kirkhill, have been in the custom of paying a few leets † of peats yearly, for which they are allowed a certain deduction of rent. The other heritors have not thought proper to dispense with the usual services; but as they are universally esteemed a grievance, they might, doubtless, be commuted to the satisfaction and advantage of both parties. It ought, however, in candour and justice to be observed, that were landlords to dispense with services and customs of every denomination, which their good sense and public spirit

\* *Price of Grain and Provisions, &c.*—Bear, in 1792, sold at 15 s. and meal 12 s. the boll; beef and mutton, 3 d. the pound; a duck, 10 d.; a hen, 6 d.; eggs, 2 d. a dozen; butter, from 6 d. to 8 d. the pound, at 24 ounces Averdupois.—The usual wages to men-servants employed in husbandry, are from L. 6 to L. 7; maid servants, from L. 2 to L. 3 a-year; a day-labourer earns from 10 d. to 1 s.; a mason, from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 6 d. and a house carpenter, 1 s. and furnish their own provisions; a tailor gains 6 d. and his maintenance; and persons employed in the moses, hoeing, or other farm-work in summer, have the same allowance.

† A leet of peats is a stack 12 feet long, 12 broad, and high in proportion.

spirit will in time certainly induce them to do, this would only extenuate not eradicate the evil. Every tenant has a certain number of cottagers, to the amount sometimes of 6 or 8, whom he binds to relieve him; not only of part of his services to the heritor, but also to give him a certain number of days in seed-time, mow-time, and harvest. Now, substantial redress of this grievance will not be easily obtained, unless heritors were to disallow cottagers altogether, which would depopulate their lands; or, which would be better policy, to break their farms and put the cottagers in the envied state of small but independent tenants. This latter kind of servitude, though less attended to, is as extensive, and more severely felt than the former. The proprietor, unless his estate be very small, requires only a part, never the full extent of the services due by the tenant, whereas the tenant seldom dispenses with the smallest service for which the cottager is bound.

*Manufactures.*—Though no manufacture has hitherto been established, a number of families of all ages are employed by the Huntly and Aberdeen manufacturers to knit woollen stockings, and spin flax. The knitters, on an average, work 60 dozen, at 12 s. the dozen, every month; while the spinsters, who are but few in number, earn only about L. 4 or L. 5 monthly. The annual income from both branches may be fairly estimated at L. 500.

*Roads.*—The roads in the parish were made and are kept in repair by the statute labour. For want of gravel, they are frequently deep, but never impassable. The military road through the Cairn-o'-Mount, leading by Huntly to Fort George passes through its western extremity; and, as it seems

seems for many years to have been neglected by Government, is kept in the same state of repair as the other roads.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church is old and has been frequently repaired. The stipend is £ 38 : 17 : 9 $\frac{12}{12}$ , including £ 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  for communion-elements, and 41 bolls of oat-meal and 7 of bear. The glebes are at present disjoined, and the extent of both is from 8 to 9 acres of good land. A plan for a new manse and offices, with a contiguous glebe, has received the approbation of the presbytery, and is to be executed the ensuing summer. Colonel Hay of Rannes is patron.—About 15 or 16 years ago, the heritors built a convenient school-house in a healthy situation. The schoolmaster's salary is £ 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and his other perquisites are £ 1 : 16 : 8 for officiating as precentor and session-clerk ; 1 s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. for publishing a purpose of marriage ; 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. for registering a baptism, and 3 d. for a certificate ; to which add the school-fees for teaching English, 1 s. 6 d. ; arithmetic, 2 s. ; and Latin, 2 s. 6 d. quarterly, and his income may be from £ 10 to £ 15.—The poor subsist by begging, and upon occasional supplies from the parochial fund. This fund amounts to £ 40 nearly, which has been saved within 50 years from the weekly collections, the use of a pall or mortcloth, and bell belonging to the session, and fines from delinquents. The collections and other contingencies generally amount from £ 8 to £ 10 yearly. This sum, after paying £ 1 : 16 : 8 to the session-clerk, and 12 s. 6 d. to the church-officer, is distributed quarterly by the session among the persons on the poor's roll, who since 1782 have been from 12 to 18.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population at that period was 791. About 50 years ago, Mr  
 Vol. XIII. K Gordon,

Gordon, in a process of augmentation of stipend, stated the number of inhabitants at 1100. If Mr Gordon did not take a round number instead of the real, the population is considerably diminished since the above period, as will appear by the following abstract;

In February 1783, the population including children, was,	830
1784,	819
1785,	813
1786,	850
1787,	824
1788,	783
1789,	755
1790,	802
1791, there were 360 males and 442 females,	
in all,	810

And by a note from the Rev. Dr Minty, the present incumbent, in June

1792,	-	-	830
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 10 years of age,	88	103	191
Between 10 & 20,	60	74	134
20 & 50,	121	185	306
50 & 70,	64	90	154
70 & 80,	22	18	40
80 & 90,	3	2	5
	<hr/> 358	<hr/> 472	<hr/> 830

Average number for the above 10 years, 808.

The scarcity in 1782 induced me to take down the numbers in the different families with accuracy; but I did not think of noting the deaths till February 1785. The following abstract is taken from the register of baptisms, and my own note of the deaths, till the time of my translation from the parish in October 1791:

Baptisms.

Baptifms.

	Males.	Fem.	Total.	
In 1783,	7	12	19	
1784,	10	7	17	Deaths.
1785,	13	9	22	18
1786,	8	12	20	17
1787,	7	6	13	18
1788,	9	6	15	11
1789,	5	7	12	17
1790,	13	7	20	16
1791,	5	8	13	10 to the end of October.
<hr/>				
Total,	77	74	151	107
<hr/>				
Average,			17	16

That the number of females fo much furpaffes that of the males, is owing to the moffes. Many widows and old maids take houfes in their vicinity, for the convenience of fuel.

Number of families,	204	Tailors,	-	-	5
Ditto of 1 individual		House carpenters,			4
each,	-	Weavers,	-		4
----- 2,	39	Wheel and plough-			
----- 3,	39	wrights,	-		4
Married men,	-	Shoemakers,	-		3
Bachelors who have fa-		Millers,	-		3
milies,	16	Gardeners,	-		4
Widowers ditto,	-	Dyer,	-		1
Widows ditto,	-	Midwives,	-		2
Unmarried women ditto,	36	Male domestic fervants,			4
Clergyman,	-	Female ditto,	-		24
Students in divinity,	2				
Shopkeepers,	-	Wheel carriages,			1
Schoolmafter,	-	Carts,	-		160
Smiths,	-	Ploughs,	-		60
Mafons,	-	Draught horfes,	-		202
	2				Saddle

Saddle and carriage horses,	Cattle,	808
-	8 Sheep,	1200 *

*Minerals and Mineral Springs.*—On the lands of Leith-hall, there is a marble quarry; on those of Craighall, freestone, and marl and limestone on Cult; but the want of stock or of industry has hitherto prevented the tenants from availing themselves of this last source of opulence. There are two mineral springs on Colonel Hay's estate, one of them on a farm named Earlsfield, is of late fallen into disrepute. The other in the moss of the Melshach, of the chalybeate kind, is still in great reputation among the common people †.

*Fuel.*—The fuel in general use is peats; but as the mofses are wearing out, some of the heritors carry coals from Aberdeen to save them, and to have their principal apartments more comfortably warmed in winter. In former ages, the moss of Kirkhill has been covered with wood; for so late as 30 years ago, trees in abundance were found by digging a few feet below the surface. And, among other kinds, mention is made of an oak about 40 feet long, and thick in proportion. Fir, juniper, hazel, alder, oak, were all blended together in this spot.

#### *Antiquities,*

\* Horses sell from L. 3 to L. 15; oxen and cows, from L. 3 to L. 8; widders and ewes and lambs, from 4s. to 8s. The only swine raised for sale, are a few about the mills, which bring from L. 1 to L. 3.

† They use it both internally and externally in the summer season, particularly in the month of May. Its sanative qualities are not confined to man, they are supposed to extend even to brutes. As this spring probably obtained vogue at first in days of ignorance and superstition, it would appear that it became customary to leave at the well part of the clothes of the sick and diseased, and harness of the cattle, as an offering of gratitude to the divinity who bestowed healing virtues on its waters. And now, even though the superstitious principle no longer exists, the accustomed offerings are still presented.

*Antiquities.*—There is a barrow, or cairn of stones, which has never been opened, on Old Glanderston, a farm belonging to Mr Gordon; a Druidical temple on Ardlair, a farm of Colonel Hay's, another less complete on Cultra, and two or three stones in a leaning position on the lands of Craighall, said to be recorded in the presbytery books of Alford. The only other article is the stone alluded to above, commonly called Kenneth's grave-stone. The tradition of the parish is, that this stone, which in shape resembles a coffin, was removed from the church-yard gate, (the grave of one of the Kenneths), into the church, where it now lies, by a family of the name of Gordon\*.

*Fairs.*—The proprietor of Raanes has a title to two annual fairs, one at Kirkhill in October for cattle, timber, and merchant goods, and the other at Christ's Kirk in the month of May. This fair was kept on the Green, and in the night; hence it was by the people called Sleepy-market. About 35 or 36 years ago, the proprietor changed it from night to day; but so strong was the prepossession of the people in favour of the old custom, that rather than comply with the alteration, they chose to neglect it altogether †.

#### Character

\* Its dimensions are, length 6 feet 2 inches; breadth at the head, 22 inches, and depth 15 inches. There is a shield on it, on one quarter of which a boar's head is visible. Under the shield are the initials H. G. in large capitals; and under them a mort-head, sand-glass, bones, and coffin. Then there is a cross with I. H. S.; and below all, the date 1685.

† The name of this place naturally enough brings to recollection, the celebrated ballad of Christ's Kirk on the Green, commonly ascribed to James L. King of Scotland. The scene of it never has been ascertained with any degree of precision. Christ's Kirk, in my apprehension, has no small claim to that honour. It is well known, that James visited the most distant parts of his kingdom, to hear complaints and redress grievances. And it is not impossible, nor even very improbable, that, in his  
progress,



*Character of the People, &c.*—They are temperate, industrious, and frugal, moderate in their principles, and regular in their attendance on public worship and the other ordinances of religion. They are all of the Established Church, except 5 or 6 who occasionally attend Episcopal meetings. The dress of both sexes is considerably improved of late, especially among the young. In all places of public resort they appear in their best clothes, with a cheerful countenance and contented mind. Their houses in general are bad, and have not that appearance of cleanliness and neatness which is always commendable. But as the heritors are disposed to give every reasonable encouragement to the sober and industrious, we may soon hope to see a spirit of improvement prevailing in their houses similar to that which they have already begun to show in their dress.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The only disadvantages are short leases, services, and the distance from manure and from market. Most of these are capable of redress. It has already been mentioned, that one gentleman, who is proprietor of more than half of the parish, has dispensed with the usual services; and it may be added, that he is disposed to grant long leases on equal terms, with every other encouragement that has a tendency to make his tenants prosper. If the other heritors were to convert their services and customs, they would promote their own interests,

progress, he may have seen or heard of Christ's Kirk. Now, what place more likely to strike the fancy of this Monarch, than one distinguished by so singular a custom. The circumstance of the market at midnight, may be supposed to fall in with his humour, and give birth to such scenes as he has described. Even the name of this performance is descriptive of the place; for the Green still encircles the ruins of the Kirk, and it is besides the only one in Scotland that I am acquainted with, to which the name of the ballad is applicable.

ness, and confer a signal favour on their tenants. In good policy these ought to be abolished, and long leases given, with sufficient encouragement to open up and employ such sources of manure as the parish affords. In the mean time, the industrious tenant may betake himself to other resources. Several of the farms have the command of water. Lime may be had at Huntly, but whether in sufficient quantity for the purposes of agriculture, is doubtful. At the limekilns, however, it may be purchased in any quantity, and at a cheaper rate, but at a greater distance. The heritors have been long in the custom of using it on those fields which were to be laid down with grass-seeds, and have ever found it beneficial. But the tenants in general never use lime nor sow grass-seeds.—Their fuel, as the moorlands are near, is easily procured; and, comparatively speaking, with little trouble and expense. In summer there are many annual fairs at a convenient distance for selling their cattle and sheep. Huntly affords a good weekly market for cheese, butter, beef, mutton, fowls, and most other articles which the farmer can spare. Bear finds ready vent at the numerous stills in the neighbourhood. And when the demand for meal ceases at Huntly, it may be carried to Aberdeen, where there is a ready market and good prices. The distance is much greater, but the price generally compensates it. The accommodation is good, and the road, since the bridge was built over the Don at Inverary, perfectly safe. Besides Aberdeen has this advantage over Huntly, that all those things which are either convenient or useful to the farmer, may be bought in it on the best terms, and in any quantity; and therefore his small stock of necessaries is generally purchased there.\*

It

\* Though the tenants rear a considerable number of cattle, they seldom think of feeding any. Without green crops, feeding cannot be advantageous

It may, in the opinion of some, be no small recommendation of the parish to furnish objects of amusement, as well as of profit. By repairing to the Bogie, which abounds with trout, the angler may find entertainment at leisure hours; and the sportsman, who delights in more active diversion, can traverse hills and dales with his dog and his gun in search of hares, plovers, ducks; rails, grouse, partridges, snipes, &c. in their season.

vantageous, nor will the cultivation of green crops, in all probability, become general, till winter husbandry be introduced. The cattle and sheep are of a small breed, and, when properly fed, bring good prices; because they are reckoned sweet and well-flavoured. The farm of Leith-hall, where Colonel Hay resides, is superior to most. It has a southerly exposure, fertile soil, and is well sheltered. It is equally adapted for rearing cattle, and producing grain. The plantations afford shelter in winter, and the southern exposure raises early grass in spring; and in summer the richness of its pasture can hardly be exceeded.

## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF KINTORE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
GARIOCH.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE ADAMS.

*Name, Borough, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE word *Kintore* is certainly Gaelic. I am not acquainted with that language, but am informed, that it signifies "the head of the wood;" and it is certain, that in the earliest times, there was a royal forest in this neighbourhood. The hunting seat, which was inhabited so late as the last century, being the first seat of the family of Kintore, still called Hall-forest, remains in ruins indeed, but a ruin, that shows it once to have been a fortified and strong place. The forest is said to have extended from the west part of the parish of Kintore, eastward to the church of Dyce, 5 or 6 English miles. Dyce was in the earliest times, called the "Chapel of St Fergus, near Mo's Fectach." There is a  
 VOL XIII. L farm

farm in the parish of Kinellar, in that line, called **Glasgow forest**, and the forester is said to have had his dwelling at a place called *Tilliriach*, in the parish of Dyce. This place had very early been made a Royal borough. Its being Royal lands, accounts for this. It is said to have been made by one of the Kenneths, and prior to that of Aberdeen: If it was so, and Aberdeen, (as is said), was made a borough by Gregory, Kintore must have had its privileges from Kenneth Maccalpin. There are several traditions among the people as to its antiquity; for example, that several privileges, which it once had, were transferred to Aberdeen; and there is a causeway at the east end of the freedom of Kintore, near Kinellar, on the way to Aberdeen, still called the *Wine Causeway*; to which it is said, in old times people came from the harbour to pay custom\*. Till lately, there were few houses better than country houses, none but the manse and a house built for Lord Kintore's factor, the church, and a very neat town-house and prison, built about 50 years ago. Two good houses, one of them elegant, were built last year. The prison is seldom used, owing to the good morals and peaceable

\* It is not to be expected, that charters nearly of that age should be found; and it is said, that the charters and papers relating to this burgh, which reached the last century, were destroyed by a Provost Fraser, only one having escaped his hands, which is a charter of confirmation of this burgh, by James the V. still extant. The town-council, who elects the delegate for choosing their representative in parliament, consists of 13 members, among whom is a provost, 2 bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer. The Earls of Kintore, and the late Earl Marischall, while he held the estate of Kintore, have been provosts for about a century past. The set of the burgh, does not oblige them to change a councillor nor an office-bearer. The bounds of the freedom of the burgh, are pretty large, particularly to the east, the freedom extends to near the church of Kinellar, above 2 English miles. The revenue is said to have been once considerable, but is now much diminished.

the disposition of the people. In what is properly the town, without counting the rest of the freedom, there are 57 dwelling houses, some of them possessed by single persons; and it contains 228 souls; 94 males, and 134 females; and there are 54 horses, 168 black cattle, and 300 sheep. A considerable part of the old parish, is within the freedom of the burgh, till you go about a mile southward \*. It contains, with the new parish, above 7000 acres, (without counting a large common, between Kintore and Kinellar), most of it has been measured. It is bounded on the N. and N. E. by the river Don, and on the E. partly by the same river. Its extent is near 6 English miles from N. to S. 3 from E. W. The grounds about the town of Kintore, which has had on the one side, the head of the forest, and on the other, lies along the haughs of the Don, are flat; the rising is gradual to the W. and S. W. to the N. and to the E. the rising is more sudden to hills; but the S. part of the parish, till you come to a ridge that bounds the parish, is in general marshy. Yet the marshes empty themselves into a stream that runs past Kintore, which shows them to be considerably above the level of Kintore. The other streams generally run from the west into the Don. The haugh here is broad, and following the windings of the Don, near 3 miles long; it is very deep in soil, and is enriched by the overflowings of the river, and needs no manure, for the river

ver

\* In the year 1754, or 1755, that part of the parish of Kinkell, which lies to the west of the Don, *viz.* the lands of Creechy and Thainstown, were by decreet, annexed to Kintore, and the other part to Mount-kiggie, now called the parish of Kinkell, or Keithhall, and in 1760 the annexation took place, by the death of the incumbent at Kinkell. This parish belonged formerly to the Presbytery of Aberdeen, but by an act of Synod in 1702, was for a time annexed to Garioch, and has continued in that Presbytery ever since.

ver runs so slow, that it has more the appearance of a lake than a torrent. In a flood, the river is sometimes more than a mile broad. Though these floods enrich the soil, they often mud the grafs and hurt the crop; and if they happen after the ear is formed, and before it comes out, they totally destroy it. The great flood that was on the 17th of September 1768, carried away the most of the crop, it being all cut down, and but little of it led off from the haugh. The town is also in apparent danger of the river breaking in upon it, especially when shoals of ice come down, which cut the deep banks. Yet the many turnings and windings of the river, both make a pleasant prospect, and moisten and enrich that large tract of haugh. The hill of Creechy and Thainstown, on the N. W. is the highest ground in the parish, more than 100 feet above the bed of the river at the top; from that there runs southward between Kintore and Kemnay, a ridge of hills, little lower; and at the south extremity of the parish, almost at right angles, a ridge turns eastward, and terminates at a place called Warehouse. Near the river, the soil is a rich loam, but mixed with sand, and gradually in going from the river westward, it becomes of worse quality. More than half of the parish is covered with a stout dry heath, and in the places at a small distance from the town, the arable fields are surrounded by heath, not six inches long. The marshy farms, have their soil in many places black, partaking of the nature of the adjacent peat-mofs.

*Rivers and Mills.*—The Don is the only river which touches this parish; it bounds the parish on the N. W. N. N. E. and partly on the E. It produces salmon, which are caught both by the net and rod, and are sold from 4 d. the pound in the spring, to 2 d. in summer. It produces  
also

also trout, eel, pike, and sometimes a kind of flounder, but these are seldom sold. A stream rises in the marshy parts of the parish, and enlarges so as to have three water-mills in its course; for the first and longest part of its course, it is called the Sherrif-burn; but when it goes on, it is called the Couning-burn, from a burrow of conies that was kept here; and near Kintore, where it falls into the Don, the burn of Tuack. There is another mill upon the Don. The most part of the parish is thirled to a mill; none now except the small heritors of Kintore pay multure. They pay for service, called *knave'ship*, the 33d peck.

*Population.*—By the return made to Dr Webster, the number of souls then, was 830.—No proper account can be given of this subject for any time past, though the people formerly were certainly more numerous than at present. The old parish, before the annexation, was said to contain between 700 and 800 souls; and about 200 were added by the annexed part of the parish of Kinkell. It contains at present, including the town, 862 souls, whereof 392 are males, and 470 females. The knitting of stockings, partly accounts for the proportion of females, though that manufacture is much on the decline, and the price reduced, since loom frames have been so much improved; and many of the males learn trades, and go to other places, there being no tradesman or manufacturer here of any kind, but what are necessary for the work in the parish. Baptisms in 1792, were 13, 8 males and 5 females. Average of births for 5 years past 16, ditto of marriages 6, ditto of deaths, or rather burials 14. The air is healthy, and the people not much liable to consumptions, fevers, or epidemical distempers. Many of the inhabitants live till between 80 and 90. One farmer lately held his plough, till several years above 80.

*Live*



*Live-stock, Cultivation, &c.*—There are at present in the parish (exclusive of the town) 106 horses, 800 black cattle, and near 2500 sheep. One very intelligent farmer has, for more than 20 years, given an excellent example of improving his land, by bringing in barren patches, ditching, draining, liming, raising turnip, sowing grass, &c. and his neighbours, who were not much disposed to follow the earliest improvers in the parish of Kinellar, that had other means of living than by their farms, are now beginning to see the benefit of following his example. A better kind of plough is introduced, and carts, which 40 years ago were unknown, are now generally used instead of creels and packets and curracks, as they were called, which did little work, with more oppression to man and horse. There is another farmer in the parish that occupies a farm, (on which 10 oxen and a proportional number of horses were formerly used), without any family or service, but himself and a housekeeper. He alone manages a plough with four horses and two cattle, on a farm abounding with rocks and great stones, carries a spade in his plough, and makes work that is far from bad; and he threshes, dries, and manages his grain himself. There is no manure in the parish but dung and a mixture of soils, to which they now add lime from Aberdeen. The chief productions are oats, barley, pease, potatoes, and lately turnip is raised in considerable quantities: The advantage of turnip for cleaning and improving the ground, and also for rearing and fattening cattle, is now generally known. A considerable quantity of oat-meal and barley, above what the parish needs, is sold every year in Aberdeen, and a great part of the rent of the parish is paid in these two articles. There is reared and sold every year from this parish, and driven south, a number of black cattle; but this part of the country has never been able to raise a sufficient supply of good horses. The price of every thing here is much the same

as

as at Aberdeen, from which the 11th mile-stone is in the town of Kintore.—The estate of Kintore, till the present Earl succeeded, had been in general long out of lease, and consequently little would be done to the houses; but since, in 1782, he gave new leases, farm-houses have been much improved; for this he gives encouragement; but a number of subtenants or cottagers have been removed, from an apprehension of the mosses wearing out. The old parish is better provided in fuel than the new part, which has no moss at all; the mosses in general in this country are fast wearing out\*.

*Patrow,*

\* *Seed-time and Harvest.*—Oats are sown from the beginning of March till the middle of April; near the river, where the soil is, warm, they may be a fortnight later in sowing than others, and will reap a fortnight sooner. Barley is sown from the middle of April to the middle or end of May; but the earlier in that time the better, as often frosts and mildews in harvest blast the ear, and prevent its filling. Harvest is generally from the beginning of August to the middle of October. Turnip generally is sown about the longest day. In some bad seasons, the harvest is better. The parish has suffered much from these: in 1782, harvest was not done in November, and in 1783, the bad seed made a very scanty crop; but in 1790, had there not been plenty in some of the neighbouring parishes, this parish would have suffered much more by a thunder storm that happened upon the 30th of July, accompanied with incessant showers of uncommonly large hailstones pointed, and many of them measuring 2 inches round. They fell in such quantities as to cover the ground in a great part of this parish, for more than 24 hours, and it was more than 2 days before they were all dissolved. The hail covered a tract of country, between 8 and 10 miles, from west to east, and 4 in breadth, beginning in the parishes of Midmar and Clunie, on the west, coming over some part of Monymusk the moss of Kenmay, and of this parish, and spending itself in Fintray. The greatest cloud divided in two, when it had passed over this parish, and come to the moor between this and Kinellar; the largest division turned down the Don to Fintray, and a smaller turned upon the parish of Kinellar. It did little damage in that parish, except where the large branch came over their haughs. This hail, with the frost that naturally followed, totally destroyed the barley, and most of the potatoes, and very much damaged the oats and the turnip. The harvest of 1789 was very bad, and the last and greatest flood, the 8th and 9th of November, carried off a remainder of the crop from our haughs.

*Price*

*Patron, Heritors, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The Earl of Kintore is patron, and also chief heritor of the parish. He has no residence in it. The only other heritor without the burgh is Duncan Forbes Mitchell, Esq; of Thainstone, who has a residence in it. That estate is said to have belonged some time to the Thanes of the county; but while the Forbesses possessed it before the Mitchells, it was called Cammiestane, which is

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still

*Price of Labour.*—The wages of common mechanicks, who only work for the neighbourhood, is much the same as in other parishes already published. Day labourers get 6 d. in summer, and 4 d. in winter, besides victuals; it is not many years since 6 d. and even 5 d. a-day without victuals, were their wages. The wages of farm-servants have increased rapidly for some years past. A servant, who two years ago would have asked little more than L. 5 a-year, for the most laborious part of a farmer's work, now asks from L. 8 to L. 10. This it is known, proceeds partly from the great demand for servants, to manufacturers and to undertakers, for different branches of work; but it is chiefly owing to the humour that for some time past has prevailed among landed gentlemen, for turning out cottagers. It is acknowledged, that country cottagers are the seed of servants, and their situation more favourable for health, industry, and good morals, than a situation in the vicinity of a great town; and where a country is much depopulated of them, the dearth and scarceness of labourers to work, must be felt first indeed by the farmers, but must soon be felt by the landed gentlemen themselves, in hindering the increase of their rents, and even bringing them down, and impeding the improvement of their land. Indeed the present wages, and maintenance of servants, are much more than the rent of many of our farmers. This makes it the more necessary to take off the most impolitic duty upon the coal; taking that off, would soon increase the revenue, by increasing the number of people who pay taxes, for it would encourage gentlemen to have their estates better peopled again; and it would render the work about peats mostly unnecessary, which is at present the whole summer-work of most farmers, and it would enable them to employ their labour and horses, more usefully, in improving their farms; and I would not wonder, if purchasing coal were in the power of crofters, to hear soon of heritors, in their leases obliging their tenants to keep so many families of cottagers.

fill the name of a farm upon the estate. There are besides these 16 heritors of borough lands\*.—The stipend is nearly 10 chalders of victual, and nearly a third of the victual is bear, and L. 11, 13 s. in money, and about 9 acres of a glebe. The manse was built in 1784, and the church considerably repaired soon after the annexation took place, and new seats put in for the additional number in the parish. There was bequeathed by one James Davidson, a native of Kintore, a sum for an annual sermon at this church; but by his sister liferenting the money, the appointment has not yet taken place. The schoolmaster has L. 7 salary, and, at an average, 30 scholars in winter, and 20 in summer. The session-clerk fee, with the perquisites, may be about L. 3, 12 s. The school-dues the same as in neighbouring parishes. The present schoolmaster is also Postmaster.—There are about 20 persons on the poors roll, who are supported by the weekly collections, (amounting, at an average, to about L. 14 annually), the pall dues, penalties, rent of pews in the church, and the interest of near L. 200 mortified money.

*Highways and Bridges.*—Two highways from Aberdeen pass through the parish; they separate at the entry to this parish, from Kinellar, near the 9th mile-stone. One of them runs straight west through this parish, and past the 12th mile-stone into Kemnay, and proceeds up Don side. The other turns N. W. through Kintore, Inverury, &c. to Inverness. The 14th mile-stone is near the bridge of Inverury.

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On

\* The forefathers of one of them, of the name of *Hill*, have possessed between 6 or 8 acres from time immemorial, and they pretend to have a charter from Robert Bruce. Another of the name of *Smith* possesses a piece of ground, which is said to have been given to one of his forefathers by King James V. for entertaining him when passing through this place in disguise.

On this road, over the Don, about three years ago, was built a very elegant bridge of three arches, the middle arch 65 feet wide, and the other two 55 feet each. There are also bridges over all the brooks on the highways. The roads are better in this parish than in many parishes around, as we have much sand and gravel for making them; and on the ground between Kintore and Inverury, the soil being sandy, the road needs no making at all. The roads are made by the statute-labour, or commuted at 1 s. 6 d. for the six days\*.

*Forests.*—There have not been for some centuries, any remains of the old forests, only large trunks of black oak have been often found in the river and haugh; the mosses abound with fir, and oak roots very large are found in the neighbourhood. A large plantation of fir and other wood planted near the castle of Hall Forest, in the memory of many persons yet alive, is now all cut down and the ground planted again; the fir wood of it was reckoned the best of our low country wood, and the present Earl of Kintore, since he came to the estate and honours in 1778, has planted a large forest of several hundred acres, and there are two considerable plantations of Scotch fir, well grown, on the hill

\* *Names of Places.*—The old names of places are generally Gaelic, such as Creechie, Tillibin, Drumnath, Blairs, Anquhiten, Dalwearie, and probably Tavelty, the old road to Aberdeen, called the Rufflach, part of the present road called the Skair, the fords of Tillikae and Pitcurn, with many names of fields. On the extremity and top of an hill bordering with Skene, is *Wardboufe*, an English name, which, though it has no vestige of a camp, nor of an house better than ordinary, has probably had a watch and guard kept on it in perilous times; for this, the situation described before, renders it very proper, especially, as it stands on ground nearly as high as any in the parish, and has an extensive prospect both to north and south, and many hills at a distance are seen from it, even the Grampian hills, and to the north, much of the Garioch.

hill of Thainstown and Creechy, one belonging to Mr Mitchell of Thainstown, and the other to Lord Kintore.

*Antiquities and Traditions.*—I shall for the sake of preservation give all the traditions that I have learned, however unimportant some of them may appear. I have already mentioned the Forest, and the Castle of Hall Forest, which has been very ancient. A part of this forest with the castle, was given by King Robert Bruce to Robert de Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, after the battle of Bannockburn, and it remains in the hands of his descendant the Earl of Kintore to this day, having been disposed in the last century by the Earl Marischal to his son or brother Sir John Keith, who was afterward created Earl of Kintore. It may be conjectured, that a part of what was given to the Marischal, was bounded by the Sheriffburn, which separated it from the rest of the shire; for, when it passes on from what had been the old march to the freedom of Kintore, it loses that name, and becomes the Coney-burn and the burn of Tuach. There are the remains of three stone circles near one another, between Kintore and Inverury, and there is a fourth in another place. There is a tradition of a battle having been near Cammestane, where a general or chief, of the name of Camus or Cambus, was slain, and is buried. There is on the side of the highway, between Kintore and Inverury, a long, and to appearance, an artificial trench or ditch, about 8 feet deep, called *Bruce's How*, in which it is probable that Robert Bruce concealed some part of his army, for a particular purpose, about the time of the battle of Inverury, or his engagement with the Cummines in this neighbourhood. Upon the head of the hill of Creechy, it is said, the Earl of Huntly pitched his camp, when marching southward before the battle of Correechie; and that having been warned  
by

by a wizard, to *beware of Correechie*, and hearing the name of this place, he took the alarm, thinking this to be that place he was warned about, and he immediately decamped, and marched forth to the Hill of Fair; in a hollow place of which, called *the How of Correechie*, the engagement was\*.

### Miscellaneous

\* On the large moor between this parish and Kinellar, although there is no tradition about it, there has some time been either a battle, or a great carnage in a fight: this appears by a great number of cairns, greater and lesser, that are upon it. In taking up one of the larger cairns some years ago, for building fences on his farm, Mr John Lumsden in Bog-heads found in the outer or higher part of the cairn, several pieces of a black substance, lighter than cinder, with dots of a different colour, and perforated as for being stringed. When he came to the bottom and centre of the cairn, he found something like a coffin, formed of long stones artificially put together, *is* or *near* which coffin, (for as it was disordered and filled with the earth in raising, he is not sure which), there was a large ring, that would contain two or three fingers, of a substance like veined marble, and an urn containing human hair. These things appeared to every person here that has seen them, to have been before the days of Christianity in this country. The articles dug up, he says, are at present in the hands of the Earl of Buchan, where they may be seen. There is also on the same moor another larger cairn, where probably one of the chiefs has been buried; but I have never heard an ancient or a Gaelic name to any of the cairns. There lies upon the east side of Kintore, near the Don, an artificial mound of earth, called the Castlehill, which probably at first served for a *Law*, and afterwards for a watch tower; for I am informed, that, upon any sudden invasion of the country, it was one of the places where fires were kindled to spread the alarm speedily through Scotland; and indeed Kintore was a place much resorted to in the days of the wars that were in Scotland, being not only a fine field, before there was much tillage in the country, but central, and on the way north both from Aberdeen and the passages of the Grampian hills. There is on the west side of Kintore a marsh still called the Rollo mire, which, with other adjacent lands, is said to have belonged to one of the name of Rollo, who settled and made a figure here soon after the days of William the Conqueror. It is from this mire, and the river, which at this place is like standing water, that the mildews rise, that in harvest so often blight our barley crops.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are in general peaceable, and not given to feuds or divisions, charitable and industrious, strangers to luxury and vice; and in the Royal Burgh, not much given to political speculations. There are only two public houses or taverns in the parish, and these are necessary in Kintore for the great north road. The advantages of the parish are, good soil near the river, easily managed, and producing crops without manure; the sobriety and industry of the people, and access to Aberdeen, the principal market, not being difficult, and that there are few services; or what is called bondage, required. The disadvantages are these already pointed out, from the overflowing of the river, nearness to Aberdeen, raising wages more than in places at a distance, short leases, none of them above 19 years, though the heritors are not disposed to remove their tenants. It is said, the entail upon the lands of Kintore restricts from giving longer leases than 19 years. Improper division of farms is likewise a disadvantage, rents not being exactly proportioned, and that there is in many farms a want of stocking, owing to the poverty of the farmers.—If there are any mines in this country, they must be of Iron, for all mineral springs here are impregnated with iron-ore, and some of our stones are coloured by the water; yet the stones here are generally of the best granite. Outliers, as they are called, abounding in quantity, are more used than quarries, because they are both more easily got at, and taking them away, clears the ground.—There are few Dissenters from the Established Church in the parish, only 2 families of Nonjurors, and 1 of Seceders. The living and dress of the country-people are much better within the last fifty years, and even since I was settled at Kintore. Instead of country made stuff, which men formerly wore, they now purchase cloth at Aberdeen, and the women now use cardinals of different kinds,



kinds, instead of plaids which they formerly used.—Flesh provisions are much improved, and more generally used since the introduction of turnip-husbandry.—The hills in this parish are all covered with heath; whereas in Skene, to the S. E. and the united parishes to the N. E. they are green and benty. Our green hills are a cold soil; they partake of the nature of moss, and snow lies long and deep on them; whereas hills, covered with heath, are sandy, and the adjacent soil is warm and earlier, the air is more kindly, and the grain on such grounds is richer, yields better, and is of better quality; the country people say, it is *sharper and nearer the meal.*

N U M -

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF STRATHMARTIN,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE).

By the Rev Mr ALEXANDER STRACHAN.

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*Situation, Extent and Soil.*

**T**HIS parish forms a part of that pleasant and delightful Strath, anciently called Srathdighty. The derivation of the name is uncertain. The parish is very small, being only about 2 miles square. The soil is light, partly gravel, partly clay bottom. The air is healthy, and the inhabitants in general long lived.

*Proprietors, Improvements, Cattle and Produce.*—There are 2 heritors in the parish, Captain David Laird of Strathmartin, and Walter Ogilvie of Tulledaph-hall. About 9 years ago, Captain Laird, who distinguished himself by his gallant behaviour in the service of Government, during the

the late American war, bought the estate of Strathmartin. His lands have been mostly in his own possession, since he purchased the estate. The greatest part of them is enclosed with substantial stone fences, and in a high state of cultivation. He has lately let one of his farms, at L. 2, 2 s. the acre, another at L. 1, 10 s. and a third at L. 1, 10 s. Captain Laird has erected a good dwelling-house, where the ancient fabric reared its head. The offices and garden are at a distance from the house. He has enclosed 200 acres of the moor, called Clatto, in the south end of the parish, with an earthen fence: 50 acres of it have been planted with ash, elm, &c. which will in a little time relieve the eye, that has been a long time hurt by the black heath. 150 acres of this moor are designed for a farm; and excellent offices have been erected on it. On a few acres of this farm, which were ploughed last season, a good crop of turnips has been raised. Thirteen old houses have been demolished, on the estate of Strathmartin, since the year 1785. Eight substantial houses have been built on or near their sites, each of which might contain 2 small families; they are covered with slate or tile. Several new houses have been erected for tradesmen, and a good house for a brewer, with a brewhouse, malt-barn, kiln and bakehouse. Mr Walter Ogilvie of Tullledaph-hall, has made very considerable improvements on that estate. He has enclosed a great part of his lands, with excellent stone fences, and built some good houses for his tenants. His farms are let from L. 1 to L. 2 the acre. People who understand the art of farming doubt if the produce of so light a soil, will enable farmers to pay so high a rent.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 1180 Scotch. The parish of Strathmartin was formerly very ill laid out, and

consequently not very famous for cattle ; what is called the runridge being common in every quarter of it ; but since the runridge was abolished, improvements have gone on with spirit. Oxen of a large size have been introduced by the heritors, for the plough and wain. Horses which were bought twenty years ago from L. 7 to L. 12, now cost from L. 15 to L. 25. A considerable number of cattle, since turnips began to be raised, have been fed, and sold not only by the heritors, but also by the farmers. Calves have begun to be reared in abundance, for the market, and farmers use. No sheep are kept in the parish, except a few for private use, though formerly almost every farmer had a flock. The ground produces good oats, barley and pease. The manure used here, is lime from Fife, brought to Dundee by water, marl from the mires of Auchterhouse parish, and composts of dung and earth. There are some excellent stone quarries in the parish.

*Water, Bridges and Mills.*—The rivulet, commonly called Dighty water, which has its source in Lundie parish, and runs into the frith of Tay, glides through the middle of this parish. Some fine burn-trouts, and a few pikes and perches of a middle size, are to be found in it ; they abound most in spring, but are never caught for sale. By the exertions of that public spirited gentleman, David Laird of Strathmartin, 2 bridges have been thrown over Dighty, one on the road leading from Glammis to the Carfe of Gowry, and the other on the road from Sidlaw-hill to Dundee. A bridge has likewise been built of late over Dighty, to the eastward, at the expense of the corporation of bakers in Dundee. There are 10 mills in the parish ; 2 corn mills, 1 flour, 1 barley, and 1 fulling mill, in the interest of Captain Laird. On Mr Ogilvies' estate, there is 1 corn, 1 fulling, and 1 lint mill.

mill. In the east end of the parish, are 2 flour-mills, on a piece of ground feued sometime ago, by the town-council of Dundee, and commonly called the mills of Baldovan, and have been long held in tack by the baker corporation of Dundee.

*Manse, Stipend, Church, School, Poor, &c.*—The manse was built in 1775. It is a piece of good mason work, but is too small for the accommodation of a family. The offices were built in haste, and have undergone a repair, although finished only in the end of the year 1775. The stipend is 30 bolls of barley, 32 bolls of meal, and L. 26 : 14 : 7 in money, including L. 3 for communion-elements; which is too small a living for a clergyman, who has a numerous family. The teinds are exhausted. The church was rebuilt in 1779.—A new school, and house for the schoolmaster, were lately built on a small piece of ground, taken from the church-yard, with the consent of the presbytery. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scots, and L. 1, 10 s. as session-clerk. The number of scholars in summer is from 20 to 30, and in winter, from 30 to 40. The encouragement given to schoolmasters in this parish and neighbourhood, being small, they betake themselves to land-measuring and marl gauging, or commence auctioneers, and thus the education of youth is neglected: a remedy for this evil has long been desired.—The poor are maintained by the weekly collections, which amount to 2 s. or 3 s. each Sunday, and by the interest of L. 150.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 368. The following list of births, marriages, and deaths, is extracted from the session records.

Years.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Burials.
1775,	14	1	1
1776,	8	—	6
1777,	10	3	4
1778,	10	1	1
1779,	12	1	3
1780,	11	3	6
1790	16	} The register of marriages and burials has been neglected.	
1792	13		

There are 340 souls in the parish. The people in general are quiet, peaceable, and well disposed. In the parish, are 2 Antiburghers, and 1 Episcopalian. Since the year 1770, the wages of men-servants, maid-servants, and day labourers are nearly doubled, owing to the flourishing state of manufactures and improvements in agriculture, in this neighbourhood. There is a remarkable alteration to the better, in the drefs of the parishioners, since the year 1780.

*Antiquities.*—On the west side of Clatto-moor, are the traces of a camp. It is generally believed to have been occupied by a part of Agricola's army, and afterward by Alpin, Wallace, and Monk. Tradition reports, that "Wallace pitch'd his camp on Clatto-hill, and ground his corn " at Philaw's mill," which is about half a mile from the place where the traces of the camp are seen. To the eastward of Strathmartin house, there is a hill, called the Gallow-hill, on which the Lairds of Strathmartin, in the days of feudal tyranny, exercised their power in hanging for petty offences. In the north end of the parish is a large stone, called Martin's stone, of which Gordon takes notice in his Itinerary, (as belonging to the parish of Tealing.)

Tradition says, that at the place where the stone is erected, a dragon, which had devoured nine maidens, (who had gone out on a Sunday evening, one after another, to fetch spring water to their father), was killed by a person called Martin, and that hence it was named Martin's stone. There is also a stone on the west gate of the church-yard, which has the figures of 2 serpents upon it.

N U M.

N U M B E R IX.

UNITED PARISHES OF LIFF AND BERVIE,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS CONSTABLE.

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*Union, Extent, Surface.*

THE union of the parishes of Liff and Bervie took place in Nov. 1758. Liff comprehended the old parishes of Logie and Invergowrie; both of which, as appears from the records of the kirk-session, were united to it before the middle of the last century. But Logie, *quoad sacra*, has from the same remote period, belonged to the parish of Dundee, and a considerable proportion of the stipend payable out of it, been allowed to the minister who has the charge of the country parish there\*. On the W. and S. E. owing to the

\* The motives to this transaction cannot now be discovered; but most probably originated from the relative circumstances and connexion of both parishes, a part of Logie, as it is said, having been formerly encroached,



the interfections of the neighbouring parishes, the form of Liff and Bervie is very irregular. It may be reckoned, on an average, 3 miles in length, and the same nearly in breadth. The appearance of the surface is in general highly pleasing. The ground rises with an easy ascent for the space of 3 miles from the river Tay, except towards the S. E. where the end of the hill of Balgay, which is very moderate in height, and either wholly planted or cultivated, and a low narrow dale, extending from thence westward through the village of Bervie, intervene. Along this agreeable exposure, are interspersed houses, trees, and fields in culture. The higher grounds form, as it were, a ridge, stretching somewhat obliquely from W. to E. Behind these, is a bleak, extensive tract of moor, where are some thriving plantations of fir, but hardly any mark of improvement or cultivation. This moor falls northward in gradual declivity, and forms, with the opposite grounds, part of that Strath or valley, which beginning in the parish of Lundie, and extending eastward a few miles, is called Strathmartin, an appellation given to one of the parishes adjoining this district. In the middle of this strath, runs a small and rapid stream from the loch of Lundie, which meets an additional supply, collected here from the hills above Auchterhouse, and is then called the water of Dighty. This brook is the northern boundary of these united parishes, dividing them from Auchterhouse, and is nearly parallel to the course of the Tay, the principal boundary

on

eroded upon by one of the principal streets of Dundee, Logie therefore, comprehending the lands of Logie, Blackness, and Balgay, as being part of another spiritual charge, falls not properly to be considered in this account of the united parishes of Liff, including Invergowrie and Bervie.

on the south. In this district, there are two other streams; one from the E. through Locheye, and another from the W. which meet about half a mile from Invergowrie, before they fall into the Tay. After junction, they are called the burn of Invergowrie; and here, in the months of March and April, sea-trout are sometimes found of 4 lbs. weight.

*Climate, Chalybeate Spring.*—There are no endemial distempers. The air is pure and wholesome, owing in a great measure to the ebbing and flowing of the Tay on one side, and the ground rising from it to a considerable height on the other. In one low and confined spot, occupied chiefly by manufacturers, few or no diseases appear, that are not common in the most healthy situations. Among the oldest inhabitants, is a married couple, whose joint ages make 175, and who have lived together 59 years. There are many of both sexes in this district, whose lives are prolonged to upwards of 80 years. Consumption and rheumatism, disorders the most fatal to society, especially in the country, owing principally to the want of good and comfortable accommodation among the poorer class of people, are not more prevalent in this than in other quarters, where the same proportion of the people lead sedentary lives. Nay, many persons from Dundee, of delicate and sickly constitutions, have found their health greatly improved by a few months residence here in summer; and there can be no doubt, that the chill wind and damp vapours from the east, which prove so unfriendly to the restoration of health, are less sensibly felt here, than in places more immediately adjoining the mouth of the river. In all cases, therefore, where sea-bathing is not required, this quarter perhaps ought to be preferred.—There is a chalybeate spring

spring at the village of Bervie, which was formerly resorted to with advantage, by valetudinary persons in the neighbourhood, but which is now in no great repute. From the taste of the water, and the colour of it, when mixed with spirits, it would appear to be strongly impregnated with iron.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls at that time was 1311. The number of inhabitants at present in the west part of this district, compared with the amount of the whole, bears no sort of proportion to what it did at the beginning of this century, nor even within a much shorter period. Two opposite causes have united to produce this remarkable difference: 1st, The alienation of the lands belonging to the feuars of Liff; and, 2dly, The late introduction, and rapid increase of manufactures, to be afterwards explained, particularly in the east quarter of this district. The lands of Liff were part of an endowment to the monastery of Scoon, and appear to have been feued out by the commendator of that monastery into eight parts, about the time of the Reformation. This laid the foundation of a village, formerly denominated the Kirkton of Liff, which from sundry particulars in the session-record, but more especially from comparing the number of elders in it, with those in the other divisions of the parish united, appears to have contained in 1650, one third at least of the whole inhabitants, who, it is observable, according to a report made by the minister about that time to the presbytery of Dundee, amounted to 400 and upwards. This village continued to increase, and was in a flourishing state until some time after the beginning of the present century, when almost the whole of these lands in feu, came into the possession of a principal heritor, and  
in

in consequence of the improvements made by his extended pleasure-ground, and the excambion of glebe and other lands, little now remains of the former appearance and condition of this spot. The village of Bervie, distant about a mile from that of Liff, has also in former times been more considerable. At present, it seems to labour under peculiar disadvantages, and must in a short time be entirely deserted, unless these shall be removed. But though population may have declined in the west, it has of late years increased beyond the ordinary proportion in other quarters of this district, particularly in the east, at Lochey and Milhouse. This will appear from comparing the number of examinable persons in the years 1753 and 1792. By a survey of the inhabitants in January 1792, the number of examinable persons, or of those above 10 years old, amounted to

1451

By decret of annexation for Liff and Bervie, dated August 1753,

The examinable persons in Liff were reported to be

650

The examinable persons in Bervie,

150

800

Increase of examinable persons from 1753 to 1792, a space of 39 years,

651

This unusual increase has arisen chiefly from some considerable feus granted out of the estate here, belonging to the family of Lundie, between the years 1735 and 1740, which proving convenient for manufactures, has been subserved since that time, and is now remarkably filled with inhabitants. New houses are erecting on it every year; but no sort of attention is paid to form or method in plac-

ing them. From the annexation, the inhabitants of the parish of Bervie have rather diminished than increased, so that the whole addition made to the number of people for almost 40 years in both parishes, has been entirely on the side of Liff\*. It is further to be remarked, that at that period the population of both Liff and Bervie, was probably much less than it had been for many years before, at least during the interval between the improvements above mentioned, and the establishment and growth of manufactures, and hence that the amount of examinable persons at the annexation of the parishes, is not, strictly speaking, to be considered as conveying a proper idea of the ancient state of population in this district. The present number of the inhabitants amounts to 1790: Of this number, there are 339 reckoned under the age of ten, which falls somewhat short of the usual proportion, owing to the late irregular accession of settlers, the frequent change of servants, and the various success of manufactures. The native inhabitants are few in comparison with the strangers who have settled lately. There are many of the former who are able to trace their ancestors back for several generations; and, in particular, there is one family, who without any change of circumstances, unless what has necessarily been produced by the gradual and slow operation of time, now inherit the same spot cultivated by their forefathers, prior to the era of the Reformation.

The

\* Those who are curious about investigations of this sort, may from the above account, and the different enumerations given of the inhabitants of Liff, inform themselves pretty accurately of the state of its population from 1650 to 1753, and from thence down to 1792, including a period of no less than 142 years.

The householders amount to	348
Of these, the number of weavers, exclusive of servants, is	172
Brewers, who at same time retail their own ale,	2
Retailers of ale and spirits,	7
Tailors,	13
Shoemakers,	3
Smiths,	4
Masons, about 4 of whom live in the houses of their parents,	13
Wrights,	12
Flaxdressers,	5
Day-labourers,	35
Carters,	10
	280

Two residing heritors, farmers, feuars, small tenants, and a few females, householders, make up the remainder, amounting to about - 68

Marriages, on an average of 6 years, ending January 1792, according to the record of the kirk-session, amounted to 15; baptisms to 58; and burials to 29. In cases of marriage here, it often happens, that the man is far less advanced in life than the woman he marries. The former depends much on the experience of the latter, and generally too on the savings of her industry, to enable him to begin with some comfort a married life: This disparity of years happening on the side of the woman, must needs be a hinderance to population\*.

*Soil,*

\* The register of baptisms especially in so populous a district as this, is not to be considered as giving an accurate account of the births in it;  
Children

*Soil, Agriculture, &c.*—The soil varies in different places, but in general that of the higher grounds is light, mixed with sand, and has sometimes rock for its bottom, and sometimes mortar. The lower grounds are either of a black soil, inclining to loam, or of clay. At present upwards of 2000 acres are divided into 12 farms, none of them containing less than 100 acres, and one 400 nearly. The remaining grounds in the district, allowing for about 400 acres plantation, and perhaps even more for roads and moor or waste, particularly towards the extreme boundary on the north, are for the most part occupied by smaller tenants, or by feuars. Some of the more considerable farms have rented of late at two guineas an acre; but one half of these being either liferent tenures, or held upon old leases, the medium rent of the whole cannot be estimated higher than from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. Smaller holdings rise in value, in proportion to their vicinity to Dundee, those especially

Children that are still born, or die unbaptized, are never mentioned in the public register; besides, there are parents, who sometimes from neglect, and sometimes from parsimony, do not insert in it their childrens names, and by Dissenters this duty is often omitted entirely. Some allowance may likewise be necessary respecting the deaths here. Many persons from other quarters having settled of late years in this district, some of these after death are conveyed to the parishes whence they came, and others are interred privately in the neighbouring church-yard of Logie, which appertains to these united parishes, but has become more the burial place of people from Dundee. And in all cases, unless the mortcloth here be called for, (which is sometimes prevented, in the instance of burials at Logie, by private mortcloths being hired cheaper in Dundee,) no mention is made in the record of the persons deceased. The burying-ground in each of these united parishes is still kept sacred for the reception of the dead; but the church-yard of Liff, and next to it, that of Logie, are most frequently used. Very few in comparison are buried in Bervie, and in Invergowrie not above two burials on an average will happen in the year.

cially that are calculated for a residence to an industrious and poor family, and which consist only of a house, and one or more acres of land. Accordingly, while the village acres about Liff and Bervie, upwards of 4 miles from market, pay a rent of L. 2 a-year, those of far inferior quality in Locheye and Milehouse, (so called to mark the distance from Dundee), originally feued between 1735 and 1740 at 10 s. an acre, yielded some years ago L. 3 feu-duty; and in one place adjoining the late turnpike-road, they now give L. 5 or L. 6. As the same line of road passes through the less inhabited quarter of this district on the north, a considerable tract of ground in the strath or valley mentioned there, which, for the most part, is now rated only at about 10 s. the acre, may be expected in time to rise in value. The situation is precisely similar to that of Locheye, but farther removed from market, and the land in general seems more susceptible of improvement and cultivation.

The method of cropping must needs be supposed to vary according to the differences of soil and exposure; but even where these are the same, one fixed and uniform rotation is not yet adopted. On one or two farms, where a regular mode of cultivation is going forward, the succession of crops is as follows: 1<sup>st</sup>, Oats; 2<sup>d</sup>, Fallow; 3<sup>d</sup>, Wheat; 4<sup>th</sup>, Turnip and potatoes; 5<sup>th</sup>, Barley, with grass-seeds; and, lastly, two years grass, cut the first year and pastured the next. Lent and pease make sometimes a part of the green crop; but, in general, not much of either is sown. In the lighter soil, whereof a large proportion of this district is composed, both fallow and wheat are often laid down. Marl is sometimes employed as a manure from the neighbouring parish of Foulis, especially in the higher grounds

3

towards



towards the north and west, and in the back moor of *Liff*, but lime is generally preferred, and is brought sometimes from England, and sometimes across the Tay from the opposite county of Fife, and landed at Invergourie. Besides the dung made on their farms, the farmers are often obliged to get an additional supply from Dundee; and every lading of a cart and pair of horses from thence, costs them no less than 1 s. 6 d. exclusive of tolls and carriage. The best improved land here rarely yields above 10 bolls of wheat or any other grain the acre. Instances have indeed occurred of much higher returns than this, but they are too rare to be considered as a standard by which to estimate the produce in general. A considerable part of the district is enclosed with stone fences, but few of the enclosures, however, remain long in grass for pasture or grazing; those that are let for this purpose are roused annually, and bring from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3 Sterling the acre.

The Scotch plough, with amendments, is in common use: At the same time, from the late general speculation and improvements on this useful machine, it has become more than ever an object of attention both here and in the neighbourhood, and many farmers are at great pains to have their ploughs fashioned after the most approved models. It is the practice to employ two horses in each plough, unless the occasion renders the addition of one or more necessary. Two threshing machines have been erected for some time; they go by means of horses, and are looked upon as useful both in respect to profit and convenience. There are 5 corn-mills, a flour-mill, a sauff-mill, and three mills for cleaning yarn. Thirlage and kain are still continued upon some lands, but these seem the only  
 exactions

exactions of which the farmers and smaller tenants have to complain.

The number of draught-horses about 180, and of these not above a dozen or fifteen may be said to be kept for convenience, or for any purpose but that of husbandry. Very few horses are bred here or in the country around, and accordingly their price has advanced beyond all former expectation. Forty pounds Sterling is now considered as a very moderate price for a pair of ordinary cart-horses, and they are seldom to be had for less than fifty. Milch cows are very numerous, every family almost, whether with or without land in their possession, having one or more of them. No attention is paid, especially by the poorer sort of people, to their breed, and in general they are of a diminutive size. Their number may amount to 382. In Locheye and Milehouse alone there are about 117 for the use of the families in that quarter. But neither there, nor in one or two places more of this district, are the cows and horses maintained by the produce of the land in possession of their respective owners. A very considerable share of the provision necessary for them is purchased from the neighbouring farmers, who find it their interest often to answer demands of this sort, by exposing to sale in different lots, one or more fields of standing corn, grass, or turnip, as they can best spare of each. In this way it happens, that in some years a considerable quantity of oats and barley is brought from neighbouring parishes into this district, but this is nothing equivalent to the different kinds of grain, and of barley especially sold out of it. The yearly amount of what is thus disposed of, cannot be accurately ascertained; it is, however, certain that, unless in years of extraordinary scarcity, this district will do far more than support itself. Besides, there are several portions of land now lying waste and neglected, which, if properly improved,

ved, would fully indemnify both the expense and trouble. There are a good number of calves reared, and some cattle also are fed for the market; but this practice is by no means universal. The market-town is Dundee, where there is a ready sale for grain of every sort, hay, milk, butter, cheese, poultry, &c. And to those who have not the means of subsistence within themselves, every article except potatoes is as high as in Dundee, where the expense of living has increased of late, with the industry and wealth of the inhabitants. It is a pleasure to say, that the principal farmers are in general accommodated with good houses, but the dwellings of the smaller tenants, and indeed of the great bulk of the inhabitants, are as yet ill adapted either for health or comfort\*.

*Manufactures.*—This district, from several portions of it being let in crofts or small possessions, is highly favourable to the establishment and growth of manufactures. Hence, in every hamlet within its bounds, as Liff, Bervie, Denhead, &c. the weaving of linen cloth has become the principal employment. But the quarter which is both the most populous, and contains the greatest number of manufacturers, is that strip of land, which having on the south the hill of Balgay; and forming with it a narrow valley, is comprehended under the names of Locheye and Milehouse. The  
peculiar

\* They are kept however neat and clean, and this taste may soon lead to substantial improvements. The common wages of a ploughman, from L. 8 to L. 10 a-year, either with his victuals in his master's house, or 2 pecks of oat-meal a-week, and a proportional quantity of milk for subsistence by himself. The wages of women-servants, L. 3, including *bounties* or presents, which however are stipulated for. The hire of a day-labourer from 9 d. to 1 s. with his victuals; but for two years past, it has risen beyond this, owing chiefly to the contract work done upon the new roads leading from Perthshire through this county.

peculiar attractions of this spot to manufacturers, besides its being in the country, and at a convenient distance, either for carrying what they can spare to market in Dundee, or for bringing necessaries from thence, are these: 1<sup>st</sup>, The promise of a fixed residence, almost the whole land having been subdivided into smaller feus and possessions, a family, according as they are able, may either purchase or rent, what will serve for a commodious habitation. 2<sup>d</sup>, Every web of cloth, as soon as it comes from the loom, may here be disposed of, without the trouble and expense of conveying it for sale to a distance. The first merchant weavers were, a family of the name of Cook, who continue still in the same line, with much credit and advantage to themselves, and to whose industry and example this district is principally indebted for its present flourishing condition. But 3<sup>d</sup>, What above every other advantage has tended to enhance the value of this spot to manufacturers, and without which it might have remained still in its original unimproved state, is a small brook or stream, that passes from Milehouse westward, through Locheye, and furnishes a supply of water for boiling and bleaching, as much as is necessary of the cloth manufactured in the district. These causes combined, point out Locheye and Milehouse as a highly convenient station for manufacturers. The household linen made in this district is not worth mentioning, and the number of Osnaburghs is comparatively small. The staple manufacture is coarse linens, which are carried to London, some of them for consumpt in Britain, others for exportation. They are named from their breadth, as yard wides, 3 quarter wides, and wide thin linens, and the price of each sort is regulated by the quality of yarn of which it is made, according to the market. A very small proportion of the yarn made use of, is spun in this district, though several women apply themselves to it; every

weaver being for the most part supplied with that article from Dundee. Some of the cloth manufactured is sold by individuals at first hand, at Dundee and Inchtute; but the quantity thus sold does not amount to more than is purchased by the merchant weavers in this district, from neighbouring parishes, who, therefore, may be said to deal to the extent of the whole cloth manufactured here. The merchant weavers are 5 in number, and are themselves included in the list of operative manufacturers. All of them, one excepted, who buys to the greatest extent, dispose of their whole stock either in Dundee or Perth, or Cupar of Angus, preferring a smaller gain at home, to the risk of a greater in the hands of correspondents at London. Almost half of their cloth is bleached before it is sold, and of late they have adopted the method, of what is termed here *dry-bleaching*, which is nothing more than after boiling the cloth in water, mixed with a due quantity of pot-ashes, to wash the lees from it, and leave it to whiten on the ground by the action of the sun and weather, without, as formerly, sprinkling water upon it. The cloth by this means is equally well bleached, and much labour as well as expense is saved. The following is a pretty accurate statement of the webs manufactured in one year, and the prices at which they are commonly sold by the manufacturers.

Webbs.	Price.
3800 yard wides, and 3 quarters wides, at L. 2, 10 s. the web,	L. 9500
550 yard wides, at L. 2, 12 s.	- 1430
150 3 quarter wides, at L. 3,	- - 450
60 ditto, at L. 4,	- - 240
300 Osnaburghs, at L. 3,	- - 900
<hr/> 4860	<hr/> L. 12,520. Of

Of the above webs, 2830 were bleached, and in that state being fit for shirting and many important uses, the profit at second hand is more considerable than that on the *green* or *unbleached*. Considering the number of weavers who are householders, and that several among them keep 1 or 2 servants, or more properly apprentices, it may perhaps be expected, that a third more cloth at least should be manufactured in the year within this district. In reply, this much may be observed, that some of these householders are at an advanced period of life, that the greater part have more or less to do of rural labour on their small possessions, and that many quit their own employment entirely, and engage with the neighbouring farmers, in the time of harvest. It would tend greatly to promote and encourage manufactures here, were a stamp-office established as at Inchturre and Meigle\*.

*Antiquities.*—Under this head may be mentioned a temple, called Druidical, measuring in circumference about 43 yards. A Roman camp, as described by Maitland in his history of Scotland, which, from its vicinity to the frith of Tay, he considers as having been one of those which, according to Tacitus, *In vita Agric.* contained occasionally both the land and sea forces. There were obvious traces of this camp remaining a very few years ago, which the plough has since entirely effaced. The spot, however, is still distinguished, being known by the name of *Catter Milley*, evidently a corruption of the words *quatuor mille*, meaning thereby to express either the number of troops assembled in this fortress, or the distance of the encampment

\* The number of looms employed in this district, amounts to 276; apprentices and servants to 104.

ment from some other station. Within the confines of this district on the east, is a place named Pitalpie or Pit of Alpin, from its being the scene of that memorable engagement in the 9th century, between the Picts and Scots, in which the latter were routed, and Alpin their king, with many nobles, slain \*. Near to the present church, and immediately within Lord Gray's inclosures, are some remains of the foundation of a castle, long known in the country by the name of Hurly Haukin. It is now impossible to judge with any certainty of its original dimensions, but it has evidently been of considerable size and strength, and surrounded on all sides, except the north, by a pretty deep natural fosse. In digging about the remains, burnt ashes were found and an iron spur, of the kind long ago worn. It was built by Alexander I. King of Scotland, and the history of it tends to throw light on the ancient state of this district †.

Invergourie,

\* The King's head, after the battle, being fastened to a pole, was carried by the enemy to Abernethy, at that time the most considerable Pictish town, to be exposed there to public view; but his body, according to tradition, was buried at Pitalpie. On the top of a little hill east of Pitalpie, is still to be seen a large stone, called The King's Cross, having a hole in the middle about a foot deep; as the Scots were encamped, it is said, at no great distance from the Tay, the King may have fixed his standard in this stone. Not very remote from this is another little hill, in which were discovered eight or ten graves, having the bottom, sides, and top of flag-stones. The head of each grave was due west. The bones mouldered away on being touched.

† Alexander, according to the custom in those days, having a donation made him at his baptism, by the Earl of Gourie, his godfather, of the lands of Liff and Invergourie, no sooner succeeded to the throne, than he began to erect this palace, as Fordoun calls it. He was not however long permitted to remain in it without being disturbed. Some of his followers or attendants from Mearns and Murrayshire, having joined in a conspiracy to seize on his person, the plot was discovered, in the moment they

Invergowrie, as a place of Christian worship, is of remote antiquity, and perhaps the most ancient on this side the Tay. The first church was built by Boniface \*, a legate or missionary, on his landing there with some attendants from Rome, during the 7th century. The same person proceeding into the interior parts of Angus, founded other churches. The walls of the church of Invergowrie, used in later times, are still very entire; but they indicate no superior antiquity or workmanship, and are probably those of a fabric less ancient than the first. The church-yard is on an eminence of a singular shape, which, on one side, is often washed by the Tay; and some people, from the variety of mould dug up, have conjectured, that the whole or greater part of this eminence may have been composed of forced earth. We shall finish this article, with an account of a subterraneous building discovered a few years ago near Lundie House, which, it is believed, will be acceptable

they were endeavouring to force the doors of the palace in the night, and the King, assisted by his chamberlain Alexander Carron, the son of that Carron whom Malcolm III. had distinguished by the surname of Scrimgeour, and preferred to the office of carrying the royal standard, happily effected his escape. Embarking then at Invergowrie, he directed his course to the southern parts of the kingdom, where he raised a great force in order to repel and punish this insurrection. But before proceeding in his expedition, he founded, as a tribute of gratitude to God for the late deliverance and protection he had experienced, the church of the monastery of Scoon, and made over to that church *in dotem et gloham*, the Lands of Liff and Invergowrie formerly assigned to him as a present by the Earl of Gourie. Vide Fordoun's Sco. Chron. also Buchan. Hist.

\* Vide Boeth. Hist. also Archbishop Spottiswood, and Forbes on Tithes. The two latter agree in one account, which is evidently copied from Boece, but with very great inaccuracy. They make Boniface to have landed at the mouth of a small river, dividing Angus from Mearns, A. D. 697.; whereas Boece points clearly at Invergowrie as the landing place, and mentions the fact as having happened about A. D. 620.



ceptable to many readers. This building was discovered in a field that had long been under culture, and often had resisted the plough, in passing along the spot under which it rested. In digging this spot, to remove the stones which occasioned such interruption, they were found in general to be of a surprising breadth; but at the same time, either violently rent asunder, or disturbed in their position by the frequent intercourse and collision of the plough. And it appeared on their removal, that these stones had been industriously brought hither, and served to cover certain artificial recesses or buildings, which now discovered themselves. Among these different buildings, which are to be considered as compartments of one and the same fabric, lay one of them at a small distance from the others, but connected with each by a passage or communication about two or two and a half feet wide; and it was distinguished also by its superior size and dimensions. This principal compartment was about 6 feet in breadth, 12 in length, and 5 in height; the walls and floor were of stone. It extended in the direction nearly from east to west, and besides the passages already mentioned, leading from it to the other compartments of the building, was furnished with one towards the south, peculiar to itself, and supposed to have been the main entrance. The whole of this structure was extremely rude. Many of the stones that composed it, instead of being laid flat, or in such a way as accords with skill in the art of building, were placed endwise in the walls. There were no arches, though the several compartments required them; the upper course on the walls on each side was of large stones, with their ends projected inwardly, and the opening or vacuity between covered all the way, with others of a corresponding breadth. At the same time, considering that no mark of any tool or instrument was to be seen, and that no mortar of any kind had been

been used, the walls were certainly put together with much solidity and compactness. The building stood on the shelving side of a rock, but the different compartments were placed so irregularly with respect to one another, and with so little appearance of regard to order or method, unless in so far as that each should communicate with the larger and principal one, that nothing could be inferred from their relative situation to one another. On the compartments being first opened, all of them were filled with a rich black mould, which, whether it had been purposely deposited there, or in the course of generations past, had insinuated itself from the surface above, through the cover-stones not being entire, and having been disturbed by the plough, cannot with certainty be determined. But upon removing this earth, were observed the remains of some burnt matter, and several fragments of bones, so small as rendered it impossible to ascertain whether they belonged to the human body or not; likewise were found some querns or hand-mills, about 14 inches diameter, which, as they appeared to be much worn, had no doubt been used for grinding corn of some kind, although they had been made with so little dexterity, that it is not easy to conceive how they could have answered that purpose. In the centre of some of these querns was fastened a small bit of iron \* showing the handle to have been of that metal. Before this building was closed up, it was minutely surveyed by the late Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes †.

*Ecclesiastical*

\* Cæsar Comment. lib. 3. c. 12. Utuntur (Britanni) aut ære, aut talis, ferreis ad certum pondus examinatis, pro nummo. Nalicitur ibi plumbum album in Mediterraneis regionibus, in maritimis ferrum.

† Subterraneous buildings of the same kind are reported to have been accidentally fallen upon in this neighbourhood, in particular, in the parishes of Aughterhouse, Foulis, and Tealing. And it is the vulgar opinion, and by no means improbable, that there are others beneath a particular

*Ecclesiastical State.*—During the long and intricate process about the right of patronage to Bervie, previous to the admission of the incumbent May 1785, a proposal was set on foot to build a Seceding meeting-house in this district. And after incredible pains bestowed in gaining proselytes, and raising contributions, this proposal was at length carried into execution. A place of worship and dwelling-house were erected, and soon a pastor was called. But not long after his settlement, some proceedings of his own clergy against him not meeting the general satisfaction and opinion of the people, they split into two parties, the one for supporting the clergy's sentence, the other the right of the minister. Some points in question by the latter, were long and zealously contended for at law, and the contest subsisted with no small prejudice to the peace and morals of many concerned, till lately, that a compromise took place, on the minister resolving to withdraw from his charge. A successor to him is not appointed; and in this situation of things, the number of that communion in the district cannot presently be ascertained. According to the best advice, they never exceeded 120, and of these a few families have been always Seceders. They now fall short of this amount, as some of them, in consequence of the late difference, have returned to the Church. There are three or four families of the class of Independents, and but a few individuals of any other sect or persuasion. The inhabitants at Milehouse frequent divine worship, especially in the winter season, at Dundee, but all attend their own church at the ministrations of the Sacrament.

*Church,*

lar spot in this district which yet remain to be explored. When time or accident shall lay these open, it is to be hoped, that more light will be afforded the antiquary, for ascertaining the origin and cause of these singular and hitherto neglected monuments of human workmanship and design.

*Church, Manse, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The present church-fabric, except the aisle, which in every view ought either to have been raised higher or rebuilt, was erected in 1774, to accommodate the inhabitants, and rests nearly on the foundation of the former building. Either the foundations must have given way, or the mason-work been slightly executed, as some rents already appear in the walls. When the bulk of the inhabitants resided in the west part of the district, the situation of the church was then more convenient. The manse, which is placed a little way from the church, is also modern, and was built about the time when these parishes were united in 1759–1760. It is a handsome building, but the roof is much decayed, and the inside work very superficial, and by no means corresponding with the outside appearance. It stands about 297 feet above the high water mark at Invergourie, and commands a varied and delightful prospect, comprehending the Tay in its course for several miles, with a well clothed, fertile tract of country on the one side of it, and the steepy boundary of Fife on the other. The stipend is 7 chalders victual, and money about L. 53 Sterling, including L. 8, 14 s. which is no part of the teinds of this district, but of a grant conjointly to two other ministers and the minister of Bervie. The glebe and garden contain about 10 acres. Heritors, comprehending those of Logie parish, 9. The whole valued rent L. 6680 Scots. —The average number of scholars at the parochial school does not exceed 35. The situation is central enough with respect to the whole district, but yet not very commodious for one or two places, which contain by far, comparatively, the greater number of the inhabitants. Besides, the access to school from the west, is in a great measure shut up, and in winter the roads in every other direction are to children almost impassable. To these causes,

the first of which it were difficult to remedy, are chiefly to be ascribed the low state of the parochial school, and the introduction of 5 private ones, for the most part indifferently taught. At the former, the quarterly payments are, for English, 1s. 6 d.; for writing, 2 s.; for arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d. The salary allowed the schoolmaster is L. 7 : 1 : 10 money, and 2 bolls 14 pecks oat-meal; as session-clerk, he receives L. 1 : 15 : 6, and about L. 3 : 1 : 6 more for baptisms and marriages. The whole emoluments are too inconsiderable for a teacher of any merit and capacity.—With respect to the poor, there has never been any assessment for their maintenance. The funds for their relief arise from the dues of mortcloths, proclamation of marriages, rents of a few seats in the church, money at interest, but chiefly from the collections at the church door. Besides the number now on the roll, amounting to 12, there are several families and individuals which require occasional supply.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The principal plantations are on the estates of Lord Gray and Colonel Duncan of Lundy. Those surrounding the house of Gray, are reckoned highly beautiful, and certainly do honour to the taste of that accomplished nobleman, John Lord Gray, by whom they were laid out. The district abounds with what is here called freestone, but in strata; the prevailing colour is grey, inclining to blue. Some grey slate has been found, but very little whinstone. A proper pier at Invergourie would be of singular advantage for the importation of lime, and coal which is the principal fuel in this quarter.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF KENNOWAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF  
KIRKCALDIE.)

*By the Rev. Mr PATRICK WRIGHT.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**K**ENNOWAY is said to take its name from its situation. The church and village are built along the top or height of a very beautiful and romantic den; the sides of which are steep and rocky, and contain some caves, which the farmers and inhabitants use as pigeon-houses. Of this particular situation, the name is said to be expressive, Kennoway signifying in the Gaelic, "The town above the cave." Its form is nearly an oblong square; its length from E. to W. about 3 miles; its breadth about 2. The church and village are placed in the S. E. corner of the square.

square. The whole parish lies on a bank, ascending from S. to N.: the prospect from almost every part is extensive and beautiful, commanding a distinct view of the island of May, of the Bays, of Inch Keith, of the shipping on the Forth, from which it is distant about 2 miles; of the coast S. of the Forth from Dunbar, to the W. of Edinburgh; of the Lammer moor hills, &c. From the N. part of the parish, which reaches the top of the bank, there is one of the most extensive views imaginable, taking in not only the forementioned prospect to the S. but comprehending almost all Fife, and a great part of the counties of Angus, Perth, Stirling, the Grampian mountains, &c.

*Soil, Climate.*—The soil is all arable, and generally fertile, consisting on the S. of a light loam, which in some places approaches to sand and gravel, and on the N. of loam and clay; the crops are both rich and early, particularly on the S. The air is dry and wholesome, and many instances of longevity have occurred of late. A woman died 14 years ago, who remembered to have seen Archbishop Sharp at the manse of Kennoway, the day before he was murdered. Within these 7 years, one died whose family believed him to be above 100.; another of 94 for certain, and several of 90. In the 2 houses next to the manse, there are 2 men living, the one born in May 1695, the other in July 1700, the oldest of the two still enjoys great health and strength\*.

*Minerals.*—The village is built of freestone, taken from the neighbouring den, but it is coarse and soft, and soon moulders down with the frost. The scarcity of good stone,

is

\* They are both alive at present, May 1793.

is one of the disadvantages under which this, and some of the neighbouring parishes labour. There are appearances of coal in several parts. Some of it was lately wrought; but as the quality was not very good, nor the seam thick, and as there is great plenty of excellent coal in several of the neighbouring parishes, the mines that had been opened, were soon abandoned. After this it is unnecessary to add, that the only fuel used in the parish is coal, and that the great plenty of this most necessary article, with which the neighbourhood abounds, is one of those advantages which it enjoys in common with all the S. coast of Fife.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population then was 1240. The number of the people and houses, seems to have been nearly the same for centuries. In 1785, the whole inhabitants of the parish, (of whom the village contains about one half), amounted, from the age of going to school, to 1200, of whom 800 attended the Established Church, and 400 were Seceders. A Burgher meeting house was erected in the village, about 40 years ago, and all that do not belong to the Establishment, attend that meeting, except a very few of the Relief party, for there is not a single person of another persuasion in the parish. All the houses are inhabited, none are allowed to go to ruin, and very few are known to have been built on a new foundation. About 20 years ago, and for some time before, the village exhibited a very ruinous appearance. A considerable malting business was formerly carried on in it; the great road, too, between the ferries of Dundee and Kinghorn, passed through it; but about 40 years ago, that business failed, and the road was carried 3 miles to the westward. In consequence of these events, the malt and brew steadings, which amounted to 15 or 16 in the village,  
besides



besides two or three in its near neighbourhood, became useless, and soon fell into ruin: the whole, however, have been repaired or rebuilt of late, and are now inhabited by weavers and other trades people. There are at present, but two brewers in the parish, keeping ale-houses, none of which can well be termed an inn. A turnpike-road is making in the old line through the village.

*Agriculture, &c* —After what was said of the nature of the soil, little need be said of the crops it produces. The greatest part is enclosed or enclosing, and every farm bears wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, potato, and turnip. The soil of the greatest part is particularly adapted to potato. That root is therefore generally and carefully cultivated. Nearly the whole grass is sown. The valued rent is L. 4442 : 13 : 2 Scots. The real rent of land, about L. 2400 Sterling. The rent of land rose to a great height here several years ago: about 125 acres, that lie contiguous to the village, and had for ages been let to the inhabitants, at from 14 s. to L. 1, 8 s. the acre, were let 8 years ago at L. 2 and L. 3, and the greatest part at upwards of L. 4 the acre. For some years past, the form and fashion of the plough has been perpetually changing. The wright and smith seem now to understand their interest just as well as the button and buckle maker. The principles of this useful instrument seem to be but imperfectly understood as yet; and till they be understood, the operation of taste and fashion, and art cannot be excluded. The plough in use at present is said to be Small's, somewhat improved, *i. e.* altered. It was lately introduced from the coast of Angus, into the north side of Fife, and has become pretty general over the county. It is drawn by two horses, and held and managed by one man; the beam and handles are short, the

the head and mould-board are made of iron; its value about 2 guineas\*.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend consists of 80 bolls meal and bear, and 500 merks money, amounting, with a glebe of 6 acres, to about L. 80 Sterling. The church and manse are old, but were lately repaired. The King is patron.—The school was rebuilt, and the schoolmaster's house repaired, 6 years ago. His salary, including a donation of L. 20 Scots, is L. 8 : 6 : 4 Sterling. His perquisites about as much. He values the whole of his income at about L. 40 Sterling.—Only 6 poor persons receive alms at present, and the only fund provided for their maintenance, is the weekly collections at the church-door, which are very small; there is not however, a travelling beggar in the parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Every person almost that is not engaged in the labours of the field is employed at the loom. A considerable quantity of coarse linen is made in the parish, which is sold brown, and some also of a better quality, which is bleached and sold at the summer markets in the neighbourhood, to merchants from Edinburgh, Stirling, &c. at from 1 s. 6d. to 3 s. the yard. All are remarkably sober, industrious, and economical, so that even the dearth of 1783 had no visible effect upon the poorest and

\* *Prices and Wages.*—The price of butcher meat is from 5 d. to 6 d. a pound tron, at different seasons of the year; of a hen, from 1 s. 1 d. to 1 s. 4 d.; of butter, from 8 d. to 9 d. The wages of farm-servants are from 7 to 8 guineas for a man, and from L. 3 to L. 4 for a woman. The wages of a sufficient day-labourer, 1 s. 3 d.; of a gardener, 1 s. 6 d.; of a wright and mason, 2 s. 8 d.

and lowest of the people; nothing was done for them by the heritors, yet all supported themselves in their usual manner.—Only one instance of suicide has occurred within the last 20 years, and not a person belonging to the parish has been punished for any crime or even been imprisoned, on any account whatever, during that period.

NUM.



tioned under the name of Abernethy. It is 15 miles in length, and from 10 to 12 in breadth, and about 30 miles from the sea at Inverness, Nairn, or Findhorn. The surface is very much diversified with corn-fields, woods, and mountains. The soil is various; some parts deep, others thin and dry, some wet and cold. A stretch of about 3 miles of low deep land and meadow, on the bank of the Spey, is often overflowed in times of floods. The Spey here runs smooth and slow, and of course the overflow is so too. Although many hundreds of acres are in this situation, and would increase greatly in their value, if free of this encroachment; yet it appears doubtful if embankments could save the ground; and still more problematical, whether the acquisition would be worth the expense, which behoved to be very great, on account of the great height to which Spey rises at certain times. What increases the difficulty is, the great body of water which, in time of floods, comes from the mountains in the Nethy and smaller rivulets, and which would come in behind the embankments; besides, the proprietor has a great deal of land on the other side in the same predicament, so that double embankments would be necessary. The arable ground bears but a small proportion to the uncultivated. A great proportion of the surface is covered with woods, much of it in hills, mountains, and rocks. The ground rises towards the mountains, and the air and climate vary accordingly. Healthy every where. The people in general enjoy health to a degree that is not exceeded in many parts of the kingdom. The small-pox is the only disease that is remarkably fatal. Inoculation is not general, though, upon the whole, peoples prejudices against it are much removed\*.

*Rivers.*

\* *Longevity.*—A Donald Cameron is 98.—A Marjory Grant 101. It is to be regretted, that such persons are obliged to beg or be supported in their

*Rivers and Lakes.*—The only river of any note, besides the Spey, is the Nethy, which, rising in the high hills, intersects the parish, running through or near the fir-woods, for above 7 miles, and empties itself into the Spey. In dry weather, it is very inconsiderable; but after rains or thaws, it swells so as to bring down loose all the timber that is cut in the woods, either to the saw-mills or to the Spey, whence it is sent in rafts to the sea at Garmouth. There are several lakes in Kinchardine; the most considerable of which, is the oval basin in Glenmore, nearly two miles diameter. It is in the bottom of the glen, surrounded with fir-woods, rising gradually towards the mountains. Here is a pleasant scene in a fine summer day. In Glenmore likewise, there is a green loch, in extent about one acre, full of small fat green trout. At the foot of Cairngorm, is Loch Aven, from whence the river of that name issues, containing plenty of trout, but dry and indifferent ones to eat.

*Cave and Mountains.*—At one end of this loch, surrounded with vast mountains, is a large natural cave, sufficient to hold a number of men secure from snow, rain, or wind. People often lodge here for nights, some from necessity, others when hunting or fishing. It is commonly called Chlachdhian, or the "Sheltering Stone." Of the whole range of mountains in view of the parish, the *Cairngorm*, (or blue mountain), is the most remarkable. Stones of value are sometimes found at and near it, but rarely now, and that

their quarters by the neighbours. A James Stuart, keeper of the Duke of Gordon's forests and game, is 93, a blooming, correct sensible man, and comes to church the coldest day in winter. The last incumbent, Mr William Grant, who was 60 years minister of the parish died in 1764, aged 96; and Robert Grant of Lurgg in 1772, 97 years old.

that sometimes by chance or accident ; at other times, by digging for them. Some pretend to know the vein where they may most likely be. It is an employment not worth following. Numbers of stones of variegated colours, and regular sides, as if cut by the lapidary, are found above ground, particularly after thaws or floods, which wash off the surface, but when examined, seldom worth any thing. These high mountains, to the south of the parish, occasion much cold and frost. Cairngorm is seldom free of some snow any time in summer. On the tops of these high mountains, there is very little pasture, but a downy foggy cover on the rocks. The fir-woods never grow up the sides of these high hills, or approach the regions of cold. Cairngorm commands an extensive view. Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, are seen from it.

*Woods, and the Progress of Manufacture.*—Besides a great deal of birch and alder, there are two very large fir-woods in these parishes, almost meeting in one place. The fir-wood of Abernethy, belonging to Sir James Grant, is of great extent, and of an exceeding good quality, and very thriving ; but is kept from coming to a great size, by a constant manufacture, for about 60 years backward. Before then, the making of deals by saw-mills was little known, and less practised. The first and early method of making deals, was by splitting the wood with wedges, and then dressing the boards with the ax and adze. A high room in Castle Grant appears to be floored with deals made in this way, and never planed. The marks of the adze across the boards are still visible. And though this floor appears to be of great antiquity, such is the superlative quality of the timber, that it may continue as found as it is now hundreds of years hence. This floor has another mark of antiquity, the  
nails

ails appear all to have been made by a country-smith, according to the times; the bonnets being as broad as a small halfpenny. Afterward the country-people got the small-framed saw. There being no demand for deals, neither did they know how to send them out of the country, the heritors took any thing they could get for the wood that was manufactured. It is not a very long time back since the Laird of Grant got only a merk a-year, for what a man choosed to cut and manufacture with his axe and saw; people now alive remember it at 1 s. 8 d. a-year, afterwards it came to 3 s. 4 d. and then the Laird of Rothiemurchus, commonly called *Maccalpin*, brought it up to 5 s. a-year, and 1 lb. of tobacco. Brigadier Alexander Grant, (who died in 1719), attempted to bring some masts from his woods of Abernethy to London. But though a man of great enterprize in his military profession, did not persevere in this, owing to the many difficulties he had to encounter, such as the want of roads in the woods, skill in the country-people, and all kinds of necessary implements. About the year 1730, a branch of the York-building Company, purchased, to the amount of about L 7000 of these woods of Abernethy, and continued till about the year 1737; the most profuse and profligate set that ever were heard of then in this corner. This was said to be a stock-jobbing business. Their extravagancies of every kind ruined themselves, and corrupted others. Their beginning was great indeed, with 120 working-horses, waggons, elegant temporary wooden houses, saw-mills, iron-mills, and every kind of implement and apparatus of the best and most expensive sorts. They used to display their vanity by bonfires, tar-barrels, and opening hogheads of brandy to the country-people, by which 5 of them died in one night. They had a Commissary for provisions and forage, at an handsome salary; and, in the end, went off in debt to the proprietors



proprietors and the country. But yet their coming to the country was beneficial in many respects; for, beside the knowledge and skill which was acquired from them they made many useful and lasting improvements. They made roads through the woods. They erected proper saw mills. They invented the construction of the raft, as it is at present, and cut a passage through a rock in Spey, without which, floating to any extent could never be attempted. Before their time, some small trifling rafts were sent down Spey in a very awkward and hazardous manner, 10 or 12 dozen of deals, huddled together, conducted by a man, sitting in what was called a *Currach*, made of a hide, in the shape, and about the size of a small brewing-kettle, broader above than below, with ribs or hoops of wood in the inside, and a cross-stick for the man to sit on; who, with a paddle in his hand, went before the raft, to which his currach was tied with a rope. This rope had a running-knot or loup round the man's knee in the currach, so that if the raft stopt on a stone, or any other way, he loosed the knot, and let his currach go on, otherwise it would sink in a strong stream; and when, after coming in behind the raft again, and loosing it, he proceeded again to make the best of his way. These currachs were so light, that the men carried them on their backs home from Speymouth. There is one of them now in the parish of Cromdale below this. The York-building Company had 18 of these currachs in their employ at first, with which they made little progress, till Mr Aaron Hill, one of their number, constructed the large raft, as it is at present, consisting of two or three branders of spars in the bottom, joined end to end, with iron or other louns, and a rope through them, and conducted by two men, one at each end, who have each a seat and oar, with which they keep the raft in the proper direction. It is pleasant

pleasant to see a number of them going down at once ; each of them carry down variously, according to the quality of the timber, from L. 10, L. 15, to L. 20 worth ; and at an average, the expense of each raft to Speymouth, is about L. 1, 10s. At present, there are 4 saw mills in Abernesby.

*Glenmore Wood.*—About 8 years ago, the Duke of Gordon sold his fir-woods of Glenmore, in the barony of Kinbardine, for L. 10,000 Sterling to an English Company. There were some inferior companies tried it formerly, but were not successful. It appears pretty certain now, that this Company will succeed in bringing away all the wood within their contract, before their lease is out, which was 26 years ; and it ought to be the wish of every well-thinking person, that they may have profit in the end, as they do much good to the country. They are regular and just, and carry on their business in every department of it with much exertion and propriety. This was the oldest, the largest, and the best quality of fir-wood in Scotland, and the best accommodated for water-carriage to the Spey, by means of the loch before described, that is in the heart of it, and out of which a river issues, that brings down even their masts loose to Spey, a distance of 5 or 6 miles. The quantity of spars, deals, logs, masts and ship-timber, which they send to Garmouth or Speymouth yearly, is immense, and every stage of the process of manufactory, brings money to the country ; generally once a-year, they send down Spey a loose float, as they call it, of about 12,000 pieces of timber, of various kinds ; whence they send it to England, or sell it round the coast. For some years, they have sent great numbers of small masts or yards to England to the King's yards, and other places, and have built about 20 vessels of various burdens at Garmouth  
or

or Speymouth, all of Glenmore fir. Among others, there is one now on the stocks, above 500 tons. Without doubt these manufactures raise the price of labour and other articles, and make servants for the farmer more difficult to be got. The fir-woods of this country exceed all the natural fir-woods in Scotland put together, without comparison. Sir James Grant's woods of Abernethy, of many miles circumference; next, the Duke of Gordon's, in Glenmore; then Mr Grant of Rothiemurchus's, who is supposed to have more trees than either of them; then the Duke's again; after that, the Laird of M'Intosh's in Glenfishy, all in a line, of about 20 miles in length, on the south side of Spey, and all having the advantage of abundance of water to bring them to Spey. Besides, Sir James Grant has another wood, of an excellent quality, on the other side of the country, on the river Dulnan\*.

*Population.*—According Dr Webster's report, the population then was 1670. The exact number in this parish at present is 1769, of which 262 are below 7 years of age. Births, at an average for 6 years past, 45; marriages, 10.

*Produce, and State of Husbandry.*—The animal productions consist of black cattle, sheep, some goats and horses. The principal proprietor does not encourage great sheep-farms, nor are there any large tracts laid waste for such flocks. It is computed, that two or three farms in Abernethy which are wholly given to sheep, and what the English Company have in their own possession in Kincardine without tenants, had about 200 inhabitants when let in small

\* *Quadrupeds and Birds, &c.*—Red-deer, roe, foxes, hares, moorfowl, partridge, tarmakan, eagles, hawks, and the other birds common in the Highlands of Scotland, abound here.

small farms. However, the sheep are greatly increased of late years, and the farmers endeavour to keep as many cattle as formerly; so that, like Pharaoh's kine the one consumes the other. The sheep are almost all of the black-faced kind, though few have the breed genuine, but crossed. By the tenants increasing their number of sheep, and still striving to keep up their former number of black cattle, neither the sheep can be expected to be sold fat, nor the cattle in general in decent marketable condition; by which means they must always be sold at prices inferior to what they would fetch if properly grazed; so that the parish in general is only a nursery for raising lean cattle and sheep, to be fattened elsewhere\*.—The crops here are, barley, oats, rye, potatoes, chiefly the small black oats; on some farms pease and a good deal of white oats. The crops here are often precarious, and frequently misgive to a very distressing degree. There are only 5 farms in the parish

\* The cattle being often half starved in the winter, owing to having too many for the straw, and sent in summer to hills covered with sheep, are often presented to the drovers in August and September with the former year's hair on them. Such in the parish as do justice to their cattle in strawing them sufficiently, and grazing them well in summer, have very comely good cattle. But these are the fewest, the tenants in general keeping their numbers of black cattle while the sheep are insensibly increasing around them. The promiscuous pasturage of sheep and black cattle is unnatural, and must be a losing game; people see the error but do not mend it. This mismanagement is not peculiar to this district; many neighbouring parishes and counties go on in the same tract. While people follow the sheep system as they do, common sense would seem to dictate to them, that they ought to let the whole hill-pasturage go with the sheep, and only keep as many cattle as their inland farms would graze properly in the summer. By these means fewer beasts would exceed in value the present number. Few horses are reared in this parish, and great numbers of small ones used in it by the generality of the tenants, which takes a great deal of money yearly out of it, and which might be much remedied, if every farmer were to rear a foal every second or third year. Proprietors ought to attend to this and encourage it.

parish in any degree of improvement: On these there are good houses, offices, and some good enclosures, limed and prepared with green crops for grass, which answers well. Pease grow well in limed fields here. These farms have the advantage of the best climate in the parish. They are ploughed with English or Scotch ploughs, according to the ground. Upon these, there are good horses, oxen, carts, and the other modern implements. The want of hard wood in the country is a drawback; because, without it, there can be no durable instruments of husbandry. There are several neat farm-houses built of late through the parish; but the farms themselves in general are in no better state than they were 100 years ago. The braes, or Highland parts of the parish, are not subjects for the modern improvements in husbandry, but they might be much benefited by liming, the limestone and peats being near their fields in one quarter, but hitherto that has not been attempted. The absurd ridiculous method of run-ridge still takes place in a great part of the parish.—The produce of the parish is corn and potatoes; it never maintains its inhabitants, and often, when a failure happens in the crop, falls far short; some often buy meal for 6 months in the year. After a pretty exact calculation, it is found, that only about 6 firlots of meal grow at an average of years, in the two parishes, for each person in them. It is shown thus: There are 7 mills in these parishes, 2 of them superior to the rest; and, upon sure information, computed, at an average of years, at 20 bolls multure for each, *i. e.* for both, - 40 bolls  
 5 small mills, at 8 bolls each, - 40  


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 Total multure, 80

The multure here being the 33d part, gives the whole produce, except seed and horse corn, namely 2640 bolls.

1 boll

1 boll to each person of the number of inhabitants, is	-	-	-	1769
$\frac{1}{2}$ boll to each, is	-	-	-	884

2653 bolls:

This shows what attention ought to be given to increase the value of cattle, because all depends on the returns from cattle, sheep, wool, butter, and cheese, for paying rent, servants, &c.

*Language.*—The common living language of the people, in which they converse, do their business, and are instructed, is the Gaelic; and the names of places are all Gaelic ones.

*Rent and Heritors.*—The valued rent is L. 1553, 16s. Scots; the gross land-rent of the two parishes, besides the woods, is about L. 1500 Sterling.—The heritors are two, Sir James Grant and the Duke of Gordon. The Earl of Moray has the superiority of these lands in the parish, of Sir James Grant's, which are in the county of Elgin, one of the many instances of feudal absurdity, which separates the superiority from the property.

*Stipends, Schools, Poor, &c.*—Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The stipend is only L. 64; a process of augmentation is now depending. The glebe about 5 acres of middling land. The manse and offices lately repaired. The church of Abernethy is elegant, and the church of Kinchardine, 8 miles from Abernethy, a very good sufficient plain house lately repaired; both church-yards well enclosed with a wall and hedge, and a belt of wood about 3 yards broad.—There are two schools in the parish,

rish, and a catechist from the Royal bounty. The parochial salary is 200 merks, and a good school-house. The Society's salary in Kinchardine is L. 9, and one of the best school-houses in the Highlands.—There is no parochial fund for the poor, but the weekly collections in the church, which will not exceed L. 6 a-year at an average, there being no residing heritors. These collections are not sufficient to buy shoes for the poor, for the half of the year. They live on the farmers, by begging from door to door. It is in this way the parishioners give their charity chiefly, which they do very liberally. To keep within bounds, the parishioners bestow 100 bolls of meal a-year on the poor that beg, and other donations sent to such as, by age or infirmities, are confined at some home. This calculation is within the truth, and easily made: A family that gives regularly to such objects, will, in the common way, consume a peck of meal each week, which exceeds three bolls in the year to such a family. This is a heavy burden upon the tenants, and calls upon heritors to contribute to their relief\*.

*Antiquities.*—There is a large oblong square building near the church, called Castle-Roy, or the Red-Castle, one side

\* *Wages, Fuel, &c.*—Men servants get from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3 in the half year, women 18s. and L. 1, and some more; men labourers generally 1s. the day; women, 6d. when engaged for the day at peats, &c. Servants are only engaged here for the half year, which is attended with great inconveniencies and much loss of labour to the farmer. In short there are hardly any regulations for servants in the north of Scotland, which is severely felt. The fuel of the parish is peat and wood, with which all, upon the whole, are well supplied; tho' the casting, winning, and leading of them, makes them much more expensive than coals are to such as have easy access to them. Besides, there not being such a comfortable constant fire, there is much waste of time, cattle, and carts in all the operations of them; and after a risk of being ill fired after all, or getting few of them home, and these in bad order in rainy seasons,

side 30, the other 20 yards, the height about 10. It never was roofed, has no loop holes, and only one entrance to the inside. Neither history nor tradition give any satisfying account of it.

*Eminent and Remarkable Men.*—The Honourable John Grant, late Chief Justice of Jamaica, was a native of this parish. At Knock of Kinchardine, in the other extremity of the parish, was born in the 1700 John Stuart, commonly called, and well known by the name of John Roy Stuart. His mother was 55 years old when he was born. The one of these gentlemen was as remarkable for certain talents, as the other was eminent in the station which he so lately filled. John Roy Stuart, served for several years as lieutenant and quarter-master in the Scots Grays, till the year 1740, when he applied for a company in the 42d Regiment, which being denied him, he left the kingdom, went for some time to the continent, and afterward to France, where he died in the year 1752, only a captain. By these means, his talents were lost to himself and to his country. He had education, without being educated; his address and his figure, showed his talents to great advantage. He was a good poet in Gaelic and English.

*Roads and Bridges.*—It was only about the year 1764, when the present proprietor Sir James Grant entered to the estate, that roads were begun in this part of his estate, called Strathspey, which is about 30 miles in length. Since which period, he has made above 130 miles, when the whole is added together. The roads in this parish, are remarkably good, and going on yearly, by means of the statute-labour. The great roads are made through these parishes by Sir James Grant and the Duke of Gordon. Cross roads



roads are now going on, which will prove highly serviceable. The Duke of Gordon has made one uncommonly good cross-road, from Glenmore to the Spey, for his English Company. There is one excellent bridge, built about 25 years ago, by Sir James Grant on the river Nethy, at his own expense, and 2 smaller bridges to the east by him, with some assistance from the county of Inverness. Another bridge is begun, on a very troublesome rivulet, near the church of Kinchardine on the Duke of Gordon's property, with assistance from the county of Inverness. The heritors of the county of Inverness affect themselves, with much spirit, for building bridges, &c. which cannot indeed be said for the proprietors of the low parts of Elgin. Sir James Grant has lately made about 7 miles of a very difficult and expensive road, from Castle-Grant, past his own march in the hills to shorten the way, at least to open new communications with Forres and Elgin, and this at his own private expense\*.

*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures in these parishes, but that of wood, as has been already mentioned. A woollen manufacture, for Scots serges, stuffs, tartans, &c. might be tried with a prospect of advantage in some part of

\* And yet, the people concerned in the trade of these towns, and the numerous proprietors of the lower estates, seem to be in danger of forgetting to come forward to meet him. They have hitherto done nothing of their part of it; and while they continue so inactive, his great expense and labour will be lost. The time was when Highlanders were said to be averse to have any roads made in, or to their country. But it is a little singular to see the inhabitants of the west of Morray, who always pretended to superior civilization to the highland people, so outdone here. It is hoped therefore they will come forward next season to save their reputation. The advantages and satisfaction of the private roads here, and of the King's high road from Fort George to Perth, through the east end of the parish, with its numerous bridges, are so many and so sensibly felt, when contrasted with the state of the country some years ago, that it is unnecessary to take up room here in relating it.

of this country, where the women understand the spinning of wool very well for such purposes; and where there is plenty of wool. Something of this kind, and the spinning of flax, would be of the greatest service for procuring subsistence to poor people, and keeping them from begging, which numbers are obliged to do, for want of employment of this kind\*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The size of the people is generally very good; at an average 5 feet 6, 8, and 10 inches, and many above that height; handy and active in their persons; generally sagacious and well informed according to their station; frugal and economical, and in general very sober. There is no whisky still in the parish, because there is no grain for it. None have been condemned for a capital crime, since the days of the regality jurisdiction. They make hardy, clean, tractable soldiers when in the army; numbers of them are excellent marksmen. Their chief attachment is to Highland corps, which Government ought to make always as provincial as possible; this would increase their attachment, and their spirit to a degree that none can understand but such as know their tempers. A man that  
is

\* Raising of flax has been and is tried, but has not come any great length as yet, owing to several causes. Several parts of the lands near the Spey, are very well adapted for such a crop; but it never can be expected to answer in the braes or highlands of the parish; the soil and climate being totally against it. Furnishing such people as are unacquainted with the kind of crop with seed, without any price paid for it, or at a very low rate, might, with proper directions given them, bring this a greater length and do much good. The want of employment, and the large tracts of land laid under sheep in many parts of the Highlands, has increased the number of beggars much. And if the price of leather advances a little further, beggars will not be able to travel for want of shoes; as they will not be able to get as much as buy them. Such highland shoes as the people here wear, have increased within these 20 years from 10 d. and 1 s. to 3 s. and 3 s. 6 d. the pair.

is harsh and austere, and fond of severity and punishment, is not fit to command a Highland corps; but their officers, do them justice, speak to them in a discreet friendly manner, and encourage them by a little familiarity, and they find them respectful, attached and obedient. The vagabonds that are recruited in cities and towns, ought never to be allowed to mix with them. The method adopted by Government of late, in making their Highland Fencibles provincial ones, is a wise measure, and will answer the end proposed. It is peculiar to this parish to have two heritors, who have got each a Fencible regiment. The Duke of Gordon and Sir James Grant, and who have not only raised them in three weeks and a few days, but have each of them supernumeraries, for additional companies, in forming a considerable part of second battalions, if Government should need them; and all recruited in an easy, discreet, smooth manner, without force or compulsion. Men so pleasantly got, and so content when well used, cannot miss of giving satisfaction to their officers, and may be relied on by the nation. The people here are loyal to a degree that cannot be surpassed; amazingly attached to their King, because they like his character and his virtues, and that he is a good man. Political or religious fanaticism have got no footing here; of course it is very easy to live in peace among them. There are no religious sectaries here, the people being all of the Established Church. Their language, their garb, their social situation, their climate and modes of husbandry, have kept them hitherto a people different in character and manners, from the inhabitants of the low country, and from being misled by the doctrines of those itinerant fanatics that infest the coast. The poisonous doctrines of political pamphlet writers, have made no progress among them; yet many of the people here seem often much dissatisfied with their condition in some respects.

I

What

What they complain of chiefly is, the method followed in letting their farms when their leases are expired. It is seldom that the tenants are called on to renew, till within a few months of the term of removal, and then perhaps, left for years in suspense, before they are settled with, and tried for some addition every year; and every year receiving a summons of removal. The offers received are generally kept private; and when they get a lease, it is only for 15 or 19 years, which they think too short. The effects of this method are very bad, both for master and tenant. For during the last 2 or 3 years of the lease, they are under apprehensions of being removed, and of course plough up what they ought not, or would not, if they were certain of continuing; and all this while, careless about the repairs of their houses and buildings. By these means, they either hurt themselves, if they continue, by renewing, or their successor if they remove, and the proprietors interest in either case. Besides, that while people are kept long in suspense, it occasions much unhappy anxiety, and restlessness of mind\*.

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*Cattle,*

\* The following or some such rules, if attended to, might be beneficial both to master and tenants. 1<sup>st</sup>, That tenants ought to be settled with, at least a year before the expiration of their leases. 2<sup>d</sup>, That no private offers ought to be admitted at all. They are often, when injudicious, unsafe for the master and precarious for the tenant. Because a tenant is at a loss how to act, when he knows not what is offered by others, and of course may offer different times above himself. A public roup would be fairer than private offers, because then a person sees what he is doing. Besides that when people are pressed by necessity, or hurried by their passions, it is dangerous to rely on their offers. The method of encouraging people to offer privately or publicly upon each other, is most hurtful to the very essence of Christianity, by destroying friendship and good will, and introducing much ill will, revenge and quarrels. It is common to hear of peoples threatening to offer for their neighbours

**Cattle markets.**—The people here, as well as in many parts of the Highlands, have but too much cause to complain

neighbours possessions several years before they expire. In short the ill temper produced by these unlucky interferences, sometimes lives longer than the leases. It is hard, therefore, to throw unnecessary temptations in the way of people; and therefore what might remedy all this and answer better, is, *3dly*, That the master, after being well informed, and due consideration of the nature, quality, climate, advantages and disadvantages of each farm, should set a specific rent on it, as high as he thinks it can bear, and then offer it to the possessor, and to none other, if he does not reject it, paying due regard at the same time to abilities, industry, character and principle; and if the possessor declines it, then to give it to some other proper person, who may think it worth that rent. *4thly*, That when a proprietor gets good tenants, he ought to give two or three nineteens, with a certain rise of rent at certain periods. This would make their minds easy, and induce them to act with spirit, because of their having a pretty sure prospect that they or theirs might reap the fruits of their industry. Fifteen or 19 years leases are very bad for people of circumstances and industry; because when an industrious man upon a short lease puts his farm in the best order he can, he makes it the greater temptation for others to offer for it and remove himself. There is another thing which the tenants of the principal proprietor complain of much, and which they reckon a grievance, tho' it is only the consequence of their agreement by their leases, that is, the paying for the building or reparation of church, manse and school-house. This was no doubt introduced in time of wadsets or mortgages, of which there are none now on the estate. It would be equally for the interest of the heritor to take this all on himself, as is generally done over all Scotland, and substitute an addition to the rent in place of it. This would likewise be most pleasant to any incumbent; because, when any thing is wanted in that way, the people murmur and complain, and look upon themselves as distressed by the minister.

**Cottagers.**—Their is a class of people much neglected, at least very little attended to, not only here but in most countries in the Highlands, *i. e.* the cottagers. They not only have their houses from subtenants, but sometimes from the subtenants of subtenants; and few of them allowed to keep a milch cow or a horse, even for paying for them. This, in a country where there is not constant employment for such, by daily labour, must of course keep them miserably poor, and force them often to beg  
or

complain of losses sustained by the failures of little drovers. It is thought by some, that this might be prevented from being so frequent. The common method of buying of cattle is, for any one that attempts droving, to call a market for himself when he sees proper. The necessity, ignorance, or greed of many, induce them often to venture their cattle, for a shilling or two more a-head, with a man that would be ruined if he lost a crown a-piece by his parcel at Falkirk. Sales are by these means often partial, and seldom general,—picking a few beasts here and there out of parcels. It is thought, a few public markets in central places, corresponding to the fairs in the south, would answer better; that heritors ought to attend to this, and that they and their factors should get the best information in their power of the prices of the times, and get men of character and substance to come as buyers; that the factors should attend them, and persuade the tenants to sell in a reasonable moderate way, according to the times: This might make the sale more general, and often prevent much money from being lost to tenants, and, of course, to heritors. For, surely, considering what a fatiguing, hazardous business droving is, men that pay well ought to be much sought after, and much encouraged\*.

*Progress*

or tempt them to pilfer. If heritors were to assign small spots of land for them in central places, near the principal farms, from whence labour might be expected most, and let each of them have a house and garden, and about two acres of ground for corn and potatoes, this would maintain a cow, and perhaps a small horse; and they might join about ploughing their spots. [Four or six would be enough together; crowding a number of poor people together might defeat the design. This might answer well for small tradesmen, such as country shoemakers, tailors, weavers, &c. and promote their comfort, honesty and usefulness to the neighbourhood.

\* *State of Glebes.*—Here, though out of place, a few observations occur to be made on the original and general designation of ministers glebes, the legal

*Progress of Civilization.*—It is worth observing, what change there is in the modes of thinking of the people within these last 45 years. Two events have contributed, in a remarkable manner, to a better way of thinking, and submission to order and government. The rebellion of 1745-6 in its good effects, and the subsequent abolition of the jurisdiction-act. Previous to that period, property was chiefly protected by force, and the existing laws known in theory, but little regarded in many parts of the Highlands. Thieving was a trade in many countries, and carried on on a large scale, with much contrivance and sagacity, and countenanced sometimes in private by those who undertook, for a certain pay called *black meal*, the protection of neighbouring districts. President Forbes of Culloden paid his proportion of this assessment, before the 1745,

to

legal quantity being four acres and a little grass. It would appear that it was thought then, that ministers were to live abstracted from this earth altogether. There is such a difference between four acres in some places or countries and others, that there was no justice in the general rule. What purpose can many glebes of four acres of poor land in many parts of the Highlands answer? Will such a glebe maintain cattle to plough itself, or two horses to lead the minister's peats? Which way is his family to get fuel brought home, or meal carried from the low country, at the distance of 30 or 40 miles or more? Was it supposed, that ministers would be able, at any rate when old, to go on foot through their large parishes, from one preaching place to another, at many miles distance, through frost and snow? Therefore without regard to quantity, every glebe ought to maintain two cows, and two good horses for ploughing, for the minister's riding, for leading his peats and meal from any distance necessary. It is said heritors reckon it a great hardship that the Court of Session should decern for victual to ministers, in parishes which pay no victual-rent, and perhaps when enough is not produced for the inhabitants. Some heritors grudge every thing that is given to their clergy, as if they had no right to any thing. But, besides that victual is the only payment that keeps pace with the times, does it not appear a greater hardship, that a minister should find

to a certain person to the west of him; whose power and influence were so great, that he would have ruined his estate if he had refused to comply. The land of Moray being, it seems, always a land of plenty, seems to have been devoted to be plundered. The people to the west appear to have claimed a right to a share of the productions of it. They used to regret, that their corn-stacks would not drive like their cattle \*.—The humiliation produced by the defeat

to a great distance for what his family requires, and therefore it would seem equitable, that at any rate 20 or 24 bolls meal and bear should be ordered; which, with the produce of the glebe, might be supposed to answer for the consumption of the house.

\* There is a remarkable correspondence between Allan Cameron of Lochiel, and the Laird of Grant about 140 years ago, wherein the principles of the times are clearly seen. The correspondence is published in Sir John Dalrymple's Collection of original papers and letters. The story is briefly thus: a party of the Camerons had come down, to carry a *spread* of cattle, as it was called, from Morray; they unluckily carried off the cattle of Grant of Moynes in Nairn-shire. Moynes complained to his Chief, the Laird of Grant, and he sent a party after them, and after a sharp conflict, brought back the cattle. Lochiel writes a letter to his friend the Laird of Grant, regretting the misfortune, asserting that when his *friends went out*, they did not intend to trouble his Honour's land; nor did they know that Moynes was a Grant. otherwise they would not have gone near him, or troubled him more than any man in Strathspey, but they went to Morayland, he says, "where all men take their prey." Lochiel mentions the number of killed and wounded of his friends in the skirmish; and says, they were all so much taken up about the curing of their friends, that they could not attend to any business for the time. But when that was over, he was willing to refer the whole to their mutual friend Seaforth, which was done; and it does not appear, that Seaforth had much difficulty in making the two chieftains as good friends as they were before. A little after this period, the Laird of Grant was obliged to build a stable within his court, to prevent his own brother from taking away his best horses. This stable was taken down about 40 years ago. The incumbent remembers when the people of this country kept out a watch in the summer-months, for protecting their cattle, and these watches kept up by a round of duty, and reliefs at certain periods. In this country, where that business was not followed



defeat of the undertaking of 1745-6, and the wise plan of employing the Highlanders in 1757 in the public cause, contributed by degrees to introduce loyalty and submission to the laws into the very seats of disaffection and rapine. The conduct of the people, when employed in support of the nation, showed that they were only misled at home. It is to be regretted, that so many thousands of these now loyal brave people have been forced to a foreign shore by necessity, for want of employment, habitation, or ground to subsist on. However advantageous the sheep-farming may be, it is possible it may be overdone; and if ever that happens, it will be found to be impolitic in every sense, as it is cruel in many places at present. It is dangerous in these times to drive poor people to desperation, as it may make many disposed to join in tumults and riots, who would never think of them if they had a home and the common necessaries of life. To increase our gratitude for the protection afforded by our constitution to the lives and properties of individuals in these countries at present, we will mention the blessings we enjoy by the abolition of the jurisdiction-act in the year 1748. That delegation of feudal power was dangerous in the extreme, because it was generally abused. When we consult the traditional history of the country for a century and upwards past, and the extraordinary conduct of some of these despots, the bailies of regality, and the precariousness of life and property often within their jurisdiction, one is excited to grasp with fondness the Government that has annihilated their dangerous power. They often punished crimes,

followed professionally for some time past, the people in several places and passes were often obliged to be discreet and hospitable to these intruders, as they went to the low countries, and no doubt there were connivers and aiders among them, who knew very well for what they were so.

imes, by committing greater ones themselves. They of-  
m, no doubt, tried by jury; but some of them, at other  
imes, in a summary, arbitrary, and extraordinary man-  
ner\*.

\* A few instances will be enough to mention, in case the reader should imagine, that these things were lately done in Tippoo Sultan's dominions. One of them lived in this parish, named Robert Grant, commonly called Bailie More. It is said, he used to hang people for disoblising him. He seldom called juries: He hanged two brothers on a tree within a thousand yards of this town, and buried both in one grave, on the roadside. The grave and stones above it are still visible. Another, named James Grant, commonly called Bailie Roy, who lived long in this parish, hanged a man of the name of Steuart, and after hanging him, set a jury on him, and found him guilty. The particulars are too long to be inserted here. The Bailie had many reasons for being in such a hurry. The man was, unluckily for him, wealthy, and abounded in cattle, horses, sheep and goats, all of which were instantly driven to the Bailie's home; Steuart's children set a-begging, and his wife became deranged in her mind, and was afterward drowned in a river: It is not very long since. This same Bailie Roy, on another occasion, hanged two notorious thieves, parboiled their heads, and set them up on spikes afterward. At another time, he drowned two men in sacks, at the bridge of Billimon, within a few hundred yards of this manse, and endeavoured to compel a man from Glenmore, in the barony of Kinchardine, to assist him and the executioners he had with him in the business; which the man refusing to do, the Bailie said to him, If you was within my regality, I would teach you better manners than to disobey my commands. This Bailie bought a good estate. There was another of them, called Bailie Bain, in this country; who became so odious, that the country-people drowned him in Spey, near the church of Iverallan, about 2 miles from hence. They took off his boots and gloves, left them in the bank, and drove his horse through a rugged place, full of large stones. The tract in the sand, boots, &c. discovered what had become of him; and when a search was made for him down the river, a man met the party near the church of Cromdale, who asked them, what they were searching for? they answered, for the Bailie's body; upon which, he said, "Turn back, turn back, perhaps he is gone up against the river, for he was always acting against Nature." As their power was great, and generally abused, so many of them enriched themselves. They had many ways of making money for themselves; such as, 1. The Bailie's

lie's Darak, as it was called, or a day's labour in the year from every tenant on the estate. 2. Confiscations, as they generally seized on all the goods and effects of such as suffered capitally. 3. All fines for killing game, black-fish, or cutting green wood, were laid on by themselves, and went into their own pockets. These fines amounted to what they pleased almost. 4. Another very lucrative perquisite they had, was, what was called the Herial Horse, which was, the best horse, cow, ox, or other article, which any tenant on the estate possessed at the time of his death. This was taken from the widow and children for the Bailie, at the time they had most need of assistance. This amounted to a great deal on a large estate. This practice was abolished by the late Sir Ludovick Grant in this country, in the year 1738.

NUM-

## N U M B E R XII.

## P A R I S H O F M E L D R U M,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
GARIOCH.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS TAIT.*

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*Name, Extent, Air, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE ancient name of this parish was Bethelny; the church and manse being at that time situated in a part of the parish, which retains that name, and where there is still a church-yard, and burial place for the family of Meldrum. The present church was built near to the village of Old-Meldrum, with a view (it is said) to annex the parish of Bourty to the parish of Meldrum, for so it has been called since this church was built, about the year 1684; but this annexation did not take place. The figure of the parish is irregular, measuring about 5 English miles in length, from S. to N. along the post-road from Aberdeen to Banff, which passing through the town of Old Meldrum, divides the parish into two, but not equal parts. The breadth from E. to W. is in some places, more than 4

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English miles, and in others only about 2. It contains nearly 6000 Scotch acres. The air is healthy, and the soil in general good. The whole parish almost (the mosses excepted) might be brought into cultivation by the plough alone; and accordingly, a good deal of barren ground has already been, and still more is just now bringing into tillage in this way. In the south part of the parish, where the town of Old Meldrum is situated, and a good way around it, the soil is a strong rich loam above clay, which, when properly manured, bears luxuriant crops. The north part of it lies higher, in a thinner sharper soil, does not require so much manure, and yields not so weighty crops. There are several quarries of the granite to be found in the parish, some of them very easily wrought, and of such a quality, as that the stones may be dressed almost for any purpose. There are no small rivulets in this parish, but such as take their rise in it; and yet there are upon the confines of it, 3 meal-mills belonging to it, which are mostly driven by water rising in it.

*Villages.*—Old Meldrum was erected by charter into a burgh of barony in the year 1672. The bailies, 2 in number, are elected by Mr Urquhart of Meldrum, superior of the burgh, and have the same authority as the bailies of any other burgh of barony have, since the abolition of jurisdictions in 1748. There is a very good weekly market in it, for all kind of provisions, the best in the county north of Aberdeen. The inhabitants in number about 783, consist of merchants, tradesmen of all kinds, and day-labourers; and from the inhabitants, one may judge of the number of feus, all the houses in the town being built on feued ground. There are no manufactures as yet established in it, but in the hosiery line. But from its local situation, it appears very well adapted for the linen and thread manufactures,  
 there

there being plenty of soft running water all around it. There are a distillery and brewery, lately established in it, and both are in a thriving way.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 1603. In 1785, the inhabitants of the town were in number 775, and those of the country part of the parish 758, amounting in all to 1553. In 1792-3, the town contained 783, the country 707, in all 1490, of whom 728 are males, 762 females. They are in general of the Established religion, a few Seceders, Episcopalians, and Quakers, excepted. The decrease of inhabitants in the country part of the parish is to be accounted for by the size of the farms being of late increased, one tenant just now possessing what was formerly occupied by 3 or 4 tenants; and also by an improving tenant choosing rather to occupy the ground himself than to let it to subtenants. The marriages are, upon an average of 10 years backward, 10, and the births 26. There is no register kept of burials.

*Stipend, Church, Poor, School, &c.*—The stipend is L. 45 in money, 3 chalders of victual, the one half meal, the other barley. The glebe measures between 8 and 9 acres. The manse and church were lately repaired. Mr Urquhart of Meldrum is proprietor of the whole parish, and patron. —The number of poor receiving alms is 30; the annual contribution for their relief amounts, at an average, to about L. 33, 10s. which, with some donations sent from time to time by natives of the place at a distance, make the whole of the fund for their support. The greater part of the poor reside in the town, and the inhabitants in general are very humane and charitable to them, sending often to their houses what their necessities call for; and they have also at times public contributions through the town  
for

for the relief of the most necessitous\*.—There is a very good school at present in the town, attended by 40 or 50 scholars in summer, and 50 or 60 in winter. It would certainly be a very eligible place for boarders. The present schoolmaster has only had one or two as yet; but boys or girls, at an early period of life, may have a very good education in the place. The fixed salary is L. 10; but from emoluments of office, scholars, &c. the living may amount to L. 30 or L. 40 altogether. There is also a Sunday's school well endowed by a native of the place, which promises to be of great service to the rising generation. It has been attended by 60 or 70 children almost every Sunday during last winter season.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture is no doubt still in its infancy in this part of the country; but the progress it has made in this parish, within these last 20 years, is by no means inconsiderable. *Then* only the proprietor raised turnip in the field, *now* there are some farmers who will have from 8 to 10 acres of turnip yearly, and they observe a pretty regular rotation of crops, and every tenant has some part of his ground in green crops yearly. Of late years also, the quality and size, both of black cattle and horses, have been greatly improved, and their numbers increased, owing to the improvements which has been made in husbandry. The plough now made use of by many is of the English form, drawn by 4 horses or oxen in autumn and winter,

\* *Wages and Prices.*—The wages of servants within these 20 years are nearly doubled. A good ploughman, in place of L. 4 or L. 5 then, gets from L. 6 to L. 8, with victuals in the house, and others in proportion. Good beef and mutton are sold from 2½ d. to 4½ d. the pound; lamb and veal from 4 d. to 6 d. ditto; butter is sold from 7 d. to 9 d. the pound; and cheese, from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound, all Aberdeen weight.

winter, and a lesser one of the same kind in spring and summer, drawn by two horses or oxen, but some still use the Scotch plough, with 8 or 10 oxen. They have not yet enclosed much of their ground in this parish, there being few stones to be got for that purpose, but such as are quarried; and fences of these stones, or hedges and ditches, are too expensive for farmers, unless their leases were longer than are generally given in this country. However, as winter herding is regularly observed, the sown grafs and turnips are pretty safe in winter in the open fields. The greatest loss to the farmer, from the want of enclosures, arises, perhaps, from his cattle not fattening so soon in summer, when followed by a herdsman, as when pasturing at large in a field properly fenced and watered; and therefore, as they begin to know the value of enclosures, they are making some attempts in that way. Land is rented about Old Meldrum, by the inhabitants of the town, from L. 1 to L. 2 the acre in general, and by tenants in the country part of the parish, from 2 s. 6 d. to L. 1 the acre. Property has not been shifted in this parish within the reach of the oldest records in the county. The farms are of different sizes, from L. 10 to L. 20, and from L. 20 to L. 70 of yearly rent. The produce of the parish is oats, barley, pease, potatoes, turnip, cabbage, hay, and some flax for private use. A considerable quantity of grain is sent yearly from this parish to the Aberdeen market \*. The black bearded small oats,  
sown

\* Crop 1782 proved very defective in this country in general, but the calamity was not so severely felt in this parish as it would otherwise have been, if the proprietor had not supplied the inhabitants of the village with flour, oat-meal, and pease-meal, and procured good wholesome grain for seed to his tenants, which he sold out to them in time. He also took but a low price for his farm-meal from such of his tenants as could not pay it in kind. He further gave a deduction of rent for a few years to some of them, upon condition of their bringing home and laying on their



sown upon a part of most farms through this country, and of which the farm-meal was paid to the proprietor, (hence the distinction of farm-meal and white meal), are now almost banished from the parish, and the tenant, obliged by his lease to pay only farm-meal pays it in white meal, having meliorated his ground so much, as to produce the white great oat in place of this small black oat; an advantage no doubt to the proprietor, but a much greater one to the tenant.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It may be worth while to observe, that at first starting in the way of improvement, in this country in general, they had many difficulties to overcome. They began with giving so little lime to their ground, that it had almost no effect. This, together with some improper methods of laying the lime on their ground, retarded its progress much. After they learned to give the ground a greater quantity of lime, and it became grateful to them in proportion, they took 6 or 7 crops of oats successively, and so reduced their ground almost to a *caput mortuum*. They also cropped too much after turnip. They now, from experience, know better things, and do not exhaust the strength of their ground in this manner, but sow it with grass-feed while in good heart. About 16 years ago, when the first English lime in shells was brought to this parish, they spoke of it then as such an expensive manure, as the ground could never repay, and consequently the farmer could by no means afford. But at this present time, the smallest crofter in the parish finds his advantage in using the English lime in shells, and will go with

their ground lime in proportion thereto. This raised such a spirit of industry among them, that they have improved their ground more since that time, than they did for double that period before; and they have, upon the whole, bettered their condition.

with his single horse and cart to Aberdeen for them; so that landholders may see, from the little that has been already done in this corner of the country, in the way of improvement, how much they have it in their power to accelerate the progress of it by giving proper encouragement to industrious tenants; yea those large tracts of waste ground, to be seen every where through this county, some of them covered with heath, but with evident traces of the old ridges in them, might be brought into cultivation. This would give employment to the industrious, prove ornamental to the country, and perhaps more advantageous to the proprietors, than the extension of property.

Among the advantages from local situation, to the inhabitants of this parish and neighbourhood, a good weekly market in Old Meldrum may be justly reckoned; where the farmer, at any season of the year, can dispose of whatever part of the produce of his farm he can spare, and in return bring home what may be wanted for the subsistence of his family. Leases are given to tenants for 19 and 33 years, with encouragement for good houses and fences, by the proprietors agreeing to pay for the same at the end of the lease, as they shall be then valued by two men mutually chosen. All services formerly paid to the proprietor, are mostly converted; the only servitude or usage they now complain of, especially improving tenants, is the payment of mill-multure. The inhabitants of Old Meldrum are well supplied with fine spring water; and the distillery and brewery have each of them the command of a small stream of water. Owing, it is thought, to the quality of the water, the porter brewed here is in great repute. The greatest disadvantage the people of Old Meldrum labour under, arises from the want of fuel. But if the duty be taken off the coals, this will encourage both the manufacturer and farmer much, and prove a great benefit to the poor. It would

would be a great advantage to the labouring poor in **Old Meldrum**, if such a quantity of coals were laid in during summer as would serve them, and then sold out to them in winter as their necessities called for. It would also be a great accommodation to the inhabitants of the whole parish, and this corner of the country, if the public roads from **Old Meldrum** to the nearest sea-port towns, **Aberdeen** and **Newburgh**, were kept in better repair; especially to the latter place, which is nearer by 4 Scotch miles than **Aberdeen**; and where both lime and coals are imported, and generally sold cheaper than at **Aberdeen**.

The people in general are active and industrious, and some of them of no little enterprize. They are, as was already observed, very liberal to the poor.

N U M -

## N U M B E R XIII.

## PARISH OF MUIRHOUSE, OR MURROES,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER IMLACH.*

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*Name, Extent, Climate, &c.*

**T**HERE are many places in Scotland of this name, though this is the only parish so called, perhaps from its original state; no other etymology can be ascertained. The church and manse are situated in the S. E. corner of the parish, 5 miles from Dundee. The parish is of small extent, a considerable part is very good arable land, some moor-ground; a moss, the property of Colonel Fotheringham of Powrie, and a valuable marl-pit, belonging to Mr Guthrie of Guthrie. The air is dry, and very healthy in the southern part of the parish. Agues did prevail about 30 years ago; but the marshes being drained, they no more appear. In the northern part of the parish the air is not so dry, mists frequently arising. There fevers distress the inhabitants, and the harvest is 10 or 12 days later than in the

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southern

southern parts. A turnpike-road goes through the parish, in a line from Dundee to Brechin, lately made, which will be of great benefit to the inhabitants.

*Proprietors.*—1. The Honourable William Ramsay-Maule of Panmure, heritor of Ballumbie; where there are the remains of an old fortified castle. This estate was formerly the property of a family, of the name of Lovell. To one Alexander of that family, the celebrated Catherine Douglas (whose arm was fractured when attempting to stop the assassins who murdered James I. King of Scotland, in the town of Perth) was married, and lived in this castle. 2. John Guthrie, Esq; of Guthrie, proprietor of Wester and Easter Gaigies, as also Muirhouse. Wester Gaigie has been long the property of that family, where sometimes a son resided. Their principal seat is at Guthrie, where there is an old castle, and a collegiate church, endowed by Sir Alexander Guthrie; he, or one of his successors of that name, was killed with James IV, at the battle of Flowden. 3. Colonel Alexander Fotheringham, Esq; proprietor of Wester Powrie, Myretown, Whitehouse, Middle Brighty, and Mill of Brighty. Wester Powrie had been a considerable time the residence of that ancient family. They live now at an elegant seat, named Fotheringham, in the parish of Inverarity. 4. Alexander Wedderburn Esq; of Wedderburn, formerly named Easter Powrie; his surname was originally Scrymgeour, the representative of the noble family of Scrymgeour's of Dudhope and Dundee. He assumed the name of Wedderburn, when called to the succession of the Wedderburns of Easter Powrie, where there are the remains of an old castle, the residence of Gilchrist, Thane of Angus, from whom all the Ogilvys in Scotland are said to be descended. 5. Mr James Ogilvy, minister of the gospel at

at Effie, where formerly a family of the name of Guthrie, the progenitors of Mrs Ogilvy in the maternal line, resided. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2304 Scots, of which Colonel Fotheringham possesses L. 714 : 3 : 4; Guthrie, L. 561 : 2 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Wedderburn, L. 533 : 6 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Ballumbie, L. 350; Westhall, L. 145 : 7 : 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The real rent is 3 times, and more, than what it was 30 years ago. There being no towns or villages of any extent, manufactures do not exist; a few weavers here and there excepted.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 623. The number of inhabitants is greatly diminished, owing to the monopoly of farms, the mode of labouring, and the farmers some time ago discharging several of their subtenants and cottagers. In former times, they laboured the ground with ploughs, drawn by oxen, each of these ploughs required 2 servants; whereas, they now use ploughs drawn by 2 horses, and 1 servant. Upon 1 farm, it is known that the farmer who occupied it, at a former period, employed 13 men-servants, whereas the present tenant employs no more than 5. Then 3 ploughs drawn by oxen were employed, and 6 horses kept; now six horses perform the whole labour; so in proportion over all the parish. And if the proprietors of Wester and Easter Gaigies, and Muirhouse, had not let a great part of their lands in pendicles or small farms, our numbers would not have been worthy of mentioning. The depopulation of the parish is ascertained, by comparing the present with former registers of baptisms. In the years 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, and 1738, the average was 24.6 baptisms yearly. In the years 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, and 1765, the average was 20.8. In the years 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, and 1792, the average is 15.5. In that part of Easter Gaigie, which is situated in this parish, (a great part of it lying  
in

in the parish of Monifieth), there are 32 men and women, and 12 children under 10 years of age; of these men 7 are weavers. In Wester Gaigie, there are 72 men and women, and 20 children; of these are 2 wrights, 5 weavers, and 1 heckler. On the land of Muirhouse, there are 58 men and women, and 11 children; of these 8 are weavers, 2 tailors, 1 mason, 2 smiths, 1 gardener, 2 shoemakers, and 2 millers. In the lands of Wester Powrie, the most extensive estate in the parish, and of the greatest valued rent, there are 97 men and women, and 38 children; of these 1 miller, 2 smiths, and 5 weavers. On the lands of Wedderburn, or Easter Powrie, 40 men and women, and 26 children; of these 1 smith. On Ballumbie, 26 men and women, and 15 children, 1 weaver. On Westhall, 9 men and women, and 6 children. Sum, 344 men and women, and 128 children; in all 462.

*Agriculture.*—About 30 years ago, improvements began to take place, and the mode of labouring underwent a great change; then lime began to be used as a manure, and the land, when let out, was sown with grass-seeds. Formerly, after ley, two crops of oats; then giving what dung they had, a crop of barley; then oats, and let out again: Few pease were used. Since lime was introduced, the mode of labouring is as follows: 1st year, fallow; 2d year, barley; sometimes, but seldom, wheat; 3d year, oats; 4th, green crop; 5th year, barley and grass-seeds along with the barley, cut for hay one, sometimes 2 years; then pastured 2 or 3 years. The farmers, from experience, find it more profitable to take fewer crops, both of corn and grass, *viz.* two years in grass, and 3 years in corn. Before they began to improve, every farmer had a flock of sheep; now they have none. The land being mostly  
open,

open, the sheep they found destroyed their grafs in the winter time \*. Though the farmers labour with horses, they bring up a good many cattle; some rear 8; others 10; and some 12 yearly. They do not bring these to market, till they are 3, sometimes 4 years old; and then they will receive for each L. 7 or L. 8 Sterling. Some farmers sow a few turnip, and feed some cattle; but this practice does not generally prevail.

*Character of the People, &c.*—They are a sober, regular, and industrious people, and mostly employed in farming, (the few tradesmen already mentioned excepted). In the parish there is neither brewer nor baker. Within these 30 years, their situation is greatly altered to the better, and I can, with safety, say, that more money has been acquired by farming in this parish, and the vicinity, these 30 years past, than for 200 years before that period; though, at the same time, their mode of living is greatly improved, their houses more comfortable, and better furnished; they even use some of the luxuries of life. I shall make one observation, (which is hardly worthy of notice): When the present incumbent settled here, which was in the year 1761, there were only 2 tea-kettles in the parish, though

\* Though the number of servants are greatly diminished, their wages are very much increased. About 30 years ago, a principal man-servant would have hired himself for a year, at the rate of L. 2, or L. 2, 10s. now they receive L. 10 for the same space of time. Then, a day-labourer would have hired for 3d. a-day, and his victuals; now they receive 1s. and their diet, for the same space of time. Then a reaper in harvest would have been hired for the harvest for 1s. Sterling; now they will receive L. 1, 10s. for the same space.



though now there is scarcely a householder who does not use that luxury.

*Poor.*—In this parish, properly speaking, there are no begging poor; they are supported in their houses by the weekly collections, the interests of a small capital, and the rents of two galleries in the church; the heritors and their tenants being never assessed for their maintenance. In the 1782, when victual was scarce and high priced, and Government contributed for the relief of the poor in the north of Scotland, this parish declined receiving any part of the contribution, judging that other parishes might stand more in need of relief.

*Stipend, &c.*—The Crown is patron.—The stipend, communion-elements, and money for grafs, (the glebe not being of legal extent), do not exceed L. 90 Sterling, estimating the victual at 10 guineas the chaldar. In the year 1647, one Mr James Gardner, who was clergyman here, died. During his ministry, several changes happened in the government, discipline and worship of the Church of Scotland, of which a short account is subjoined, and brought down to the restoration of Charles II. in the year 1660\*.

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\* The General Assembly met at Glasgow the 8th June 1610, authorized the Episcopal government, and put a period to the first establishment of the Presbyterian form in Scotland. The act of Assembly 1610 was afterward ratified by Parliament 1612. This revolution was brought about by James VI. at first by fair means, and under specious pretences; but at last the non-conformists were severely persecuted. King James had been very active to prepare the General Assembly for his purpose. He had prevailed with the Assembly at Montrose in the year 1600, to authorize 14 ministers to vote in Parliament, not as bishops, but as commissioners from the Kirk, and on these he had settled the revenues of the 14 bishops

bishops of Scotland; but by act of Assembly they were to be as much subject to their presbyteries as ever. He had prevailed with the Assembly at Linlithgow, anno 1606, to appoint constant moderators, and each moderator was to have L. 100 pension from the King. The 14 commissioners for the Kirk were to preside in the Synods. After these and other steps, having got the Assembly at Glasgow prepared and packed for his purpose, he prevailed with them to divest themselves, and all the inferior judicatures, of that ecclesiastical power which, in former times, had been vested in them by the laws of the land; and thus this first Episcopacy was introduced in a church-way, which was an event much desired by the King, and which he had almost despaired to obtain. It may be observed, however, that this was but a mixed kind of Episcopacy: For, by the Assembly at Glasgow, it is expressly provided, That the bishops, in all things concerning their life, conversation, office, and benefice, should be subject to the censure of the General Assembly.

As this alteration was made in the government, so a similar one took place in the discipline of the Church. For, in the same year 1710, the King set up the High Commission Court, and committed the rod of discipline to them. The members of this court were all the bishops, all the commissaries in Scotland, with many of the nobility and gentry, and several ministers. They had power to judge in all causes that concerned religion or a moral life, either in clergy or laity. They had no law, however, for their authority, but an act of Privy Council. They had power to suspend, deprive, depose, imprison, banish, fine, &c. It was a most arbitrary court, and could use the persons and properties of the subject as it pleased, without form or process of law. Churchmen had the power of the civil, and laymen that of the spiritual sword. As by this court, the power of the bishops, so was the King's supremacy, exalted to a great height.

An alteration was also made in the worship some years after this. In the Assembly met at Perth in the year 1681, the famous five articles, called the Perth articles, were enjoined. These were, private communion to sick people, private baptism, kneeling at the sacrament of the Supper, confirmation by the bishops, and keeping some holydays. These articles were ratified by act of Parliament 1621; but met with greater opposition, both in the Parliament and Assembly, than the establishment of Episcopacy. They were very disagreeable to both laity and clergy, as appears from the numbers who suffered from the High Commission Court, during 20 years, for non-conformity to Episcopacy and the Perth articles; till at last, gaining the nobility to their party, Episcopacy was rooted out with all its dependencies in 1638. Prior to 1610, the standard of worship was the order of Geneva, otherwise called Knox's Liturgy, suited to the infant state

stats of the Church, newly emerged from the darkness of Popery. In the year 1637, the bishops made an attempt to impose on the Church, a liturgy, or service-book, by the authority of an act of Council, without a church-law. The opposition to which, kindled the flames which destroyed the church and monarchy, and had almost consumed the three kingdoms.

*Anno 1638.* The National Covenant, otherwise called the King's Confession, being prepared, was renewed and subscribed with great joy in the Grayfriars Church by a great number of all ranks, convened at Edinburgh for that end. The bulk of the nation having acceded to the Covenant, they obliged the King to grant them a free General Assembly and Parliament. The General Assembly met at Glasgow, November 21. the same year. They approved the National Covenant, and declared it to be the same in substance with that signed by King James VI. and his household, *anno 1581.* In this Assembly, all the General Assemblies after the year 1605 were declared null, the High Commission Court, the Book of Canons, their Liturgy, the five articles of Perth, were declared unlawful; the 14 bishops were all either deposed or excommunicated, except three who accepted of single charges. They restored the Presbyterian government and discipline as at first.

Next year, the General Assembly met at Edinburgh, Aug. 17. and with the consent of the King's Commissioner, condemned Episcopacy as unlawful. They appointed the Covenant to be subscribed and sworn to by all his Majesty's subjects in this kingdom, of whatever rank and quality. All these acts were ratified and confirmed by Parliament in the King's presence, *anno 1641.*

Upon renewing the National Covenant, the civil war began between the King's party and the covenanters. The first blow was struck at the bridge of Dee, and a victory gained by the Earl of Montrose, at the head of the men of Angus and Mearns, for the covenanters.

*Anno 1643.* The form of the Solemn League and Covenant between the two kingdoms of Scotland and England, having been prepared by the committees of the General Assembly, the Convention of Estates, and the Commissioners sent from England for that effect, was unanimously approved by the General Assembly at Edinburgh, August 17. that year. It was also approved by the Convention of Estates of Scotland, as also by the Assembly of divines at Westminster, and both Houses of Parliament, and on the 30th of October, sworn to and subscribed in the High Church of Edinburgh, by the commission of the Church, the Committee of Estates, and the English commissioners, who had staid at Edinburgh till the Covenant was sent up to London and returned again. The imperemptory orders were then dispatched to all presbyteries to cause the Covenant to be

be sworn to and subscribed to by all the professors of the Reformed religion, and by all his Majesty's good subjects.

In the Solemn League, the government of the Church of Scotland is secured, their loyalty to the King declared, but limited ~~with~~ their religion and liberties, and they are bound to extirpate Popery and Prelacy in both kingdoms; yet they are not bound expressly to introduce Presbyteries into England. In this particular, the sectarians outwitted the Presbyterians. For, though the Episcopal government was totally abolished in England, yet the Presbyterian never was thoroughly settled in that kingdom. In a word, the design of the Presbyterians in the Solemn League was to introduce an uniformity between the two kingdoms in doctrine, worship, and church-government, and they made considerable advances in that work, but the Independents and Sectarians had no such design.

In 1643, the Assembly of divines sat down at Westminster. They continued their sessions four or five years, and corresponded with our Assemblies and their commissions. Our Assemblies sent Commissioners to the Westminster Assembly. In the first year of their meeting, they agreed on propositions as to church-government, and the ordination of ministers, which were approved by our General Assembly. But as to the directory for worship, the Westminster Assembly, as appears by their letter to our Assembly, did not advise it to be so strictly imposed, as to make it unlawful to recede from it in any thing.

The Westminster Assembly agreed on a Confession of Faith, in 1647, which was approved by our Assembly met at Edinburgh, August 3. that year. They agreed also on the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, which was approved by our Assembly in 1748. Thus these two Assemblies carried on the work of Reformation and Uniformity, in so far as both churches agreed in their principles concerning doctrine, worship, and government. But after the year 1648, no more progress was made in this intended uniformity. Our divisions in Scotland, and the prevailing power of the sectaries in England, put a final stop to all these designs of uniformity and reformation in both kingdoms.

King Charles I. being at this time prisoner in the Isle of Wight, the Parliament of Scotland demanded, that the King should be liberated, and brought to London in safety and honour, and that religion should be established in England according to their covenant and treaties, and for this end appointed an army to be raised of 30,000 foot and 6000 horse. The General Assembly insisted, that he should be obliged to settle religion in his dominions according to the covenants. Both parties were loyal, and for the King's liberation, but differed on the terms. The Assembly made an act, commanding all ministers to preach against engaging in war with Eng-

land, as a breach of the Solemn League. The Parliament made an act to the contrary. The ministers were very much embarrassed, but such as obeyed the Assembly were safe.

The Parliament sent their army into England, under the command of the Duke of Hamilton. They were defeated at Preston, Aug. 17. by Cromwell. This was called the unlawful engagement, and all who did engage in this war were obliged, by act of Assembly next year, to make public satisfaction for their offence. These offenders performed their penance without repentance; so that, by this piece of discipline, neither the interest of religion nor of the church was much advanced.

Ann. 1649 Jan. 30. King Charles was basely murdered by Cromwell and the sectarian party. This execrable fact was detested and abhorred by all the Presbyterian party, who by no means acceded to it, though it be falsely and maliciously imputed to them by some. They lost a fine army, fighting for the King when a prisoner; and before he was brought to his trial, they, by their Commissioners at London, gave in their protestations against his trial; and, upon the melancholy event of his death, called home his son, and set the crown on his head. The General Assembly, in their letter to King Charles II. dated Aug. 6. 1649, have these words: "We do from our hearts abominate and detest that horrid fact of the Sectaries against the life of your Royal father, our late Sovereign, so it is the unfeigned and earnest desire of our souls, that the ancient monarchical government of these kingdoms may be established and flourish in your Majesty's person all the days of your life, and may be continued in your Royal family." Cromwell defeated our army at Dunbar and Hamilton, and in the year 1633 raised the General Assembly, and suppressed that court during his administration, but allowed Presbyteries and Synods to meet. The Church's loyalty to the King and Royal Family was very shocking to the Usurper. They had brought home the King and crowned him at Scoon, Jan. 1. 1651, having settled with him their claim of right, or the terms of his government. But the Usurper prevailed, and drove the King out of the island, and forced the whole kingdom into a subjection to his most arbitrary government. The Church stood firm and unshaken in their loyalty to their exiled King and the monarchy, praying for him by name in the face of the English soldiers, and exerted themselves to the utmost for his restoration, and when the oath of the Tender was urged, abjuring the King and Royal Family, all of them, as is said, Mr Sharpe excepted, refused it.

## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF STRATHDON,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
ALFORD.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN GORDON.*

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*Situation, Extent, Name, Rivers, Surface, and Soil.*

**S**TRATHDON is the most westerly parish in the presbytery, Synod and county, to which it belongs. The kirk is 40, and the most remote parts of the parish upwards of 50 English miles distant from the county town; the united parishes of Crathie and Braemar perhaps excepted. It is by far the most extensive parish in the Synod and county where it lies, being about 20 English miles long, from W. to E. including about half a mile of the parish of Glenbucket, by which it is intersected; and in some places, from 7 to 8 broad, from N. to S. The modern name, Strathdon, is descriptive of its situation; the greatest part of the arable land lying in an extended valley, along the banks of the

the river Don, which takes its rise among the hills in the head of the country, and runs through the parish from W. to E. dividing it nearly into 2 equal parts. This parish formerly went by the name of Invernochie. It was so called, from the kirk's being built near to the place where the small river Nochie falls into Don. Besides these, there are 5 or 6 lesser rivers or burns, which flow from the surrounding mountains, in different directions, and fall into Don in its course through the parish. These are separated from each other by considerable hills; most of them run through deep hollows or glens. The ground on both sides of these rivulets, in general, as well as on each side of Don, where there are also some considerable haughs, rises gradually towards the hills; and for some distance from their banks, a considerable part of it is arable, about 2 miles up from the places where they respectively join with Don. All these rivers and burns abound in excellent trout. Salmon also are very frequently found in Don, towards the lower end of the parish.—The general appearance of the country is hilly. The hills are mostly covered with heath. They afford very wholesome pasture for sheep, and most of them abound in game. The hills of Curgarff in particular are famous for this production; and in the season, are generally resorted to by sportsmen from various parts of the kingdom. The soil, as may be supposed, in so large a tract of country, is various. The greater part of it is light and sharp; and when properly managed, is fertile enough. In the highest parts of the parish, it is spungy, of a blackish colour, inclined to moss.

*Agriculture.*—The ordinary crops are bear and oats, some rye, with a mixture of oats, and a few pease. When the weather will permit, (which has not been the case for some years past), the seed-time is begun about the 20th of  
-March,

March, and finished about Whituesday. Harvest is begun towards the end of August, and is generally over by the middle of October. In the upper parts of the parish, the seasons, both for sowing and reaping, are rather later, on account of the difference both of soil and climate. There, the ground is more chilled by the longer continuance of snow in the spring, and by more frequent showers in summer. The tenants in those parts, however, endeavour to obviate these local disadvantages, by sowing their bear immediately after their oats, without any interval; and by using a species of oats, called birley. This grain, (which is also white), is distinguished from the common white oats, in its appearance, chiefly by its shortness: It does not produce quite so good meal, nor so much fodder; neither is it so hardy in bearing stress of weather; it has also a greater tendency to impoverish the ground; but it is considerably earlier, and ripens nearly as soon in the higher parts of the country, as the common white oats does farther down, where both the soil and climate are more favourable. Besides the above crops of grain, a good many potatoes are raised. Turnips are generally sown by the proprietors, and answer well. They also lay out their fields with artificial grasses, from which excellent crops are produced, both for hay and pasture. The tenants are not insensible of the advantages of cleaning and meliorating their fields by green crops, but are prevented from trying it by their inability to lay out the necessary expense, by the want of enclosures, and of long leases. Another bar on improvements in farming, is a number of services, which the tenants are obliged to perform to the proprietors, such as casting, winning, and leading their peats and turfs in summer; harrowing in seed-time; reaping in harvest; long carriages from Aberdeen and other places. Some of the heritors indeed have converted these services into money,



ney, but others still exact them in kind : and even where they are converted, the rents are thereby so much raised, that the cure is almost as bad as the disease. Of course, the mode of farming has undergone little variation here, except among the gentlemen ; excepting on some farms where there is outfield, the tenants generally go over all their arable land with dung once in three years. In many places, especially in the upper parts of the parish, dung is laid on the furrow for bear, and harrowed in with the seed. In other parts, it is laid on the white land, either in autumn, or early in the spring, and covered with a break-furrow ; and after lying some time in this state, is clean ploughed for the seed : This is followed by two succeeding crops of oats ; after which, the ground is dunged again, and the same rotation of crops observed as before ; and thus, the greatest part of the arable land here has been treated, time immemorial, without rest, or any other cleaning, than throwing off some of the weeds raised by the harrow in a dry season. Very good crops, however, both of bear and oats, are raised in this way.

Few of the estates or farms here have been measured, excepting on some of the largest farms where there is outfield ground. The tenants in general pay nearly at the rate of L. 1 Sterling for every boll's sowing of arable land they possess ; and as the soil is generally thin, and not in great order, it is believed that a Scotch acre will require almost a boll of oats for seed. Along with this, however, every tenant has some meadow-ground for grass, and a right of pasturage in the adjacent hills or glens. Though the land in general is little improved, the rents have been doubled, and in some places tripled within these 40 years past. This circumstance, together with the great advance in the wages of servants, makes the situation of our farmers rather uncomfortable.

uncomfortable. Accordingly, the tenantry in general are supposed to be much poorer than they were 30 or 40 years ago. At that time, many of the tenants had a full stocking or cover on their possessions, besides some money out at interest. Now there are very few of that description, but on the contrary, many of them in arrears to their landlords. The tenantry in Curgarff, (a district in the upper part of the parish, about 8 or 9 English miles in length), are rather in a more thriving condition, and pay their rents more punctually than the generality of those who live in the other parts of the parish. Their possessions are as highly rented in proportion to the arable land on them, but they have more extensive pasturages. They depend wholly on cattle for the payment of their rents, and for procuring those necessaries which their farms do not produce, so that they can the more easily bear a bad crop now and then; and as cattle have sold high for some years past, they have suffered less from the late unfavourable seasons, than the farmers in the lower parts of the country, who depend partly on cattle, and partly on victual. Their possessions too are mostly small, and they require fewer servants. The farms throughout the whole parish in general are not extensive, renting for the most part from L. 5 to L. 20 Sterling. A few, however, are rented higher; two or three from L. 40 to L. 60 Sterling; and one farmed by the proprietor, that would fetch about the same rent. In good years, the parish produces more victual than is sufficient to supply the inhabitants, and affords a considerable surplus of butter, cheese, black cattle, and sheep. The butter and cheese are generally carried to market at Tarland, a village of about 9 English miles from the kirk of Strathdon. The cattle are sold to Aberdeen butchers, or South country drovers. Forty years ago, there was scarcely a cart in the parish. Carts only were used for carrying both dung and peats.

peats. This practice is still continued by almost all the tenants above the kirk, where two-thirds of the parish, as to extent, are situated: In the lower parts of it, however, there are now upwards of 50 carts. One of the gentlemen keeps a carriage. In the whole parish, there are about 170 ploughs; some of them are drawn by 8, some by 10, and some by 12 cattle; some by cattle and horses before them, and a great many by horses alone. The gentlemen put generally 2 horses only in a plough, without a driver. All the tenants in Curgarff, and some in other parts of the parish, yoke 4 horses a-breast. The driver, who holds the halters in his hand, to regulate their motions, walks before the horses after his back. In the parish, are 552 horses, 2286 black cattle, and 8543 sheep, mostly what are called here half-brooked. The other quadrupeds, and the birds, both native and migratory, are such as are common in Aberdeenshire.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 1750. The population has decreased more than 100 within these 10 or 12 years past, owing to decayed farmers and others having removed to manufacturing towns, and servants going to the south country in quest of higher wages. By an accurate list taken since this year began, the number of parishioners amounted to 1524; males 736, females 788, under 8 years of age 306. There are 2 Episcopalians, upwards of 100 Roman Catholics, mostly residing in Curgarff, which is regularly visited by a priest of that persuasion, who resides in the neighbouring parish of Glengairden; all the other parishioners are of the Established Church\*.

#### *Heritors,*

\* No register of burials has ever been kept here, nor can the annual number of births and marriages be exactly ascertained. The Roman Catholics

lics

*Heritors and Rent.*—The heritors of this parish, are the Earl of Fife, Messrs Forbesses of Bellabeg, Skellater, Inverarnan, and Achernach, Mr Leith of Glenkindy, Mr Anderson

lies never enter in the parish register; and the Protestants in Curgariff, who are generally married, and their children baptized by the missionary minister in that district, have shewn equal backwardness to this useful measure, especially since the trifling tax was imposed on these registrations. From the best information I can obtain on this subject, I suppose that the average of births for several years past, has been about 40; of marriages, 10. This parish, I imagine, has been greatly more populous in the last century than it is now. The register both of births and marriages, from 1674 to 1710, are still pretty entire, and appear to have been very exactly kept. And in most years, during that space, both births and marriages were double their present number.

*Part of the parish of Tarland.*—There is situated in Strathdon, a detached corner of the parish of Tarland, quite unconnected with the rest of that parish, being separated from it by part of the parish of Goldstone, the parish of Migvie, now annexed to Tarland, and the parish of Strathdon; and some parts of it are 15 English miles distant from its parish-church. This district begins about an English mile above the parish of Strathdon, and extends five or six to the westward, on the north side of the river Don. There are in it 188 people, old and young, of whom about 20 are Roman Catholics, the rest of the Established Church,—72 horses, 277 black cattle, 1186 sheep. It is the property of 4 gentlemen, who reside either constantly or occasionally; all of whom however, (except Mr Houston of Edinglassie), are heritors in this parish, as will be after mentioned. I do not know the valued rent of that corner, nor can I speak with certainty of the real rent, as the greater part of it is farmed by the proprietors, but I suppose it to be worth from L. 250 to L. 300 Sterling. The people in that quarter were formerly under the inspection of the minister of Strathdon, for which he had a small allowance from the minister of Tarland. Since a missionary minister has been stationed in Curgariff, they make part of his charge, but they all communicate at Strathdon, and the greater part of them attend public worship there, as they are nearer to this kirk than to the place of worship in Curgariff. Thus much I thought proper to observe, with regard to this part of Tarland parish, as it lies in the country of Strathdon; and though not locally in this parish, is closely connected with it.

derfon of Candacraig, and Mr Farquharfon of Allergue. The Earl of Fife has only a fmall-property in the parifh, but is fuperior of the whole, excepting the eftate of Glenkindy, which holds of the Crown; only Mr Leith and Mr Forbes of Achernach refide in the parifh. The manfion-houfes of Skellater, Inverearnan, and Candacraig, are fituated in the detached corner of Tarland parifh above defcribed. The valued rent of this parifh is L. 3039 : 1 : 6 Scots; the real rent about L. 1600 Sterling.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The King is patron. The old ftipend is only L. 48 : 6 : 8, all in money, with fome peats and other fervices paid by the parifhioners, and 20 merks Scots for communion-elements. A confiderable augmentation in victual was lately awarded, but by a fubfequent interlocutor that judgment has been altered; and as the laft decree thereanent is not yet final, ftill farther alterations may be made; fo that nothing certain can be faid as to the ftipend. The glebe, fo far as I know, has never been meafured; but from the quantity of grain it requires for feed, is fupposed to be only about 2 acres arable, exclufive of the manfe and garden. The minifter has L. 20 Scots for grafs. The kirk was rebuilt in 1757, but is at prefent much in need of repairs. It is fpacious enough, but moft irregularly feated, and, therefore, does not properly accomodate the parifhioners\*.—There is a parochial fchool, and fchool-  
mafter,

## 3

\* For feveral years, the manfe and offices were almoft ruinous. After a procefs of 2 or 3 years dependence before the Court of Seffion, the Prefbytery's decret, for new houfes, received their Lordfhip's fanktion, and they were all rebuilt in 1791; they have, however, been very infufficiently executed. The walls of the manfe draw water, and part of the offices are already unroofed; and if not repaired foon, will go to wreck. Unfortunately for any public work in this parifh, the heritors are feldom unanimous.

master, with a salary of 100 merks Scots; he is generally session-clerk, for which he receives L. 20 Scots. His whole emoluments will not exceed L. 12 Sterling\*.—There are about

ninons, and of course require compulsion to make them execute any measure of the kind, which turns out in the issue to be much against their own interest; as a few shillings timeously applied in this way, would sometimes save a pound. For upwards of 50 years past, an itinerant or missionary minister has been stationed in the upper district of the parish, called Curgarff. He has a salary of L. 28 Sterling yearly, from the Royal bounty, with a house. He has the immediate charge of 462 people, old and young, belonging to Strathdon, and of the people in the detached corner of Tasland parish, above mentioned, amounting to 188; but the people in both these districts communicate at the parish-church of Strathdon. The missionary is of signal advantage to the interests of religion in that remote corner. The place of worship is about 7 or 8 English miles distant from the parish-church, and the habitable part of the country extends 4 or 5 farther to the westward.

\* Excepting in a mild winter, the school is seldom throng, owing to the situation of the parish. It abounds in hills, and rivers or burns, so that children at a distance cannot attend in frost and snow; and owing to the scarcity and dearth of servants, of all descriptions, the generality of the tenants employ their children in herding, as soon as they are fit for it. The parish has had the benefit of a schoolmaster, paid by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, for these 40 years past. He has been generally stationed in Curgarff, on Nochy side and Kindy side by turns, these being the most distant parts of the parish from the parochial school; in all which places he has been highly useful. The Society have, with great propriety, appointed another of their schoolmasters to be stationed in Curgarff, where it is hoped he will be continued, as the children in that extensive district are not only at a great distance from their own parochial school, but are quite out of the reach of every other school, at any season; and though their turn of the other schoolmaster was of great consequence to them, it was by no means adequate to their necessities. If the schoolmaster's settlement in Curgarff is made permanent, and the schoolmaster just now on Kindy side shall be stationed there, and on Nochy side, 3 or 4 years alternately, which the interests of religion do indeed require, all the children in the parish, notwithstanding its extensive and scattered

about 40 persons on the poors roll, all of whom receive a trifling supply twice in the year; the most necessitous get as often as their exigencies require, and the state of the funds will admit. The only funds for their support, and for paying the session-clerk and officer, are the weekly collections, which are very small; together with what arises from penalties, the use of 2 mortcloths, the rent of a small loft in the church, and the interest of 1000 merks Scots of mortified money; all which, for these 9 or 10 years past, have amounted to L. 16 or L. 17 Sterling yearly, at an average.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The people in general are healthy, but there are few instances of longevity. Some years ago, a woman in the parish died at the age of 100. There are a few persons still living about 80. The most common distempers are the hooping cough, measles, and small pox; fevers sometimes make their appearance, consumptions very rarely; among old men, stone and gravel are very prevalent. Inoculation for the small pox has not yet become general throughout the parish. In one corner, (on Kindy side), it has at different times been practised with great success, owing chiefly to the influence and attention of the proprietor. The parishioners at large do not seem to entertain any prejudice against inoculation, if they could afford the expense. There is a chalybeate spring at Glenconry; but it is little attended to, though it is said to be nothing inferior to some elsewhere, that are in good repute.

*Minerals,*

tored situation, will, if their parents are not very faulty, be blessed with an opportunity of learning to read and write, and of being instructed in the principles of the Christian religion.

*Minerals, Plantations, &c.*—There is abundance of granite and limestone, and slate of a coarse quality. Little use is made of the granite and slate, and not much of the lime, though the soil in general is well adapted to it. There are no natural woods of consequence in the parish, but several thriving plantations of fir. The late Mr Forbes of Ballabeg was the first in this part of the country who began to plant. His improvements, considering the smallness of his property, are worthy of notice. He possessed only one farm of L. 100 Scots of yearly rent, and a mill. He began his plantations in 1745, which he afterward extended over upwards of 100 acres. He built a commodious mansion-house and offices; he improved some moor-ground, straightened his fields, sowed them out with artificial grasses, and enclosed a great part of them with stone fences and belts of hard wood; and so much did he raise the value of his small estate, that, besides a considerable sum arising annually from the sale of wood, the farm is let for the ensuing year at L. 49, 15 s. Sterling.

*Antiquities, &c.*—At a little distance from the church, on the opposite (north) side of the river Don, stands the Doun of Invernochie, a beautiful earthen mount, evidently artificial, and some time a place of considerable strength. It has been defended on the top by a wall, which is now mostly fallen; part of it, however, on each side the gate, is still to be seen. Its base is surrounded by a ditch, which has been filled with water by a small stream (Bardock) that comes from the adjacent hill. This stream, entering the ditch at the north-west quarter, divides into two parts; and, purling along each side of the Doun, joins at the eastern extremity, and falls into Don some yards below it. This mount is of an oval form; its surface on the top measures about half an acre; at the base it is more extensive.

Its



Its height, from the bottom of the ditch, may be 60 feet; the depth of the ditch, below the surface of the adjacent ground, about 16 feet; and its breadth at the bottom 20 feet. There is no history or tradition respecting this remnant of antiquity\*. The most ancient building in the parish still entire is the castle of Curgarr. It is supposed to have been built by some of the Earls of Marr for a hunting seat. During the feuds between the Gordons and Forbesses, it was burnt in 1571 by Adam Gordon of Auchindoun, or some of his officers, and in it Alexander Forbes of Towie's lady, Margaret Campbell, daughter to Campbell of Calder, then big with child, together with her children and servants, 27 in number, were cruelly burnt to death. Having been afterward rebuilt, it was purchased by Government in 1746, from Mr Forbes of Skellater, and for several years thereafter, 15 or 20 men were stationed in it; for some years past, the garrison has consisted of 2 or 3 invalids.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The women in this parish, 20 or 30 years ago, were chiefly employed in knitting stockings; that species of manufacture has now given place to spinning coarse lint, which is mostly brought for that purpose, by our country shopkeepers, from manufacturers in Aberdeen and other places; for there is not much flax raised

\* In some neighbouring parishes, there are eminences something like this, but it is the largest and most complete of any thing of the kind in this country. In its neighbourhood are to be seen, some inconsiderable ruins of houses close by one another; at the same place, and also in another part of the parish, are what the country people call *sird houses*. These are below ground, and some of them said to extend a great way. The sides of these subterraneous mansions are faced up with dry stones, to the height of about 3 feet, they are between 3 and 4 feet wide, and covered above with large stones laid across. They may have been, either receptacles for plunder, or places of shelter from the inclemency of the weather, before houses were built, or of concealment from an enemy.

ed in the parish. This, though a more severe and more exhausting employment, on account of the great quantity of *lana* requisite, is deemed more profitable. The women here use all two-handed wheels, as they call them; they are in general capital spinners, and bring a deal of money into the parish. Their common stint is from 20 to 24 cuts a-day; but some of them on a stretch, it is said, will spin double that quantity: For every spindle, or four 12 cut hanks spun, they receive commonly about 1s. Sterling. The men are mostly employed in husbandry. There are as many tradesmen as supply the exigencies of the parish, excepting shoemakers and masons; to these last little employment is given, except by the proprietors: almost all of them indeed have commodious houses substantially built, and pleasantly situated; but the tenants houses in general have a very mean appearance, which gives strangers a strong impression of the poverty of the country. There are few places where decent farm-houses could be erected at less expense than in this parish; for it has within itself almost all the materials requisite; plenty of stones, clay, lime, fir-timber, and even slate; but, notwithstanding these advantages, little reformation in this way can be expected, till the proprietors give more encouragement to their tenants than they have hitherto done.—The language spoken is English, or rather broad Scotch, excepting in Curgarff. The people there, especially in the upper part of that district, speak also a kind of Gaelic; but that language among them is much on the decline\*.—The ancient inhabitants

\* The names of almost all the towns, fields, hills, and rivers are, I am told, derived from the Gaelic; as Ballabeg, the little town; Tolahespick, the bishop's hollow; Dhalachlirich, the clerk's haugh; Don or Dhoin, deep, because the river of that name, for some distance from its source, runs through deep marshy level ground; Nochtie, or Nuaclide, the cold water,

bitants of this parish, as tradition relates, were exceedingly rough and uncivilized in their manners. The proprietors, who were very numerous, appear, at least some of them, (for there were exceptions in the worst of times,) to have been haughty, resentful, and cruel; nor were they at a loss for assistants in executing their most mischievous projects; as their example was followed, and their commands implicitly obeyed by their tenants and dependents. They had their feuds and family-quarrels, which they prosecuted in the most violent manner, without regard to time or place. Even the church-yard on a Sunday was sometimes the scene of action, where two hostile lairds, with their respective adherents, rushed upon one another with their dirks and their shabbles. The ministers in particular felt the effects of their savage barbarity. One minister, (Mr Baxter), at a very remote period indeed, had his head cut off at the manse-door with a Lochaber axe, by a laird in his neighbourhood. Another, (Mr Macfween), towards the beginning of the present century, after repeated insults, was at-

tempted,

water, which takes its rise in the hills in the N. W. quarter of the parish; Binnew, the holy hill, so called perhaps from a stone on its summit, with a cavity or hollow in it, wherein, from the frequent rains and damps on that hill, water was generally seen; and in the times of superstition, this water was believed to spring out of the stone, and to possess a virtue of healing various diseases: Minnagowan, which it is said derives its name from the *smith*, who survived the battle, fought at the Inch of Perth, between an equal number of the clan Chattan and clan Kai. This son of Vulcan, being fortunate enough to escape the dreadful slaughter of that day, directed his course northward, and it is said, settled for some time at the foot of the Laight, a hill which separates this parish from Kirkmichael or Strathaven; but he afterward removed to Carvie-side, about a mile to the S. W. of the kirk of Strathdon, where he continued till his death. The place of his residence is still known by the name of the Smith's town, and the hill where he cast his peats is called Minnagowan or the Smith's moor. The fuel used here is peat, turf, and heath. The last is commonly made use of for drying the corns.

tempted, it is said, to be smothered with a wet canvas, on an evening when at family prayers; but, being a man of considerable bodily strength, he extricated himself from the toil; and some others met not always with the respect due to their character and function. The manners of the present generation here, however, are, in these respects, changed greatly to the better. The gentlemen are well bred, social, hospitable, and humane. The country people are industrious, civil, and obliging. The last minister, who served the cure upwards of 40 years, was respected and beloved by his people of all ranks; and the present incumbent, though unfortunately engaged for years in law-suits with the heritors, about his manse and stipend, has always met with the greatest civility from his parishioners of every denomination.—The roads are not in the best order. The statute-labour is commonly performed in kind; it is commuted with any person who inclines, at the rate of 1 s. 6 d. a-year. There are in the parish two stone bridges on Don, the one, half an English mile to the westward of the church, the other at the castle of Curgarff, on the King's road from Edinburgh to Fort George.—There is not a decent inn or public house in the whole parish, where any person above the common rank could get a bed, or a comfortable meal. There are only two licensed alehouses; in these whisky only is for the most part to be got, which is also sold occasionally in several other houses throughout the parish\*.

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\* *Prices, &c.*—The prices of provisions are generally 1 s. the boll of meal : 1 9 stone; sometimes about the term of Martinmas, it is sold lower by tenants, who cannot otherwise raise money to pay their rents; but at other times of the year, it very often fetches more. From 16 s. to L. 1 the boll of bear; butter from 10 s. to 12 s.; cheese from 3 s. to 6 s. the stone, of 28 pound averdupoise; a hen 6 d.; a dozen of eggs 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. There is no market for butcher meat within our reach. A man servant's wages are from

L. 4

L. 4 to L. 6 Sterling yearly, with victuals; a woman servant's from L. 2 to L. 3. The great advance in the rent of land, which has considerably exceeded the progress of improvements; the services formerly mentioned, together with the scarcity and high wages, and in many instances, carelessness of servants, and inattention to their master's interest, are the principal grievances of which the tenants in this parish do not without reason complain.

NUM -

NUMBER XV.

PARISHES OF ST ANDREW'S, AND OF ST  
LEONARD'S

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF  
ST ANDREW'S.)

*By the Rev. JOHN ADAMSON, D. D. first Minister of  
St Andrew's.*

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*Name, Burgh, University, &c.*

THE parish derives its name from the city of St Andrew's, formerly the seat of the primate of Scotland, and also of the prior of St Andrew's, whose revenue greatly exceeded that of any other churchman in Scotland. The revenue of the archbishop in 1651, was money Sterling, L. 242 : 0 : 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; wheat, bolls 489; bear, bolls 466; and oats, bolls 1072: and that of the prior in the same year, was, money Sterling, L. 186 : 9 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; wheat bolls, bog-bear, bolls 2119; oats, bolls 2426; meal, bolls 1827; and pease, bolls 55. These two benefices were conjoined in 1635, and the united revenue would now, at a moderate conversion of the victual, amount to nearly L. 6000 Sterling

2 ling

ling a-year \*. The original name of this city was Mucrofs, *i. e.* "the promontory of boars," from *muc*, fignifying a fow or boar, and *rofs*, a land, promontory, or peninfula. Hence Kinrofs, "head of the peninfula," and Culrofs, back of the fame. But St Regulus, (vulgo St Rule), a monk of Patræ in Achaia, (warned, as is faid by a vifion to fail weftward, and) having landed in this neighbourhood, with fome relics of the Apoftle Andrew, about the year 370; and having been fuccefsful in converting the Picts, Herguftus, the King, changed the name of Mucrofs into that of Kilrymont, *i. e.* Cella regis in monte; or Cella in monte regis; becaufe the king had given to Regulus and his companions a piece of high ground, adjoining to the harbour, on which he alfo erected a chapel and tower in honour of the monk, and bearing his name. The walls of St Rule's chapel, and the fquare tower, ftill remain. The tower is about 108 feet high, without any fpire; the outside, from top to bottom, is of thin afhler work, the arches of the doors and windows, femicircular. The tower has been, at the expenfe of the Exchequer, within thefe few years repaired, that is, fuch of the afhler ftones as had fallen down, have been replaced, and all the joints filled up with cement; and a turnpike ftair reared within fide, from bottom to top, which is now covered with lead within a parapet of 4 feet. The exemplary virtue of Regulus and his company caufed a great refort of people to his chapel; and the name of the city was foon changed from Kilrymont to Kilrule, (Fanum vel Cella Reguli,) which name is ftill retained among the Scotch Highlanders. The name, Kilrule, continued

\* A very full account of the archbifhoprick and priory, may be feen in Martin's Reliquiæ Divi Andree, M. S. a copy of which is in the Advocates library. Mr Martin of Clermont, the author, was fecretary to 2 fucceffive archbifhops of St Andrew's, and dates his book in 1685.

tinued in use till the Picts were extirpated by the Scots, who changed the name into *St Andrew's*. At this time the Metropolitan church \*, which under the Picts had been at *Abernethy*, was translated to *St Andrew's*; and the town was new peopled by a colony of Scots, particularly by those under the command of *Fiffus Duffus*, whose great services to *King Kennet* were rewarded with all the lands lying in that shire, formerly called *Pichtlandia*, and which that captain, from his own name, called *Fifland*. The wall surrounding the priory is pretty entire; it is filled with bastions, some round, and some square. Part of the priors and subpriors houses yet remain. Adjoining to the priory, are the ruins of the cathedral, which was demolished by a mob, inflamed by a sermon of *John Knox's*. Both towers at the east end are still standing, having lately got a small repair. One only of the western towers now remains, and a part of the west end of the outermost south wall. All the arches in the eastern towers are semicircular; those in the western tower, and in that part of the south wall adjoining to it, are pointed. The pits are very visible, out of which have been dug the foundations of the 4 great pillars that supported the cupola, and the foundations of the cross ailes can be traced. The length of the cathedral from E. to W. as marked by the towers, as nearly as can be measured, on very rough and unequal ground, is 350 feet; and the breadth of the cross ailes from N. to S. 160 feet.

\* To the church of *St Andrew's* was given the *Boarchafe*; a tract of land so called, extending from *Pitmillie*, nearly 5 miles E. from *St Andrew's*, to the new mill of *Dairfie*, 6 miles W. from the city, and from 2 to 5 miles in breadth. A considerable village, and adjacent lands in the E. end of the parish, have the general name of *Boarhills*. The arms of the city are a boar leaning on a tree; likely that this part of the country was infested with boars.



feet. On the north side of the town, a little west from the cathedral, on the brink of a perpendicular rock, are the ruins of the castle, known by the name of Cardinal Bethune's, because therein he resided, and therein was slain, in 1545, by Norman Lesly and his company. From the castle, westward, there anciently ran a street, called the Swallow-street, said to be the residence of the merchants. It is now a public walk, between the walls of gardens and fields. The inhabited streets are 3, running nearly from W. to E. but not quite parallel, as they all terminate on the cathedral, in the E. end: The South-street or Shoegate, Market-street, and North-street. These streets are intersected at right angles, by narrower streets called wynds. On the south side of the South-street, nearer the west end, is a much admired ruin of a chapel, belonging to a convent of Gray friars; the roof is a continuation of the walls formed into a Gothic arch. Within the boundaries of this convent, is the public grammar-school and school-house. At the west end of the North-street, was a convent of Black friars, of which nothing now remains but a part of the garden wall. Immediately adjoining to the west port of the South-street, is a suburb, called Argyle, Argael, or Northgyle; to which reference is made in stating the population of this parish. The reason of the name is not known\*.

The

\* St Andrew's is a royal burgh, and for electing a member of the British Parliament, is classed with Cupar, Perth, Forfar, and Dundee. The government of the city is vested in a provost, dean of guild, and 4 bailies, who with the town-treasurer, are called the office-bearers in the council, and are elected annually at Michaelmas by the whole council. The dean of guild here has the precedence of the bailies, and is preses of the council in absence of the provost. No one is eligible into the council, who is not a burgher and guild brother, assessed in a portion of the public burduns within the city. The provost is the only member of the council who is not obliged to reside. He has also this further privilege, that he

may

The great opulence of this city, in the times of Popery, may be conceived from this single circumstance, that there was an annual fair here, commencing in the beginning of April, which lasted for some weeks; and to which there resorted, from 2 to 3 hundred vessels, from all parts of the then commercial world. After the Reformation, the city gradually fell into

may be re-elected every year as long as he lives, while none of the other office-bearers can continue above 3 years in immediate succession. No councillor, that has at any time enjoyed a higher office, can afterward be elected into a lower. Besides the 7 office-bearers above mentioned, the council consists of 14 brethren of the guild, the convener of the trades for the time being, and the deacons for the time being, of the 7 following crafts, or incorporations, *viz.* smiths, wrights, bakers, tailors, shoemakers, weavers, and fleshers; amounting in all, to 29. The council annually undergoes a partial change, which is made in the following manner; on the Wednesday preceding the Michaelmas election, the subsisting council, of 29, adopt 3 by a majority of suffrages: these new councillors vote with the old council in the subsequent election of office-bearers. The council for the year after said election, must consist of these 3 new members, the new office-bearers, the office-bearers of the former year, the new convener, and 7 deacons of crafts, with such other guild brethren, as the magistrates please to name, for making up the number 29. The magistrates, for time immemorial, have been in use of naming the guild councillors of the former year; excepting 3, who must leave their places to the new members. When any office-bearer dies, his office must continue vacant until the following Michaelmas; but his seat in the council is filled up by another guild brother, at the nomination of the magistrates, who fill up every vacancy in the council occasioned by death; but when a councillor resigns, his successor is elected by the remaining 28. This is the set and established practice of the city. The proper office of the treasurer is that of factor or chamberlain of the town's revenue; and when he is appointed to discharge this office, he has a small salary. But the council, having found much inconveniency in the frequent change of this officer; and having also found, that it was sometimes a very delicate and difficult matter, to call the treasurer to account, when he had a vote in the elections, have of late years established a factor, who is not eligible into the council; and they have left the treasurer merely the name of office, with the political privileges annexed to the name.

into decay, from which it is now emerging, by the spirited exertions of a few individuals. There are as yet no exports from St Andrew's, grain only excepted. But from this port, chiefly is the eastern part of Fife, for 9 or 10 miles, supplied with wood and iron, which formerly were purchased at Dundee on the river Tay, or at Ely on the Forth; and the shore-dues, which 20 years ago did not produce to the corporation above L. 10 Sterling a-year, are now let in lease for L. 66. Several vessels, from 40 to 200 tons, have within these 2 years been built at this port, which are employed by the inhabitants in the wood and coasting trades. In the spring of 1792, Messrs Robertsons of Glasgow, established in this city a factory for sowing and tambouring muslin. In a few months, they collected between 3 and 4 score apprentices, girls from 5 to 14 years of age, who receive weekly from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. according to their age and progress. The number of apprentices is still increasing\*.

But the chief support of this city is the University, and the conflux of strangers, who here find excellent teachers in all different branches. The University which is the oldest in Scotland, being founded in 1444 †, formerly consisted of 3 colleges, viz. St Salvator's, founded by James Kennedy, Bishop of St Andrew's, in 1458; St Leonard's college, founded by Prior Hepburn, 1512; and St Mary's, founded by Bishop John Hamilton, 1552. In each of these colleges were lecturers in theology, as well as in philosophy, languages, &c. In the reign of James VI. 1579, under the direction of George Buchanan, the University was new modelled; and St Mary's college was appropriated to the study of theology, and is therefore distinguished by the name of the Divinity-College, or the  
New

\* Number of apprentices, in May 1793, 110.

† Fordun mentions an university at Andrew's, in 1410.

**New College.** In 1747, on a petition from the masters of the 2 colleges of St Salvator's, and St Leonard's, the Parliament united these 2 colleges into one society, under the designation of the United College. These colleges are independent of each other in their revenues and discipline. The *Senatus Academicus*, or University meeting, consists of the principals and professors of both colleges, which have a common interest in the library. The preses of this meeting is the Rector or his depute. The higher academical degrees are granted by the University. The Rector confers the degree of Master of Arts, on the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts in the United College. The Dean and Faculty confer the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The Rector is chosen annually, on the first Monday of March, by the *Comitia* of the University, consisting of the Rector, Principals and Professors of both colleges, with the students of divinity, of moral and of natural philosophy; all these masters and students are divided, according to the place of their birth, into 4 nations, Fisans, Angusians, Lothians, and Albans, which last class comprehends all who belong to none of the first 3. Each nation chooses an In-  
 trant, and the 4 Intrants name the Rector. If the votes of the Intrants, are equally divided, the last Rector, who is preses of the *Comitia*, has the casting voice. The only persons eligible into the office of rectorate, are the principals and the professors of divinity, who are designed *Viri majoris dignitatis ac nominis*, or *Viri Rectorales*. The Rector immediately after his instalment, (which is performed by his putting on the gown of office \*, being a purple robe  
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\* The principals and professors, in session time, wear black gowns, like those used by the clergy in Scotland. The students in the United College wear gowns of red or scarlet freeze, without sleeves. The students of divinity have no distinguishing garb or dress.

with a large hood, the hood and borders of the robe lined with crimson satin; and by receiving the oath *de fidei*,) names deputies, from among the *Viri Rectoralis*, and assessors from the *Senatus Academicus*. He is a civil judge in the University, before whom may be brought complaints against masters, students, or supposits of the University. To his court, there lies also an appeal from the judgments of either college, in matters of discipline. In the rectoral court, the assessors have a deliberative voice; but the rector is not bound by their opinion or advice, having the power of decision entirely in his own person. The Court of Session have shown themselves very tender in receiving appeals, or advocations from the Rector, in matters of discipline over the students. The revenue of each of the colleges is partly in tithes, partly in property-lands. The revenue from tithes is always decreasing, by augmentations of stipend, granted by the Commissioners of Teinds, to the parochial ministers. In each college, there are apartments for lodging the students, rent free; there is also a public table for the burfars on the foundation. In the United College, there is a separate table for such students as choose to board themselves, at about L. 10 Sterling for the session, consisting of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  months; at each table, one of the masters presides.

St Andrew's has many advantages as a place of study. The University library is well stored with books in all the sciences, to which every student has access, for a small yearly payment. The masters are eminent in their several departments. There are very few avocations to the youth, who are not however restrained from innocent amusements, which are properly regulated by the masters. The person, the character, and actions of every student, are well

well known by the masters; so that any tendency to riot or dissipation is immediately checked; attention, diligence, and good behaviour, are observed, encouraged and honoured; and the public examination of each class, in the University-hall, at the end of the session, excites and maintains a spirit of application and emulation. The situation of the place is very healthy; there are dry walks at all seasons, the air is pure; the streets are spacious and open; and the water, which in great plenty is brought into the town from adjacent springs, by leaden pipes, is excellent. Putrid or malignant diseases are scarcely ever seen in St. Andrew's. Epidemical diseases of any kind are very rare, and also much milder than in other places of the same size and population.

Coal is in great abundance within a few miles of the city; much also is imported from both sides of the Forth, chiefly from Dyfart, Alloa, and Borrowstounness. The proper weight of a St. Andrew's cart-load, or boll of coals, is 75 stone, or 1209 pounds. The average price of this cart-load, including carriage, has hitherto been from the adjacent mines, 5s. Dyfart, 5s. 4d. Alloa, 5s. 10d. Borrowstounness, 6s. 4d\*. The harbour, has of late been much improved, and the mole extended farther towards the sea. A spirit of enterprise has arisen among the inhabitants, new houses on an improved plan of size, accommodation, and elegance, are yearly rising, and there is every reason to believe, that St. Andrew's will continue to flourish, and will gradually regain its former lustre.

#### *Extens;*

\* During the winter 1792-3, St. Andrew's suffered under the general complaint, of scarce and dear coals. The moor coals were raised to 6s. 6d., Dyfart and Alloa, to 8s. 9d. Borrowstounness as high as 11s.

*Extent, Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.*—The parish of St Andrew's forms a parallelogram nearly, the ends of which pointing towards E. by S. and W. by N. broadest at the west end. The length from E. to W. about 10 miles; city of St Andrew's nearly in the middle of the north side; greatest breadth nearly 4 miles. Through the whole length of the parish there is an acclivity from N. to S. forming, with little interruption, one large corn-field, in which are found all the varieties of soil, clay, loam, sand, &c. The sandy soil is chiefly in the neighbourhood of the city, and adjoining to the mouths of Eden and Kenlowie. These sandy fields seem, at some remote period, to have been collected by the small rivers, and, by gradual accumulation, to have diverted or narrowed the course of the waters. All these fields, however, are ploughed, and, by proper attention, produce good crops of corn, excepting a small spot of downs or bents, which is opposed to the sea on the east side of the harbour, and a larger tract of the same running from the N. W. corner of the city, which produces some pasture for sheep, and forms the links, well known to golfers. Along the east side of these links, in a direction nearly S. and N. is a flat firm sandy beach, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile long, terminated on the N. by the mouth of Eden. This beach is known by the name of the West Sands, and is almost entirely covered by the sea at spring tides. From the southern extremity of this beach, to the east end of the parish, with the interruption only of the harbour, and another short sandy beach, called the East Sands, running along the first mentioned spot of downs or bents, the shore outward from high water mark is lined with rough and ragged shelving rocks, mostly covered with sea-weed, and the coast inwards is very rocky and bold, the face of it in some places perpendicular rock to the height of 30 or 40 feet, yet the plough comes to the very brink, having a sufficien-

cy

ey of soil. The boundaries of this parish to the W. and S. terminate in moors, covered with short heath and furze. Some parts of these moors have of late been limed and ploughed, and have yielded a few profitable crops of corn. The soil there, however, is in general too cold and wet for retaining clover in winter. The greater part of these moors seem fit only for being planted with wood, and the proprietors are beginning to attend to that useful improvement of waste land. The air, climate, and salubrity of the whole parish is nearly the same with that of the city. In common with all the eastern part of the island, this parish is well acquainted with the cold damp easterly winds, or haars of April and May. These haars seldom fail to affect those who have ever had an ague, though in no part of the world are agues less frequent than here. The air of this corner is, in general, too sharp for phthysical constitutions.

*Springs, Rivers, Sea Coast, Fish.*—There are several ochre springs on the high grounds in the east end of the parish, some of which have been frequented by scorbutic and scrofulous patients, but few have boasted of benefit from them, more than they would have derived from the moderate exercise of walking a mile or two in the fresh sunny mornings of April and May. There are no lakes, canals, or rivers, deserving the name. In Eden and Kenlowie, is a considerable number of trout; in the embouchure of Eden is a flat sandy bay, abounding with large flounders; in this bay, at low water, is gathered a very great quantity of cockles and mussels, both of which are prized as an article of food for the common people, and of delicacy among the better sort. The gatherers, after carrying them two miles, sell them in St Andrew's at 2 d. the measured peck. The mussels are used by the fishermen as bait for haddocks. In the course of Eden, for about a mile from its mouth, salmon



men are caught, but in no great quantity. The fishing, in deed, has not been prosecuted with much spirit. In the bay or creek of Kish, the sea flows so high, as to admit vessels of 40 or 50 tons, many of which there unload barley for a distillery, coals and lime for the neighbouring farmers, who thereby save 2 or 3 miles of land-carriage, and are thus enabled in a few days to convey to their farms as much of these necessary articles, as formerly occupied their servants and horses for the greater part of the summer; which season is now spent in ploughing and hoeing. In the east end of the parish also, are some small creeks among the rocks, where vessels of inferior size deliver lime and coals. At St Andrew's Bay, unil within these few years, abounded in haddocks, with which 5 or 6 boats, 4 men in each, supplied St Andrew's, Cupar, and the north side of Kife for 10 miles. These haddocks were of a smaller size than those in the frith of Forth, but of a better flavour in the opinion of the people of this place; they formed the chief article of animal food to the poorer sort, and were always seen at every table; but of late this species of fish has almost entirely deserted this bay, as well as many other parts of the eastern coast of Scotland; the cause has never been discovered\*. Lammas herrings have, in our memory, been caught in immense quantities within this bay, on the coast of Kingsbarns parish; but very seldom, during these last 20 years, has that fishing there been worth mentioning. The rocks, from the bottom of the bay to the eastern extremity of the parish, abound with limpets and periwinkles of different kinds; also with lobsters, and some varieties of crabs, of which the partan only is used for food. The shallow water, over a sandy bottom, affords  
great

\* Some old people here say, that about the beginning of this century, the haddocks in like manner deserted this bay for a year or two.

great plenty of flat fish, such as flounders, soles, skate, halibut, turbot. Near the rocky shore many small cod, both red and grey; in deeper water, ling and larger cod. All these kinds of fish are sold by tale or by hand. Some of the larger ling, cod, and halibut by weight, from 2 d. to 3 d. the pound. Since the departure of the haddocks, the fishermen have become poor, and either unable or unwilling to prosecute their trade to any extent; and what adds to their poverty, incapacity, and languor is, that, on many occasions, an unexpected blast of north-east wind, which raises tremendous waves in this bay, has torn in pieces all their lines\*.

See

\* The most memorable case of this kind in our days happened on 4th Nov. 1765. The morning was quiet; all the boats went to sea, and dropt their lines. While lying on their oars, about 7 o'clock it began to blow from the N. E.; the fishermen saw reason to apprehend a storm, and immediately began to gather up their fishing tackle; but before they could accomplish this, the gale had increased so as to raise immense curled and broken waves. Each boat made for the nearest beach or cove between rocks. Two of them, very near each other, had got so close to the East Sands, that the people on the beach had begun to wade into the water in order to assist their friends; when the one boat, raised on the top of a prodigious wave, was driven right over head of the other. The uppermost boat was instantly either buried in the sand, or carried back by the reflux, so that no part of it, or of its crew, was ever again seen. The undermost boat was drawn ashore by the women, all the people alive. The writer of this has seen and felt the wound made on the head of a boy in the stern of the undermost boat, by the keel of the uppermost. On this occasion, of 5 boats, 3 were totally lost, and the other two much damaged, and most of the tackle lost. Twelve men were lost, of whom one was unmarried, the other eleven left widows and 28 children. Many of the men who escaped with life were severely bruised. A subscription was immediately set on foot among individuals and societies in St Andrew's, which, with donations from other burghs, and from noblemen and gentlemen in different parts of the country, produced L. 317 : 7 : 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  Sterling. This money the subscribers committed to trustees, who, after giving an immediate supply to the distressed families, settled a half yearly pension on the

*Sea-weeds.*—The sea-rocks in this parish are covered with the common weed, which used formerly to be cut every third year, and burnt for kelp. The demand for this article seems to be diminished; as for several years past, the corporation of St Andrew's have not been able to get the sea-weed let to any undertaker. This weed the farmers never cut for manure; and the tangle, though its broad leaved tops are seen in great quantities on the surface of the sea, yet is so situated at the farther extremity of the rocks, and grows in so deep water, that they can neither cut nor tear it up. Every gale of wind, however, from any easterly point, and every violent agitation of the sea throws upon the beach and into every creek, all the weed from the mouth of Eden to the east end of the parish, a great quantity of tangle mixed with many other weeds which are carefully gathered; and, according to the seasons of the year, are spread on the grass, mixed in dunghills, or tilled down for barley or potatoes. The Corporation of St Andrew's have hitherto permitted the towns people it common to gather, tax free, whatever sea-weed is thrown in between the mouth of Eden and the east sands adjoining to the harbour; the remainder of the shore is private property of the several heritors, according to the extent of their respective lands.

*Land*

the widows and on the children, until they should be capable of doing for themselves. And so faithfully and prudently has this fund been managed, that though the widows have regularly received such a pension as, with their own labour, has been sufficient for their support, though the children have been helped forward in life, though different sums have been applied for repairing the fishermen's losses at sea, and though the grandchildren of some of the sufferers have also been occasionally relieved, yet there remains of the stock about L. 60 Sterling, and the number of pensioners is, by death and otherwise, reduced to four.

*Land-marks, &c.*—On the lands of Brownhills and Kinkell, which form the first rising ground eastward from St Andrew's harbour, there are a few insulated rocks from 20 to 40 feet high, and of nearly equal breadth; one about half a mile from the harbour, called the Maiden Stone, which stands alone; and about half a mile further, the Rock and Spindle, adjoining to one another. These are close upon the beach, above ordinary high water mark, and are of very little use as land-marks, because the closely adjacent land is much higher than they. About a mile farther east, among the rocks of Boarhills, near to a creek where small vessels may enter and unload, is such another insulated rock, called Buddo, which is generally marked on sea-charts, because it is better seen at sea, the adjacent land being flat. This rock is perforated by a kind of gateway, 4 or 5 feet wide.

The chief land-marks in this parish are the steeples of St Andrew's, and a small obelisk of stones, on the highest part of the farm of Bahymont, about 2 miles S. E. from the town\*.

*Minerals, Caves.*—Freestone is often dug from the sea rocks; but in general the texture of it is very open and porous, or it crumbles and dissolves when exposed to water or humid air, after the external incrustation is broken. On Strathkinness Moor, about 3 miles from town, and on Nydie Hill, which is a greater elevation of the same moor, to the westward, are excellent quarries of freestone for builders, door-checks, windows, stairs, and grave-stones. These quarries require very little tarring. In some places the rock has no covering of earth. Many marks of very old quarries. It is supposed, that out of some of these were dug the

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stones

\* There have occasionally been found on the shore some petrified seaweeds, and a few years ago, part of the trunk, at its division into two main branches, of what seems to be a petrified tree. It was by the late Honourable Colonel John Nairne, made the door-post of a grotto in a garden of this city, now belonging to Mr Erskine of Cambo.

stones wherewith St Regulus's tower is faced all round, On Denhead moor, in the S. W. corner of this parish, and on the confines between it and that of Cameron, a coal-maine belonging to Mr Martin of Denbrae, has sometimes been wrought to a small extent. On the same moor, Mr Durham of Largo has a coal. None of these are now occupied. Two or three years ago, some Englishmen, judging from the appearance of the ground, expected to find coal in many different parts of the parish, and entered into contract with several proprietors; but, after expending a good deal of money in boring, &c. they were disappointed. In the face of a freestone rock, overhanging the sea-beach between the castle and the harbour, there is an excavation seemingly artificial; it is nearly round, about 10 feet diameter, and the same height. On the east side of it, the rock is shaped into the form of a table or altar, and on the S. W. side is an aperture of the ordinary size and shape of a door, by which you go into a small closet, supposed to have been the cell of a hermit; the access to it is now very difficult. In the face of the rock on which the castle stands, are the remains of such another excavation; from the east side of this, is a perforation through which a man may easily creep, into a smaller one, which is also open to the sea, over which the rock hangs; this cave also is of very difficult access. About a mile east from the harbour, there is a natural cave of easier access, Kinkell cave. The mouth is to the north; the direction of the cave is southwards; the shelving of the freestone roof makes a cross section of the cave, triangular; there is a continual dropping from the roof.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 4590. I have had access to no data, by which the ancient state of the population of this parish can be guessed at. A process now in dependence before the

the Court of Session, for an alteration and division of the parish church, has caused a very minute inquiry into the present population. The numbers reported on oath by the the tellers, are as follows, viz.

Number of souls in the parish,		
In the town and royalty,	-	2390
In the suburbs of Argyle,	-	129
In the country,	-	1431
		<hr/>
		3950
Children incapable of going to church,		
In St Andrew's,	-	288
In Argyle,	-	14
In the country.	-	202
		<hr/>
		504
Supposed necessarily detained at home,		
In St Andrew's,	-	189
In Argyle,	-	16
In the country,	-	231
		<hr/>
		436
Dissenters of all denominations,		
In St Andrew's,	-	91
In Argyle,	-	5
In the country,	-	22
		<hr/>
		118*
		Within

\* When the three last classes are deduced from the total, there remain 3892, who are or ought to be attending public worship in the Established Church, and for that number the pursuing heritors insisted, that there should be accommodation in the parish-church. The defenders alleged, that accommodation is needed for no more than 1800, being about two-thirds of the examinable persons. The number of parochial communicants at the Lord's Supper, is between 1500 and 1600, and the church, as now seated, cannot contain above that number. The issue of this process will determine what proportion the Lords of Session judge that the size of a parish-church should bear to the number of inhabitants. By one interloper they have already ordered an architect to visit this parish-church, and report whether he can find accommodation in it for 2500.

Within these 12 months, there were alive in the city of St Andrew's, 40 persons above fourscore years of age. There is now alive at Boarhills one man aged 96.—By frequent changes of session-clerks, and from other circumstances, the parochial records of births, deaths and marriages, are imperfect and defective. There follows an abstract from these records at different periods, where any competent number of years could be traced in succession. The marriages are recorded only when the bride was residing in the parish, and no register of the dead was kept in this parish, in the beginning of this century.

## Births.

Years.	Males.	Fem.	Total	Mar.
1699	45	53	98	26
1700	33	41	74	28
1701	51	57	108	20
1702	60	55	115	23
1703	49	55	104	17
1704	45	53	98	17
1705	52	52	104	24
1706	52	57	109	26
1707	62	48	110	22
1708	57	58	115	28
1709	63	60	123	31
1710	52	48	100	21
1711	54	57	111	39
1712	70	56	126	21
1713	56	49	105	32
1714	70	61	131	34
1715	47	47	94	21
1716	62	58	120	34
1717	69	67	136	34
1718	83	54	137	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1132	1086	2218	530

20 years births. Males, 1132. Females, 1086. Total, 2218.

Average, 110  $\frac{2}{5}$ .—Proportion of males to females, as 11 to 10.553.

20 years

25 years marriages, 530.—Average, 26½.

Average of births, 110.9 × 26 = 2883.4.

Births, greatest number, anno 1718, = 137 × 26 = 3562.

The average of marriages in the above table, differs but little from that in the subsequent; but the average of births considerably exceeds that of more modern times, and there is no reason to believe, that the parish was more populous fourscore years ago than it is now. The reason of the difference may perhaps be, that the Seceders neglect to have the birth of their children registered in the parochial records:

Yrs.	Births.			Deaths.			Mar.
	Males	Fem.	Total.	Males	Fem.	Total.	
1743	56	36	92	24	28	52	27
1744	54	59	113	28	32	60	33
1745	45	41	86	33	39	72	17
1746	52	57	109	45	64	109	27
1747	59	51	110	26	40	66	19
1748	56	54	110	65	62	127	34
1749	57	44	101	50	47	97	38
1750	63	65	128	34	38	72	34
1751	55	52	107	49	44	93	28
1752	51	40	91	55	63	118	24
1753	57	67	124	43	52	95	31
1754	55	54	109	35	52	87	19
1755	58	54	112	38	47	85	22
1756	46	67	113				19
1757	67	47	114				18
1758	38	50	88	57	55	112	
1759	68	52	120	48	29	77	
1760	53	47	100	54	49	103	
	986	937	1923	684	741	1425	390

18 years births. Males, 986. Females, 937. Total, 1923. Average, 106½.—Proportion of males to females, as 11 to 10.453.

16 years deaths. Males, 684. Females, 741. Total, 1425. Average, 89⅛.—Proportion of males to females, as 11 to 11.916.

15 years marriages, 390. Average, 26.

Average



Average of births,  $106\frac{2}{3} \times 26 = 2777\frac{2}{3}$ . Ditto of deaths,  $89\frac{1}{3} \times 36 = 3206\frac{2}{3}$ .

Births, greatest number in 1750,— $128 \times 26 = 3328$ .

Deaths, greatest number in 1748,— $127 \times 36 = 4572$ .

Yrs.	Births.			Deaths.			Mar.
	Males	Fem.	Total.	Males	Fem.	Total.	
1774	41	34	75	35	46	81	25
1775	50	55	105	41	42	83	24
1776	54	46	100	32	46	78	25
1777	59	53	112	59	61	120	27
1778	55	53	108	24	38	62	22
1779	48	46	94	33	33	66	24
1780	52	48	100	28	48	76	24
1781	47	46	93	37	45	82	27
1782	53	43	96	38	48	86	23
1783	59	44	103	19	27	46	30
1784	72	50	122	52	45	97	26
1785	50	69	119	33	54	87	30
1786	63	51	114	38	38	76	17
1787	68	51	119	41	36	77	12
1788	62	50	112	38	42	80	29
1789	69	63	132	27	35	62	31
1790	51	67	118	41	38	79	26
1791	50	50	100	50	46	96	22
	1003	919	1922	666	768	1434	445

18 years births. Males, 1003. Females, 919. Total, 1922. Average,  $106\frac{2}{3}$ .—Proportion of males to females, as 11 to 10.078.

18 years deaths. Males, 666. Females, 768. Total, 1434. Average,  $79\frac{2}{3}$ . Proportion of males to females, as 11 to 12.684.

18 years marriages, 445. Average,  $24\frac{1}{3}$ .

Average of births,  $106\frac{2}{3} \times 26 = 2776\frac{2}{3}$ .

Average of deaths,  $79\frac{2}{3} \times 36 = 2868$ .

*N. B.* These numbers are far below the actual number of souls, = 3950.

Births, greatest number in 1789,— $132 \times 26 = 3432$ .

Deaths, greatest number in 1777,— $120 \times 36 = 4320$ .

As

As the average of births in these two periods is so equal, the average of marriages so nearly the same, and the average of deaths in the latter period is so much below that of the former, the presumption is, that the number of inhabitants is increasing. And the reason why the average of deaths has of late years decreased, may be, that the common people now use more generous food, are better clothed, and more attentive to cleanliness in their persons, their manners, and their dwellings. By the foregoing table it appears, that the modern average of births in this parish is to the real number of inhabitants as 1 to 37 very nearly; average of marriages as 1 to 160 nearly; average of deaths, as 1 to 49½ nearly.—The number of artificers in the parish, masters and freemen, is nearly as follows: Smiths, including 1 watchmaker, 2 tinmen, 2 workers in brass, and 3 glovers, incorporated with the smiths, 21; wrights, carpenters, and masons, 50; bakers, 19; fleshers, 19; tailors, 23; shoemakers, 34; weavers, 52; saddler, 1.—Besides the professor of medicine in the university, there are in *St Andrew's* other 2 regular physicians; all the three practise in midwifery and surgery, as occasion offers; one apothecary, who is also a practitioner in physic. Several shopkeepers vend a few of the more common medicines, such as every neighbour prescribes to another; 5 writers or attorneys; 2 messengers at arms. The courts of law here are the Bailie court, the Dean of Guild court, Justice of Peace court, and the commissary court for the diocese of *St Andrew's*, whose regular place of meeting is the church of *St Salvator's College*.—There are no known instances of people dying here for want, nor of murder, nor of suicide, excepting the case of one man who hanged himself about fourscore years ago; his body was dissected, and his skeleton remains in the university library. No emigrations from this parish; and  
 though,

though, as in every other town, a few houses may be occasionally unoccupied, yet in general there is a demand, and the building of new houses is found a profitable application of money.—The modern average of students at the philosophy college is 100; of ditto at the divinity college is 48. No regular authentic list of students at the philosophy college has been kept till of late years; but by examining the matriculation book, and allowing that the number of new students formerly bore the same proportion to the total that it now does, it should seem that the average of students at the philosophy college was, from 1738 to 1747, 56; from 1757 to 1766, 79; and from 1773 to 1782, 88: Hence it appears, that the resort of students to St Andrew's continues to be on the increase. The greatest number in any one year, in recent times, is 137. The number of students in divinity also increases, as the average from 1773 to 1782, is only 30. The greatest number in any one year during that period is 35. Greatest number since that time, 54. The greatest number of students at the university in any one year, 179.—Besides the parochial Established ministers, there is in St Andrew's an Episcopal clergyman, who has an annual pension from Queen Anne's bounty, and a minister of the Burgher Seceders; there is but one family of Antiburgher Seceders.

*Productions.*—There are no old plantations of wood in this parish. Several young plantations are going on, particularly in the eastern part of the parish by Dr John Hill, Professor of Humanity, Edinburgh, on his lands of Kinglassie; John Campbell, Esq; writer to the Signet, on his lands of Smiddygreen; James Anderson, Esq; Advocate, on Newbigging; Rev. Dr Duncan, Episcopal clergyman in Dundee, on Stonywynd; and Mr Turnbull, jointly with his tenant John Adamson, on Burnside

side of Boarhills: In this last case, the moor was under lease as a part of the farm; the tenant, without any deduction of rent, was at the expense of enclosing and planting, and continues to have the burden of defending; at the end of 50 years, the tenant's heirs get half the value of the wood. The usual varieties of forest-trees are among these plantations; but the Scotch fir is in greatest quantity. All the usual pot-herbs are in great plenty. Gardening becomes yearly an object of more attention. Every farmer raises wheat, barley or bear, oats, pease and beans, turnips, potatoes, clover. The quantity of land sown with wheat increases every year. Barley is now more cultivated than bear; but perhaps more than either, a mixture of the two, which is called ramble. Rutabaga, or Swedish turnip, has been tried, but not persisted in. The drill-husbandry is followed only with the potatoes and turnip, and a few beans. The parish, including the city, needs an importation of meal, but it spares barley.

The number of black cattle in this parish, as in all the neighbourhood, is yearly diminishing; as the farmers now do all their work with horses alone; two of which are yoked in the plough, and guided by the ploughman. Within these 30 years, each plough had 2 horses and 4 oxen, which always needed a goadman. The culture of grasses and of wheat has gradually expelled the sheep from this parish, all the land that could yield them any tolerable pasture being now subjected to the plough. There remains not a store-flock in the whole parish. A few are kept on the Links of St Andrew's, chiefly for the shambles, the present tacksmen being a butcher. Some of the farmers also graze a few for the butchers\*.

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*Stipends,*

\* About the beginning of March, (seldom sooner), the farmers begin to sow oats and beans. The sowing of barley and bear terminates in the end

*Stipendi, Heritors, School, Poor, &c.*—The parish is a collegiate charge, both ministers officiating in one church, which appears to have been built in the year 1112, in the form of a cross, the north aisle of which was taken down long ago. The King is patron of the 1st charge, to which belongs the parochial stipend. The magistrates and town-council, of the 2d charge; the stipend of which is paid out of the Town's patrimony. The 1st minister's stipend is wholly victual, consisting of wheat, 14 bolls 2 pecks; oats, 63 bolls 3 firlots 2 pecks  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lippies; bear, 65 bolls 3 firlots. The 2d minister's is in money, viz. 1300 merks, L. 72 : 4 : 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling. The first minister has a glebe of 4 acres, now let at L. 2, 10 s. the acre. Neither of the ministers have a manse; although it appears from the presbytery-records, that there were manses for both 150 years ago. The 2d minister has also the teind of the fishes brought into the harbour for sale, for which the fishermen were wont to pay L. 2 Sterling; of late years they have paid nothing. The church got a considerable repair, with a new roof, in the year 1749. Since that time, some partial repairs. A process, as formerly mentioned, is now in dependence for dividing the area, and enlarging the auditory of the church. The number of heritors and portioners in the landward parish is about 45, of whom 10 are resident. The proprietors and portioners of burgh and prior acres cannot easily be reckoned. Every year makes alterations among them; and the number is gradually diminishing, because the acres that successively come

end of May new style. Wheat seed generally begins about Michaelmas. Wheat harvest for the most part begins before the end of August; and barley harvest soon after. Few seasons now permit the fields to be cleared before the end of October; though all the old leases oblige the tenants to remove at Michaelmas.

come into market are generally bought up by those who have already some property in the vicinity.—In the city of *St Andrew's* is a grammar-school, in the patronage of the town-council. The rector enjoys, rent free, a house, in which may be, and sometimes have been, accommodated 25 boarders. A garden, sufficiently large for the family, and a salary of L. 16 : 3 : 4 Sterling, paid out of the funds of the corporation, out of which also are paid all the repairs of the school and school-house. Mr Mouat, the present incumbent, who entered on his office about Candlemas 1791, has already recommended himself so much to the general esteem, and to the favour of the patrons, that they have freely conferred on him an yearly addition of L. 100 Scots, making his salary L. 25 Sterling. The number of his boarders is always increasing. The school-fees have not been raised for time immemorial; 2 s. 6 d. a-quarter, and a gratuity at Candlemas, at least equal to the quarterly payment. The scholars, in general, pay at least 5 s. a-quarter, and a Candlemas gratuity, according to their rank and fortune, from 5 s. even as far as 5 guineas, when there is a keen competition for the Candlemas crown. The king, *i. e.* He who pays most, reigns for 6 weeks, during which period he is not only intitled to demand an afternoon's play for the scholars once a-week, but he has also the royal privilege of remitting all punishments. The number of scholars is from 50 to 60. The master has no other perquisites but his house, garden, salary, and school-fees. The corporation allow him an extra L. 7, in part payment of an assistant.

There is also in the patronage of the town-council another school for English, writing and arithmetic. The present school was built, chiefly at the expense of George Dempster, Esq; of Dunichen, late provost of the city and member of Parliament for the district. The master's salary

is

is 200 merks. *i. e.* L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Sterling, paid by the Exchequer. This salary, however, belongs to him more properly as precentor in the town church, than as schoolmaster. The corporation, out of respect to the abilities, assiduity, and success of Mr Smith, the present incumbent, have given him out of their funds an additional L. 5 Sterling a-year. The lowest fees at this school are 1 s. 6 d. a-quarter, and a gratuity at the new year. Mr Smith has, at extra hours, what is called a private school, or second classes, at 2 s. 6 d. the quarter. Number of scholars, in the public school, at an average of 7 years, is 120; and in the private school, 55. Mr Smith teaches book-keeping for a guinea. The master of this school has no house, nor any other perquisites. Mr Smith indeed is session-clerk; but this office is not necessarily connected with the English school\*.

Besides these established schools, there are in St Andrew's three private schools, where the children of the poorer sort are for lower fees taught to read. There are in town, schools for needle-work of all kinds, and tambouring; the mistresses have no salary, but depend entirely on their assiduity and good behaviour. A music-master, and dancing-masters, of approved character, during the winter months. There is no established school for French. Mr Smith, the English master, reads that language at a private hour

\* It is worthy of record, that as soon as Mr John Halkat, who for many years had, with great honour, held the office of rector in the grammar-schools, first of Cupar, and latterly of St Andrew's, began to show symptoms of decline, his *quondam* pupils, by voluntary subscription, purchased for him a very handsome annuity, on which he now lives in St Andrew's with much comfort, and enjoying universal respect. The corporation of St Andrew's have also continued with him half his former salary for life.

hour with such as choose to employ him. At Boarhills, in the east end of the parish and in a central spot for the west end of the parish, are schools for English, writing, and arithmetic. The houses have been lately rebuilt or repaired by subscriptions from the neighbouring proprietors and tenants, with a little aid from the kirk-session. The salaries, L. 2 each, are paid chiefly by the session. A patriotic class of farmers, in Boarhills and the neighbourhood, having formed a stock purse, by a small monthly contribution, fines of absentees, &c. purchased an acre of land, a mortcloth, and a hearse; the profits of these are given for the encouragement of their schoolmaster.

The established roll of those poor, who receive a weekly pension, and are supposed to need that pension during life, is 47. But besides this roll, there are many indigent families, &c. who get occasional supply; and the amount of this supply is in some years not much below that of the weekly pensions. The annual average of the funds under the administration of the session, is, 1. Produce of all donations, mortifications, legacies, &c. vested in one common subject of land, about L. 33. 2. Weekly collections at the church-doors, about L. 76. 3. Rent of seats in the church, marriage-dues, &c. about L. 14. Out of this revenue, amounting to L. 123, besides the supply of the poor, there fall to be paid land-tax, communion-elements, salaries to clerks and village schoolmasters, burials of the poor, repairs of seats, &c. Over and above these funds already mentioned, the late Principal Murison of the New College, who died 30th July 1779, bequeathed L. 100 Sterling to the session as trustees; the interest thereof to be distributed on the 30th July annually to decayed householders\*.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* Here, as in every other part of the country, the price of provisions has been considerably advanced of late years. Average prices now are,  
beef,



*Miscellaneous Observations*—This parish seems to labour under no particular disadvantages. It enjoys several advantages, some of which will apply to very few other parishes in the kingdom, viz. such as are derived from the University. In common with many others, it has all the advantages that result from good schools, for both boys and girls, from a salubrious situation, from a well supplied market, and from the neighbourhood of the sea. Proprietors in this parish have a particular advantage, that they are not burdened with a minister's manse, nor schoolmaster's salary; and hitherto they have been taxed with no more than one third of the expense of the parish-church, the King;

beef, a-pound, 4 d.; in November, 3½ d.; veal and mutton, from 3½ d. to 5 d. according to the season; lamb, from 1 s. 6 d. to 5 s. a-quarter; pork, 3 d. and 4 d. the pound; pigs, from 2 s. 6 d. to 5 s.; geese, 3 s. and 3 s. 6 d.; ducks, from 6 d. to 1 s.; chickens, 8 d. a-pair; pigeons, 3 d. a-pair; rabbits, 6 d. and 7 d. a-pair; butter, from 7 d. to 9 d. a-pound; cheese, 2½ d. and 3 d. a-pound; eggs, 3 d. and 4 d. a-dozen; hens, 1 s. each; oat-meal, 1 s. a-peck; ploughmen's wages have, within these 30 years, been raised from L. 3 Sterling a-year, to L. 5, L. 6, L. 8, L. 9; common labourers, from 6 d. a-day to 1 s.; maids, from 1 s. a-day, to 1 s. 8 d. 1 s. 10 d. 2 s. according to the demand; others, in proportion. When labourers are sober and frugal, when their wives are industrious and attentive, and the family enjoy a competent measure of health, they seem to live very comfortably upon their earnings. The advance on wages is much greater than that on provisions. When the labourer received 3 s. a-week, and paid for two pecks of meal at 8 d. he had a surplus of 1 s. 8 d. When he now receives 6 s. a-week, and pays 2 s. for his meal, his surplus is 4 s. The fuel used in this parish is coal; the price of which has been formerly stated. There are some moorss in the neighbourhood; and many families lay in a few peats, which are used chiefly for kindling the fires. The cottagers adjoining to the moors use turf for covering or gathering their fires; they likewise cut furze for fuel. The wages of female-servants run generally from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 4, or L. 5 a-year, according to the rank and fortune of their masters; footmen, from L. 10, to L. 15, or L. 20.

King, as succeeding to the archbishop, and the corporation of the city, bearing the other two thirds. This expence of the church, and also that of the stipend, falls light on a valued rent, which exceeds L, 24,000 Scotch. The disadvantage of the harbour is, that it lies in a rocky shore, at the S. W. corner of a deep bay, very much exposed to all winds from E. and N. The access to the port, therefore, is often very difficult, and the departure precarious.—The language of this parish is the common dialect of the Scotch Lowlands. The Fifans are said, by strangers, to use a drawling pronunciation, but they have very few provincial words. Very many of the names of places in the parish, are evidently modern and vernacular, Denhead, Edenside, Northbank, Bylone, Smiddygreen, Stonywind, Boarhills, Brownhills, &c. Several places retain the ancient Gaelic names, Balrymont, Kinglassie, Kingask, Kincaple, Strathkinness, Balmungo, &c. Kincaple, about 3 miles W. from St Andrew's, near the road to Dundee, Strathkinness a short mile S. from Kincaple, on the old road to Cupar, and Boarhills, between 3 and 4 miles E. from St Andrew's, may be reckoned villages: in these, besides farmers and cottagers, you find alehouses, blacksmiths, wrights, weavers, tailors, shoemakers.—On 8th February 1792, in digging a garden belonging to David Roger, staymaker, in the street leading to Cardinal Bethune's castle, called the Castle-wynd, a small pot was turned up, which seemed to be full of earth, but being immediately dashed in pieces, there dropped out 8 gold coins, and about 150 silver ones. The gold was clean, though the colour pale. The silver pieces were covered with thick rust, and many of them perfectly friable \*.

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\* One thin gold piece, about the size of a sixpence, has a lion rampant, or couchant, IACOBY DEI GRATIA REX SCOTORVM; on the

The only tumulus recollected in this parish was about 1½ mile westward from St Andrew's, on the south road to Cupar, called Pitoutie Law. In forming the highway, about 30 years ago, it was thought necessary to remove this tumulus. Nothing was found but stones and earth. —The general size of the people is from 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches. In one family, there are 2 or 3 young men, who measure 6 feet 3 inches; one of them, 6 feet 5 inches. The people of this parish are sober, temperate, and industrious; more addicted to the arts of tranquil life than

the reverse, a man in armour on horseback. James I. was crowned 1406. Another, near the size of a half-crown, has in the middle, a lion sitting like a cat, with a wide mouth, and stretched out tongue, between two pillars, PHS, (supposed Philippus), DEI GRATIA DVX BVRG: Reverse, a shield, quartered, 1st and 4th. 3 fleurs de lys; 2d and 3d, a lion erect, and a small shield in the middle. SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTVM AOMEN. A third, about the size of a shilling; in the middle, a sun, with 4 flaming crosses, EXVRGAT I OV; ET DISSIPENT INIQCICI QVVS: Reverse, unicorn holding a shield, IACOBVS DEI GRATIA REX. A fourth, a little larger: shield, with 3 fleurs de lys, overtop'd with a crown, CAROLVS DEI GRATIA FRANCO-RVQ REX: Reverse, IOPERAT VINCIT REGNAT. The silver pieces are very thin: most of them about the size of a shilling, some of them smaller. On removing the rust, there appears on one side a full face under a crown; on the reverse, a cross, around which are two circular inscriptions; outer circle, POSVI DEVQ ADIVTOREM QEVQ; inner circle, VILLA CALISIE; crowned head, HENRICVS DEI GRATIA; or CIVITAS LONDON, HENRICVS, &c.; or, CIVITAS EBORACI, EDVARDVS, &c.; or, VILLA EDINBVRG, IACOBVS, &c. One has the addition of a sceptre to the crown'd head, ROBERTVS DEI GRATIA REX SCOTORVM. Reverse, inner circle, VILLA EDINBVRGH; outer circle, DNS PTECTOR MS LIBERATOR MS. (*Dominus protector meus, liberator meus.*) Robert Bruce was crowned 1306. Many of these coins have been sold; the silver, at 1 s. each, and the gold, at 12 s. and upwards, according to their size.

than to military service ; kind and hospitable to strangers ; benevolent and friendly to one another ; very ready to all the offices and duties of society ; not very forward in making new discoveries, but willing to improve by the experiments elsewhere made ; peaceable in their demeanour ; candid and liberal in their judgments ; respectful to their superiors, without servility ; compassionate to the distressed, and charitable to the poor ; contented and thankful in their situation ; attached to their religion, without bigotry or enthusiasm ; regular in their attendance on Christian institutions, and pious without ostentation ; loyal to the King, obedient to the laws ; enemies to sedition, faction, or tumult, and deeply sensible of the blessings they enjoy as British subjects. In no corner of the kingdom, is it more comfortable to live, as neighbours, magistrates, or ministers.

The highways through this parish are such only as diverge from *St Andrew's* as a centre, *viz.* to *Garrail* or *Crail* S. E. ; to *Anstruther*, S. ; to *Ely*, S. W. ; to *Cupar*, W. ; and to *Dundee*, N. and W. All these roads are made and repaired by the statute-labour of the country, which is for the most part commuted into money. That to *Crail* is always in the best condition, because it is nearest to good materials. Across a small river or burn, called *Kinbess*, or *Netherburn*, which runs along the south side of *St Andrew's* eastward, are two bridges, of one arch each ; the one at the east end of the town, on the road to *Crail* and *Anstruther* ; the other at the west end, on the road to *Ely*. Across the small stream of *Swilian*, which runs through the *Golf-links*, is another bridge of one arch, on the road to *Dundee*. These are the only bridges within the parish. In the eastern extremity of the parish, on the *Crail* road, over *Kenlowie*, dividing *St Andrew's* from *Kingsbarns*, is a fourth bridge, of two arches ; all these are kept in good

repair by the county. In the western part of the parish, on the road to Dundee, over Eden, which divides St Andrew's from Leuchars, is a fifth, called Gair, or Guardbridge, built at the private expense of a Bishop Wardlaw (he died in 1444), who established a family of the name of Wan as hereditary keepers of the bridge, for which they have a perpetual fee of about 10 acres of land adjoining to it. This bridge has six arches, is no wider than necessary for one carriage, and is covered with causeway-stones and some flags. Across the bridge was wont to be stretched an iron chain, which was opened only for chaises; carts, &c. were obliged to pass under the bridge; and as the sea flows far above this part of Eden, these carriages were obliged to wait the reflux of the tide, which caused so great interruption to the business of the country, that many years ago the chain was removed. This bridge is maintained by the county. By the recent act the turnpike road from St Andrew's to Cupar, as well as to Dundee, is by this bridge; the bar is on the Leuchars side, at the west end of the bridge, where these two roads separate; there is no bar on this line of road farther east than this bridge.—In the neighbourhood of St Andrew's, land is rented as high as L. 3 the acre, or four bolls of bear, which sometimes exceeds L. 3. No farms in the country have as yet exceeded L. 2, 10 s. the acre. L. 1, or L. 1, 5 s. may perhaps be the present average of farm-land. Rents, however, are advancing very fast; even to six times the sum at which the lands were let 38 years ago. Among about 60 farms, we have them of all sizes, from 20 acres to 300. The number of tenants is on the decrease; the number of enclosures on the increase, though in general the parish is unenclosed.—The people of this parish are by no means noted for frequenting taverns or alehouses: Drunkenness is no part of their characteristic: The number of drinking clubs decreases every

year. Number of alehouses, inns, &c. in the town, 42; and in the county, 6; which is rather below the average for the last six years.—The number of cottages in this parish has varied very little for these many years past, very few of the farmers choosing to diminish or to increase their number; the progress of manufactures may, in all likelihood, render cottagers more and more necessary for supplying a sufficiency of reapers in harvest, more particularly as at that busy time the dressing of their wheat lands occupies many of their ordinary servants.—1793, May. A sail-cloth manufacture is now beginning in *St Andrew's*.

Whatever has been said above in general, concerning the town and parish of *St Andrew's*, must be considered also as including the parish of *St Leonard's*, which is intermixed with the other.

#### ST LEONARD'S PARISH,

*By the Rev. JOSEPH M'CORMICK, D. D. Minister of St Leonard's, and Principal of the United College.*

THE parish of *St Leonard's* consists of a few districts in different quarters of the town and suburbs of *St Andrew's*, together with 2 farms in the country, about 3 miles distant from the town, all originally belonging to the Priory, afterward to the College of *St Leonard's*, and now to the United College of *St Salvator* and *St Leonard's*. It is probable that the erection of the parish is of the same date with the foundation of the College whose name it bears. Although the principal of *St Leonard's* did not always officiate as minister of the parish, and in the instance of Mr George Buchanan, was not even a clergyman, it is certain, that for some time before the Revolution, the two offices were held by the same person; and ever since that period the principal of the College has been a clergyman and minister of the parish.

According

According to my latest survey, the number of souls in the whole parish amounted to 385; of these, there are in the town, 220; in the suburbs called Argyle, 115; and in the country, 50. As the inhabitants of the several districts in the city and suburbs, belonging to the parish of St Leonard's, are interspersed with those of the town parish, the annual average of births, marriages and deaths in any given period, as also the number of males and females who are born and die in that period, must be in proportion to the numbers of each parish, and need not be repeated.—The number of poor upon the session-roll of St Leonard's is from 6 to 9, besides the occasional poor; and the funds for their support are from L. 25 to L. 27 Sterling a-year.—The stipend of St Leonard's consists of 5 chalders of victual, one half of which is oats, and about L. 3 Sterling of money, the rent of an acre and an half of land mortgaged about a century ago to the minister of St Leonard's.

NUM.

## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF COCKBURNSPATH,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, PRESBYTERY OF DUNBAR, SYNOD OF  
LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW SPENCE.

*Name, Surface, Sea-coast, &c.*

**T**HIS parish, formerly called *Colbrandspath*, is situated upon the sea-coast, in the shire of Berwick, and contiguous to East Lothian. It was but a small parish till the annexation of AuldCambus; but at what time this happened is uncertain. The parish consists of two parts; one high and mountainous, the other comparatively low and even. The upper division makes part of the great ridge of Lammermuir, which, at the western extremity of the parish, approaches to within about three miles of the shore, and which runs into the sea in the rocky promontory of Fast-castle, a little beyond its eastern limit. The same division is nearly followed by the minerals, the upper part consisting of schistus rock, the lower, of strata of sandstone, coal, &c.; their line of junction passes through the middle of  
the



the parish, nearly in a direction from N. E. to S. W. Their actual meeting may be seen at the bottom of some of the glens, but still better in a rock washed by the sea at a place called *Sickar Point*, where the strata of sandstone lie horizontally on the broken edges of the schistus, whose beds are at that particular spot nearly in a vertical position; a scene highly interesting to those who attend to the mineralogical history of the globe. Several thick beds of gravel lie upon the sandstone of the lower division, composed of rounded pieces of schistus, whinstone, porphyry, granite, and sometimes limestone; all of which it is probable have been carried into their present position by some great revolution of the globe, since none of them, except the schistus, occur in this parish, in their native place. On the upper side, towards the hills, these beds consist of small stones intermixed with sand, and are loose and detached; upon the shore the stones are large, and bedded in clay. It is probably owing to this circumstance that the soil near the sea is a strong clay, and that farther up is light, and sometimes gravelly.—The shore is high, consisting of a set of cliffs about 100 feet above the level of the sea; they are formed either of sandstone, or of the beds of clay, mixed with large stones mentioned above; they are in some places rocky and perpendicular, in others sloping rapidly, but covered with grass, affording sweet pasture for sheep. Behind the cliffs the country rises gently towards the hills in a waving form, and is intersected by many deep ravines, whose sides are sometimes sloping and covered with grass, but are in general rocky, and finely wooded; in each a little brook flows. This mixture of rocks, woods, pasture, and cultivation, produces much picturesque scenery, both lively and romantic. Owing, however, to the want of hedge-rows, or old enclosures, and to the low situation of the woods, the country,

country, as seen by a traveller merely passing along the great post-road, has somewhat of a bare appearance.

*Agriculture.*—In this parish we meet with every variety both of soil and of climate, and a general spirit of industry and emulation prevails among the tenants, which leads them to make the most of every situation. The soil of the lower division is partly strong and partly light, each good of its kind; but they answer best when combined together in one farm, as by this means a farmer can employ his strength at all seasons, and in all weathers. The rotation for the strong land, which lies chiefly along the shore, is fallow, wheat or barley, with broad clover and rye grass; after the clover, oats; then pease or beans; and again barley or wheat. The best farmers frequently sow barley after fallow, instead of wheat; for it is difficult upon strong land, except after fallow, to hit the proper season for barley, and then the ground is in fine preparation for grass-seeds; whereas wheat upon fallow is often too strong, and consequently false, and the grass-seeds sown with it frequently fail; on the other hand, wheat after beans or pease, if the ground is clean, seldom fails to yield a good increase. The rotation upon the light land of the lower division of the parish, which lies principally upon its upper side, is turnip, barley, clover, oats. The upper division of the parish, making part of Lammermuir, partakes somewhat of its soil and climate; but by the industry of the farmers and proprietors, in the cultivation of turnip and grass, and the proper use of lime, the face of the country has been greatly changed for the better.

Great tracts of land, which formerly were covered with heath, or over-run with furze, being brought to a set of excellent breeding farms, great part of which is kept in pasture. In these farms the sheep have been much improved

proved by the introduction, to a certain adequate degree, of the Northumberland breed. The full Northumberland breed has been lately tried with great success by a proprietor on some of the rich land of the parish. The farmers of the lower division in general keep no stock, but eat off their turnips with sheep and cattle bought in for the purpose, and sold when fit for the butcher. Sometimes the turnips are eaten upon the spot by sheep, sometimes they are led off to grass-fields for sheep and cattle; in the last case the good farmer thinks it necessary to lay some manure upon the spot, which, even with this help, is found rather to fall short of the land upon which the turnip has been eaten as it grew: by this management the ground is kept in such heart, that an excellent crop of turnips is sometimes raised after the oats, without dung being laid upon that crop. The upland farmers seldom feed for the butcher, but give all their turnips to the keeping stock; they likewise frequently buy turnips from the lower farmers, and bring down their stock to eat them. In the lower division of this parish the harvest is in general very favourable, and the farmers show great activity on that occasion; so that when a bad season does occur, they suffer less than in many other places; they employ great numbers of Highlanders at that time, who come into the country for the purpose, and no wages are spared when the season requires a stress of hands. In the upper division the harvest is often late, and of course subjected to more severe weather.—No limestone has been found in this parish; but lime is got from the kills at Thornton-loch, at the distance of three or four miles along the great post-road. The lands of the lower division of the parish are very much benefited by the use of sea-ware as a manure. It consists chiefly of the kind known by the name of tangle (*fucus palmatus*), having a very long stalk, and a broad spreading leaf; it seems to  
grow

grow upon all the rocks which are never left bare by the tide, and whose depth, below the surface of low-water, does not exceed twenty fathoms; it thus occupies a space along the shore, of about half a mile in breadth, in which it grows like a forest, rising eight or ten feet from the bottom; the flat blade of the plant being visible when the sea is at its lowest ebb. This belt of sea-ware may be distinguished in a boat by the colour of the water, and is well known to the fishermen, from whose report the above account is chiefly taken. In violent storms, the sea tears the plant from the rocks, and drives it on shore; it is then eagerly carried off by the farmers, who spread it directly upon the ground where it is to be used, and plough it in as fast as possible. It is the opinion of many good farmers, that a cart-load of good ware is at any season of the year equivalent to an equal load of dung; but at the time of sowing barley, it is considered as at least of double value; partly owing to its being, as they say, ripe at that season, having the strongest manuring quality, and partly to its efficacy in producing fine crops of barley, both in quantity and quality. When the ground is very dry, the ware is often spread upon the ground after the corn is sown, or even sprung; and when applied in this manner, it is supposed to produce the best and the surest effects. Ware-barley is much esteemed by the brewers, and is in great request for seed; particularly by the upland farmers, as it is said to ripen at least a week earlier than any other; so that it sells for a shilling the boll higher than the current price.—The parish contains between 7000 and 8000 acres: There are nearly 200 acres in wheat sown yearly in the parish, and about 400 in turnip.—The rent for the strong land upon the coast is L. 2 the acre Scots; from 10s. to L. 1, 10s. for the light land of the lower division: The upland farms are not considered as let by the acre.—There are 57 ploughs, 126 horses, about 500 cattle, and between 4000 and 5000

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sheep. The farms are from L. 60 to L. 450 yearly rent. Of late years many small farms have been thrown into a few large ones, and several new farm-houses, with complete office houses, have been built; on the other hand, as by this distribution fewer hands are employed than formerly, many houses of an inferior sort have gone to ruins. A threshing-mill has been erected about three years ago by a tenant at his own expense, and answers well.

*Coal.*—About the close of the last century, coal was worked in this parish by a regular set of colliers, and salt-works were carried on; since that time the works have been given up, though the late Sir John Hall of Dunglass made many attempts at coal, but without success. No fire-engine has ever been used.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 919. The stoppage of the collieries, and the loss of the various advantages connected with them, seems to account for a striking diminution of population which took place early in this century, as appears by the registers both of this parish, and that of Oldhamstocks. Of late years, the number of inhabitants has undergone a second diminution, by the alterations which have been made in the distribution of land into large farms instead of small ones, one containing now what was formerly three or four.—The post-office, which was formerly at Auld-cambus in this parish, is now removed to the Prefs, in the parish of Coldingham; about 40 years ago, there were five brewers in Cockburnspath, and for many years there has not been one in the parish till Whitsunday 1791.—The present number of souls, by an exact account taken in April 1793, is 883; of these 406 are males and 477 females. At an average, the births for 20 years, from 1722 to

to 1798, amounted to 35 yearly; from 1781 to 1791 they are only 24. There are at present 197 householders. The number of married persons is 287. There are 5 widowers, and 35 widows.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Children under 3 years of age,	41	39	80
From 3 to 10,	91	89	180
From 10 to 20,	92	104	196
From 20 to 30,	38	39	97
From 30 to 40,	48	35	103
From 40 to 50,	34	50	84
From 50 to 60,	22	32	54
From 60 to 70,	26	36	62
From 70 to 80,	13	7	20
From 80 to 90,	1	6	7

There are 16 farmers, 16 fishermen, 12 weavers, 12 day-labourers, 9 tailors, 7 wrights, 6 smiths, 5 grocers, 2 trifling merchants, 3 masons, 2 coopers, 1 wheelwright, 1 baker, 1 brewer, 1 gardener, and 1 shoemaker\*.

*Heritors, Rent, Stipend, School, Poor.*—There are 6 heritors of this parish, but none reside in it. The valued rent is £. 656: 3: 04 Scots money. The real rent is between £. 4. 00

\* *Diseases*—There are no diseases peculiar to this parish; agues or intermitting fevers were formerly frequent, but are scarcely now found to occur, unless the person infected has brought the disease from another quarter. This may in some measure be owing to the greater attention that is now paid to diet, air, and cleanliness, and the more general use of animal food. Inoculation, though frequently practised, and always with success, has not yet become general. The prejudices of many have been so strong, as not to yield either to the apparent certainty of success, nor to the offer of having the attendance of a surgeon, employed by the parish at Dunglass.

L. 4000 and L. 5000 Sterling. The church is ancient, and very uncomfortable, but is soon to be repaired. There are Seceders, both of the Burgher and Auldburgher persuasions. The living, which is in gift of the Crown, consists of 2 bolls of wheat, 38 of barley, 50 of oats; with L. 40 : 16 : 8 Sterling, including L. 40 Scots for communion elements, and a glebe, of about 60 acres of arable land. The manse was repaired in 1791, and has a garden and outhouses.—There is an established schoolmaster in Gordon's parish, his salary is L. 100 Scots. He has a dwelling house, school-house, and garden.—Perquisites as session clerk may be about L. 1, 12 s. Sterling. From 40 to 60 children generally attend the school. The wages the quarter, for reading English, 1 s. 6 d.; writing, 2 s.; arithmetic, 1 s. 6 d.; and Latin, 5 s. There has always been a school at Auldambus, for the benefit of that part of the parish; but as there is no settled salary, and there is a vacancy at present, it is not probable it will be again filled up.—The poor at present on the roll are 6, all females but one, and several others receive a supply occasionally. There are no poor rates. The funds from which they are supplied, are, the interest of 500 merks, the collections at the church-door, and dues from private baptisms, and irregular marriages. Their allowance is therefore but small. None, however, beg; and as they are generally industrious, they make a tolerable shift. The lady of a gentleman, who resides in a neighbouring parish, and is principal heritor of this, assists and relieves many; and when they are in distress, supplies them with wine, bark, and other remedies. Were it not for her attention and liberality, the want of residing heritors, and of poor rates, would be severely felt.

*Fishing.*—There are 16 fishermen in the parish, who are employed in catching in their proper season, cod, ling,  
 . . . . . skate,

hake, whittings, flounders, lobsters, and crabs, &c. Haddock, which for some years had disappeared, have this spring been again found in considerable quantities, but the price is greatly advanced. For many years, the best haddock were sold at 4s. the score, and now they sell at from 2s. to 5s. The herring-fishing is, sometimes, very advantageous; in some seasons, above 200 boats have been employed at the Cove, and been very successful. The white fish is in general sold to carriers, who take them to Musselburgh, from whence they are carried on women's backs to the Edinburgh market. The lobsters have, for many years, been sold by contract, at a fixed price for certain sizes, to Mr. Hall of Dunbar, who shipped them off to London. About 13 years ago, an attempt was made by Sir John Hall of Dungslass, to clear a haven, and make a harbour at the Cove. The wall was considerably advanced, when a strong wind, from the N. E. raised such a heavy sea, as almost entirely destroyed the work, and it was not again renewed. A road had been cut through a rock, for an easy access to the shore, by which carts still pass under ground, about 60 yards. Cellars were also cut out of the solid rock, and would have been very useful and commodious.

**Roads.** This parish has the peculiar advantage of being intersected by public roads, which afford easy and convenient communications to all quarters. The great eastern road from Edinburgh to London by Berwick, passes through the parish, putting it nearly from S. E. to N. W.; the road from Dunbar to Dunfermline cuts it from north to south; and a new road is lately begun, but not yet opened, by which it is proposed to form an easy and short communication between East Lothian and Berwickshire, along a valley, which passes near Renton, in the parish of Coldingham.



**Goldingham.** Besides these, there is a number of roads out along the steep banks, in order to procure sea-weed for manure, which is driven in at 6 different places on the shore of this parish. The post-road crosses three of the ravines already mentioned, as intersecting this parish; first, the Dungal's burn, at its entry on the west side, over an old bridge, which is very inconvenient; next, at the Tower; and lastly over the Peas. It crosses the two last by bridges, built in the year 1786, when the road was altered, in order to avoid the very dangerous pass which it crossed near the sea. The Peas bridge is 123 feet from the bottom of the water of the burn to the top of the rail; it is 300 feet long, with the parapet walls, 15 feet wide, and 6 feet from the level of the road to the top of the rail; in passing by the Peas bridge, the road is lengthened between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile; but a great saving is obtained in point of level, as the level of the present bridge is 200 feet in perpendicular height, above the spot at which the old road crossed the Peas burn, near the sea; and the old road upon the east side rose through a perpendicular height of 150 feet, at a declivity of nearly one in five.

*Woods, &c.*—About Dungal's, there is a great deal of fine wood and valuable trees, some of which are in this parish; a small part of these woods is natural, or has sprung as stock shoots from natural wood cut over, but by far the greatest part was planted about the beginning of this century. There are about 100 acres of natural oaks, called Penmishiel wood, about half of which have been cut since the year 1750. None have been cut for the last 10 years, the remainder are about as old as the century. There is also a good deal of wood on the sides of many of the deep ravines, with which the parish is intersected. Fuel is scarce and expensive. Some peat and turf are used, but

but in general coals. They are mostly brought from Dunbar, where they cost from 5s. to 11s. the boll, which is 11½ cwt. with the addition of carriage. They this winter cost sometimes 14s. the boll, and were often not to be had at any rate. Wages are much the same here as in the neighbouring parishes, and are stated in their accounts.

*Antiquities.*—Part of the church still remains at Auld-cambus, called St Helen's Kirk. From the nature of the building, and other circumstances, it is supposed to have been erected some time in the seventh century. About a quarter of a mile from the Peas bridge, the remains of an ancient castle are still standing, called the Old Tower. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength, but nothing certain is known concerning it. This parish, lying near the boundary of the kingdoms, and containing many very strong military passes, has been frequently the scene of war; and this appears, by the camps of various kinds still visible on many of the rising grounds, and by the traces of military entrenchments in the glens.

NUM.

## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF CLOSEBURN,

(COUNTY AND SYNOUD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF  
PENFORD.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW YORSTOUN.*

*Situation, Name, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Closeburn is distant from the town of Dumfries 12 miles. The original name of the parish was Kilosburn, or, as it is spelled in a very old deed, Kelosbern, from *Cella Osburni*. It was at first but of small extent, and the church seems to have been intended chiefly for the accommodation of the family of Closeburn, and its dependents. To that very ancient and respectable family the whole parish belonged, and in their possession it remained for several centuries. The present representative of the family has a charter of confirmation, which was granted to one of his predecessors in the beginning of the 13th century. To satisfy the demands of importunate creditors, the estate of Closeburn was exposed to sale in the year 1783, and was bought by the Reverend James Stuart Montcath,

Monteath, Rector of Barrowby in Lincolnshire. Clofeburn is quite furrounded by the parifh of Dalgarno, which was annexed to it in the year 1697; and the extent of the two united, is about 9 or 10 miles in length, and as much in breadth, meafuring from the extremities. Near where the church of Dalgarno flood, there was a village, which, though there are now no remains of it, was in former times a place of confiderable note, being a burgh of regality, to whose jurifdiction a very confiderable extent of country was fubject.

*Stipend, &c.*—The patronage of the united parifhes having been fold along with the eftate of Clofeburn, now belongs to Mr Stewart Monteath. The ftipend was augmented in the year 1786, and is now L. 70 in money, 2 chalders of meal, and 1 of bear, with L. 5 for communion-elements. The glebe is very fmall, no ground having ever yet been fet off for paffurage, either in Clofeburn or Dalgarno. The glebe of Dalgarno, confifting of 4 acres and nearly one half, was exchanged in the year 1732 for 3 acres and one rood, lying contiguous to the glebe of Clofeburn, which, in confequence of this addition, meafures about 6 acres. The church was built about 50, and the manfe about 30 years ago; confiderable reparations were made upon both about 15 years ago; and they are now much better than is common in country parifhes.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webfter's report, the population in 1755, was 999. The number of inhabitants in the year 1778, was between 1000 and 1100. Laft year, (1791), they amounted to 1490. This great increafe has been occafioned by extenfive lime-works in the parifh, the divifion of farms, making of roads, and other improve-

ments. From the same causes, population still continues to increase.

Number of males,	729	Labourers,	-	80
— — females,	761	Masons,	-	6
Proprietors of land, of		Carpenters,	-	8
whom 3 reside in the		Weavers,	-	7
parish,	6	Tailors,	-	4
Tenants,	83	Shoemakers,	-	3
Subtenants,	30	Blacksmiths,	-	5

Marriages in the year, from 9 to 12.

Births ————— from 35 to 40.

Burials ————— from 27 to 32.

From the increase of population, it may be supposed that there is a great number of houses lately built in the parish. Some of these indeed, being built by subtenants at their own expense, are but indifferent; and it is a little unfortunate, that these poorest houses are built along the great road which passes through the parish. Travellers, from the mean appearance of these houses, are apt to form an unfavourable opinion of the country. But the principal farmers are generally lodged pretty comfortably. The new proprietor of Closeburn has built a very excellent house for himself, large, substantial, and commodious\*.

: *Schools, Poor.*—The parish of Closeburn is remarkably well supplied with schools, though there is no legal salary provided

\* The situation of the parish is in general healthy. But there are no very extraordinary instances of longevity in it. The oldest man at present in it is aged 92 or 93; he is now become frail and infirm, but not so much so as might be expected in such an advanced age. His employment has always been that of a sheep farmer. There is another old man, whose

provided for a schoolmaster. In room of a legal salary, the proprietor of Clofeburn has, for a great many years, been in use to give a small sum of money yearly, to a person named by himself to teach English, writing and arithmetic, in any part of the parish he himself thought proper. But the principal school of the parish is that which, in honour of its founder, is called the school of Wallacehall: John Wallace, merchant in Glasgow, a native of Clofeburn, in the year 1723, mortified L. 1600, for the purpose of erecting this school\*. The reputation of the school of Wallacehall was raised very high by the late rector Mr Alexander Mundell, and there is every reason to expect, that under his son and successor, it will preserve that reputation it has very justly acquired. The situation of this school

whose age, from his own account, is 89. He was long gardener to the family of Clofeburn; but for some years his only employment has been going errands. He is yet a healthy and vigorous man, and walks sometimes 7 or 8 miles in a forenoon, without being fatigued. In the churchyard of Dalgarno there is a tombstone, under which are buried a father and mother, with their son and his wife, whose ages, all added together, amount to 350 years.

\* The presbytery of Penpont were appointed trustees for the management of the fund, judging of the qualifications of the teachers, and watching over the interests of the school. In the management of the fund, the Laird of Clofeburn was to be consulted. Five patrons were appointed to nominate the rector of the school, viz. John Wallace of Elderlie, Thomas Wallace of Cairnhill, and Michael Wallace, merchant in Glasgow, three brothers, the minister of Clofeburn, and town-clerk of Glasgow, for the time being. In the election of a rector, it is recommended to the patrons to give a preference to one of the name of Wallace, if equally qualified. Of the money mortified by Mr Wallace, L. 200 was laid out in building a school-house and dwelling-house for the rector, and in purchasing 5 acres of ground contiguous to the school, for the rector's use; L. 1145 was laid out in purchasing lands at some distance; and the remainder was at first put out to interest, but has since been applied, towards enclosing the land, and enlarging the rector's house.

school is healthy. There is at present good accommodation for boarders, and will be still better very soon, the rector being about to build a large and commodious new house; and every attention is paid both to the morals and education of those under his care. This school is indeed not only a blessing to the parish, but a public good to the country.—The only provision for the poor of the parish is a fund of L. 100, lent to a Banking Company at 4 *per cent.* the weekly collections amounting to about L. 32 or L. 33 a-year, and some small fines, together with money received for the use of a mort-cloth, amounting to L. 2 or L. 3 a-year. The number of poor is from 20 to 25. Of these, a few depend wholly upon what they receive out of the parish; and others are capable of doing a little work, which, with a small aid from the weekly collections, serves for their support.

*Measurement, Soil, Rental, Stock, &c.*—The lands in this parish have almost all been measured. The amount of the whole is about 28,000 acres; 1900 of which are annually in crop. The soil is various. Along the river Nith,

house. The land is at present rented at L. 90, including public burdens, which amount to L. 14 : 17 : 11. But the lease expires next Whitsunday, (*i. e.* Whitsunday 1793.) and a new lease has been given at the yearly rent of L. 175. The branches of education which the deed of mortification requires to be taught at this school, are, reading English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, Latin and Greek. But besides these, French, geography, and sometimes mathematics, are also taught. The English, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping classes, are taught by an usher, named by the rector, and approved of by the presbytery. His salary is paid by the rector, and is by the deed of mortification appointed to be L. 10 a-year and his board, or L. 18 without his board. The rector is likewise obliged to pay L. 5 a-year to a person named by the minister, to teach English in a remote part of the parish, which, on account of the distance, cannot reap any benefit from the other schools. All these schools are free to the children of the parish.

Nith, which forms the western boundary of the parish, is to be found a fine rich loamy soil. To the eastward, the ground rises a little, and the soil becomes light, dry, and sandy. Farther on, in the same direction, the ground rises still more, and there the soil is strong and deep, with a mixture of clay; to the eastward of this again are extensive moors, unfit for tillage, but affording very good pasture for sheep. The rental of the parish is about L. 3500. The farmers are rather unwilling to publish the stock and crop upon their farms; but according to the nearest calculation, the amount of the whole may be about 11,000 sheep, 1200 black cattle, and 250 horses, all ages included.

*Sheep.*—The sheep generally kept are the short black-faced kind, and the farmers seem to have no inclination to change the breed, but are at pains to improve it. It is computed that every score of such sheep will yield fully 3 stones of wool; of course, there ought to be 1650 stones produced in the parish annually; but, owing to a number of sheep of one and two years old being fold off before the time of sheep-shearing, the quantity actually produced does not much exceed 1400 stones. The wool is generally sold at 6s. or 7s. the stone; but it has lately become a practice with several of the farmers in this and the neighbouring parishes to wash their sheep before they are clipped. This no doubt lessens the weight of their wool, but it brings them a price for it so much higher, as more than to compensate for the loss of weight, and for the trouble of washing; wool, which otherwise would not have brought more than 6s. the stone, being washed in this manner will bring 8s. \*

#### *Husbandry.*

\* There is an account still in preservation of the sheep and wool upon the barony of Clofeburn at the beginning of this century, written in the proprietor's



*Husbandry.*—The mode of husbandry is not uniform throughout the parish; but that which prevails most is, after liming the ground to take 2, sometimes 3 crops of oats, after these a green crop of potatoes, turnips, and pease, and then to lay it out with barley, or bear and grafs. The quantity of ground occupied by each of these kinds of crop is not exactly ascertained, but is conjectured to be about 1500 acres in oats; from 20 to 30 in wheat; 130 in barley; 70 in bear; 120 in potatoes; 30 or 40 in turnips; 40 or 50 in pease; and about 200 in clover and rye-grafs. The potatoes and turnips are all horse-hoed, and in no country are better crops of these raised than in this. Potatoes are supposed to be half the food of the labouring people through all this country; and when there are more than can be used by the people, they are found to be of great advantage in feeding horses, cows, and swine; hence the raising good potatoe crops is an object of importance, and if the farmers of this country have approached perfection in any thing, it is in this branch of husbandry. The nature of the soil is well adapted to this kind of crop, and the

proprietor's own hand; from which it appears, that there were then upon that barony 6740 sheep, yielding 537 stoncs of wool. The number kept at present upon the same lands is only 3960, which, allowing 3 stoncs of wool to the score of sheep, will yield 594 stoncs; so that though the number of sheep be less by almost two-fifths, yet the quantity of wool is greater. The reason of this remarkable difference in the number of sheep is, that at the beginning of this century the sheep were much smaller, consequently the lands could keep more of them; besides, the farmers then overstocked their farms; and a third reason is, that a great deal of land, which was then fit only for common sheep-pasture, has since been improved, and is now good corn-land. Farms, upon which at that time considerable flocks were kept, have not now a single sheep upon them. The disproportion with respect to the quantity of wool may be accounted for from the larger size of the sheep, from their being in better condition, and from their being heavier smeared than they formerly were.

the beneficial effects of lime discover themselves remarkably; both by improving the quality and increasing the quantity of potatoes\*.—There is nothing remarkable in the implements of husbandry commonly used. The plough in most general use is the Scots plough, which, the land being somewhat stony, is found to answer better than any other. It is made light, and is for most part drawn by two horses. One-horse carts are much in use; and it is found, that more work can be done, and with more ease both to man and horse, by these carts, than can be done by the same number of men and horses with two-horse carts. There is scarcely a farmer in the parish who has not two, some have three, some four carts.

*Markets.*—The only market for black cattle is Dumfries. From this parish there are sold annually about 100 come to age, whose price for three or four years has been about L. 5 the head; 60 of 2½ years old, at L. 4; and 250 of 1½ years old, at L. 2, 10s. The markets for sheep are Appleby and Staighaw, in England; Lockerby, Langholm, and Linton, in Scotland. The number sold annually is about 3700 lambs, whose price for some years has been from 3 to 5 guineas the score, that is, for 21, one being always given in to the score; 780 hogs or sheep, of a year old past, from L. 8 to L. 11 the score; and dinmonts, or sheep of two years, at from L. 10 to L. 13 the score. Hardly any are sold beyond that age. Wool is generally bought up at the farmers houses, and carried into England to be manufactured there. It is an observation in every body's mouth, that

\* People begin to sow, if the season permit, about the middle of March, and it is generally near the middle of May before all is finished. Harvest commences for the most part about the 20th of August, and in tolerable seasons all is got in by the end of September.

that nothing is wanting but the establishment of manufactures to put this country into a most prosperous and flourishing state. What every body wishes will surely be attempted some time or other; and if any person or company should erect an woollen manufacture any where in this neighbourhood, they would probably find it turn out to their own advantage, as well as to the good of the public. The markets for corn and meal are, Dumfries, distant, as has been already mentioned, 12 miles; Wanlockhead, distant 18 miles; and Leadhills, distant 19 miles. The quantity usually sold from this parish has not been ascertained, for a reason already given, that the farmers are not generally inclined to publish the whole produce of their farms\*.

*Lime-works.*—The lime-works of Closeburn deserve particular notice. By improving the land, and exciting a spirit of industry in the people, they have proved a public blessing to the country, as well as a source of wealth to the proprietor. The lime-rock was discovered many years ago, but was in a great measure neglected till Sir James Kirkpatrick, the late proprietor of Closeburn, took it into his own management. It is just about 20 years since he began to carry on that work, and from that period the country has been improving with astonishing rapidity. It has been observed, that the soil of Closeburn is various; but that which prevails most in the arable part, is the light, dry, sandy soil; and the people imagined that in place of being improved, it would be quite burnt up, and rendered useless by lime. To conquer vulgar prejudices is always a difficult matter. Indeed, nothing but long experience can entirely

\* The price of meal fluctuates from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. the stone, being seldom above the one, or below the other. Barley is from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. the bushel; but it sometimes is so high as 3 s. 6 d. and even 4 s.

entirely fubdue them. Hence the ufe of premiums. Men muft fometimes be bribed to purfue their own intereft. They cannot, without fome powerful inducements, be prevailed upon to give up their old cuftoms, and to adopt thofe improvements which, after a fair trial, fufficiently recommend themfelves. In the prefent cafe, the proprietor of Clofeburn found it neceffary to oblige his tenants in their leafes to lime a certain quantity of their land yearly, he furnifhing the lime, and even paying for the carriage of it; and they, on their parts, being bound to pay 5 s. additional rent for every 80 meafures, which were confidered as fufficient for an acre. To men of a fmall capital, who could not afford to be at the expenfe of liming their ground themfelves, this fcheme was evidently beneficial. In place of advancing the money out of their own pockets, they had to pay little more than the intereft of it; at the fame time, the proprietor improving his eftate, and receiving good intereft for his money, was, upon the whole, no lofer, though greatly in advance. But even in this way, fo favourable to the tenant, the greateft quantity any of them would agree to lime was two acres in the year; fome of them would lime no more than half an acre; and others could hardly be prevailed upon at all to make the experiment. Such was the averfion of the people in this country to the ufe of lime as a manure for land, when the lime-works of Clofeburn were firft begun in the years 1772, 1773, and 1774; but experience has conquered their prejudices, and neither compulfion nor arguments are any longer neceffary. The lime cofts 9 d. the meafure at the lime-works, each meafure containing two Dumfries pecks heaped, or about 2½ Winchefter bufhels. The reafon of this high price is, the deep cover, and the diftance from coal. The coal is all brought from Sanquhar, which is 14 miles from Clofeburn. It is fold at 7 d. the meafure when laid down at the lime-

works. The measure is the same with that by which the lime is sold; and one measure of coals is hardly sufficient to burn three of lime. The quantity of lime commonly laid upon an acre is from 60 to 80 measures, and there are from 60,000 to 70,000 measures sold annually at the lime-works. There is another lime-work in the neighbourhood, which was begun about seven years ago by Sir James Kirkpatrick, and at which a very considerable quantity of lime is sold; but, notwithstanding this, the demand at Closeburn has not in the least decreased; a strong proof of the progressive improvement of the country. Indeed, within the space of 20 years, the country has been made to put on quite a new face; for dirty croft, and poor outfield crops of gray oats, and small bear, or big, rich crops of excellent oats, barley, wheat and pease, potatoes, turnips, and sown grasses, are almost every where to be seen. Ground, which formerly paid not more than 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. the acre, now pays 15 s. and some of it is even sublet at a guinea. The rents of the farms in general are more than doubled, yet the tenants live incomparably better than when they paid not the half of the present rents. Closeburn, from being in a great measure a bleak and barren, has become a pleasant and fertile spot in itself, and affords ample means of improvement to all the neighbouring country. All this has been brought about by the enterprising spirit of one man, whose name will long be revered in this country\*.

*Fuel,*

\* *Price of Labour.*—The price of labour has increased with the improvement of the country. Twenty years ago, L. 4 a-year were thought good wages for a labouring man kept in the house, and half as much for a woman. A labourer's wages, without his victuals, were in the long day half a merk, or 6 d. 8-12ths, and in the short day 5 d.; but now the wages of a labouring man in the house are from 6 to 8 guineas in the year, and of a woman from 2½ to 4 guineas. A labourer's wages with-  
out

*Fuel, Woods.*—There is plenty of peat in the parish; but yet fuel can not easily be procured in sufficient quantities by poor people, who have not the command of horses. Coal, though brought 14 miles, is found to be a cheaper fire than peat got at the distance of 2 or 3 miles; yet the poor people place their chief dependence upon peat. The woods in this parish are pretty extensive. There are about 200 acres of natural wood, and about 300 acres of thriving plantations.

*Hills and Game.*—The principal hills are Queensberry, Garrick Heights, and Auchinleck. From the first of these, the Duke of Queensberry takes his title, though only one half of it is his property. Upon the top of this hill, grows a small berry, commonly called the Nub Berry. It bears some resemblance to the bramble berry, and is pleasant enough to the taste. It is not improbable, that the hill might derive its name from this berry, which perhaps might be called the Queen of Berrys, or Queensberry, as being thought the most delicious of wild berries. This, however, is but mere conjecture. The hill of Queensberry rises about 2000 feet above the level of the sea, from which it is distant about 20 miles. The moors in this parish used to abound with black-fowl and grouse, and the low-grounds with partridges: But of late, all kinds of game have become scarce\*.

#### *Rivers,*

out his victuals, where he gets constant employment, are 14 d. in the long day, and 10 d. in the short day. When employed only occasionally his wages are still higher.

\* The reason commonly assigned for its scarcity, is the too eager desire to preserve it. By the severity of the game-laws, the country people, especially the shepherds, are deprived of a favourite amusement; and to  
avenge

*Rivers, Crichup Linn.*—The river Nith forms the natural boundary between the parishes of Clofeburn and Keir, Clofeburn lying upon the east, and Keir upon the west of that river. But probably, on account of the river's having changed its course, there are two pretty large farms belonging to the parish of Clofeburn, which now lie upon the western side. This beautiful river having been already taken notice of, in the Statistical Accounts of some other parishes, it is unnecessary to say much about it here. It runs 5 or 6 miles along the western side of this parish, through extensive holms, now highly cultivated. These holms, on each side, terminate in sloping banks, covered partly with natural wood, and partly with thriving plantations. Several genteel houses have lately been built at small distances, and within view of one another. The whole together affords a prospect as rich and beautiful as is to be seen almost in any country. The fish in the river Nith are, salmon, gilfes, sea-trouts, hirlings, and burn-trouts. Besides the Nith, there are several smaller waters or burns, as they are called, in the parish, in all of which there is a good deal of burn-trout. The only one of these, which deserves particular notice, is, that which is called Crichup, remarkable for its singular course. It takes its rise from a moss,  
near

avenge themselves for the oppression they think they suffer in this respect, they are said in the spring, and beginning of summer, whilst they tend their flocks, to look out for the nests, and destroy the eggs of the game. In this way, they are said to do more hurt to the game than ever they could do with their guns. There are, however, other reasons for the scarcity of game. A great deal more heath is burnt now than formerly; consequently, the moor-game are more exposed to the birds of prey, which are their greatest destroyers. The sown-grass affords an early shelter to the partridges. They, therefore, very commonly make their nests in it; but before they bring out their young, the grass is generally cut, and their eggs of course destroyed. All these causes probably contribute to render the game more scarce than in former times.

near the northern extremity of the parifh. Not far from its fource, it forms a very beautiful cascade, by falling over a precipice of about 80 or 90 feet in height, and almoft perpendicular. About half a mile below this, the water has, in the courfe of ages, hollowed out to itfelf a ftrait paffage through a hill of red free ftone, forming what in Scotland is called a linn, peculiarly romantic. This linn, from top to bottom, is upwards of 100 feet; and though 20 deep, it is yet fo ftrait at the top, that one might eafily leap acrofs it, were it not for the tremendous profpect below, and the noife of the water running its dark courfe, and by its deep murmuring, affrighting the imagination\*.

*Antiquities.*—There are hardly any antiquities in this parifh worth being mentioned, except an old caftle, belonging to the family of Clofeburn, which bears no infcription,

\* Inacceffible in a great meafure to real beings, this linn was confidered as the habitation of imaginary ones; and at the entrance into it, there was a curious cell or cave, called the Elf's Kirk, where, according to the fuperftition of the times, the imaginary inhabitants of the linn were fuppofed to hold their meetings. This cave proving a good free-ftone-quarry, has lately been demolifhed, for the purpofe of building houfes, and from being the abode of elves, has been converted into habitations for men. In the times of perfecution, the religious flying from their perfecutors, found an excellent hiding place in Crichup Linn; and there is a feat, in form of a chair, cut out by nature in the rock, which having been the retreat of a fhoe-maker in thofe times, has ever fince born the name of the Sutor's Seat. Nothing can be more ftriking than the appearance of this linn from its bottom. The darknefs of the place, upon which the fun never fhines; the ragged rocks, rifing over one's head, and feeming to meet at the top, with here and there a blafed tree, burfting from the crevices; the rumbling of the water falling from rock to rock, and forming deep pools; together with fome degree of danger to the fpectator, whilft he furveys the ftriking objects that prefent themfelves to his view; all naturally tend to work upon the imagination. Hence many fabulous ftories are told, and perhaps were once believed, concerning this curious linn.



tion, date, coats of arms, ornaments or figures, that can lead to any probable conjecture, as to the time of its being built. But from the style of building, it is supposed to be about 800 years old. A particular description and drawing of this castle, together with an account of the ancient and present families possessing it, may be seen in Mr Grose's *Antiquities of Scotland*. Upon the farm of Kirkpatrick in this parish, there are the remains of an old chapel and burying ground; and upon the farm of Auchencairn, there are the remains of an old vaulted building. But no traditionary account with respect to either of these, has been transmitted down to the present age. There are likewise, in different parts of the parish, several large cairns of stones heaped together. But neither is there any tradition with respect to them.

*Loch and Mineral Wells.*—The castle of Closeburn was surrounded by a fosse, which was connected with a loch of nearly a quarter of a mile in length. In this loch, there was a remarkable agitation in the year 1756, of which an account is given in the *Philosophical Transactions* of that year. At a small distance from the castle of Closeburn, there is a mineral well, which was once of considerable repute. Its water is sulphureous, and has often been of service in scrofulous cases. There is another of the same kind in the Duke of Queensberry's lands of Lockerben; and there is another mineral well of a different kind, known by the name of the Town Cleugh Well. It is pretty strongly impregnated with iron, and its name points out its situation. The Cleugh, where it is, is called the Town Cleugh, from its vicinity to a small village called Closeburn Town, of which the only remains now are a part of the Cross, which is not yet totally destroyed.

*Roads*

*Roads and Bridges.*—Confiderable improvements have been made upon the roads in this parifh. The great turnpike road in particular, from Dumfries, to Glasgow and Ayr, which goes through this parifh, does much credit to the judgment of the gentlemen who marked out the direction of it. Upon this road, there is a comfortable inn at Brownhill, in this parifh, which divides the way pretty equally between Dumfries and Sanquhar, and at which travellers may expect to be treated with every civility. The parifh is alfo well fupplied with bridges over every little brook; where a bridge is at all needed, an arch is thrown, and the communication of one part of the parifh with another, by this means, rendered eafy at all times.

*Character of the People.*—In fo populous a parifh, it is impoffible but that there muft now and then be a few diforderly perfons. But it would be very unfair to judge of the general character of the people from the conduct of a few individuals, or from a few irregularities committed in the intemperate ufe of whifky. Within the memory of man, no inhabitant of this parifh has ever been guilty of fuidice; none has ever fuffered death by the hand of the executioner; none has ever been banifhed from his country; none has ever been fo much as *tried* for murder, theft, or any capital crime. They are upon the whole a quiet, fober, honeft, and induftrious people. The farmers in particular are a very decent fet of men, attentive to their bufinefs, juft in their dealings, civil and obliging in their manners.

## NUMBER XVIII.

## PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-FLEEMING,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF  
ANNAN.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MONILAWS\*.

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*Extent, Name, Surface, Plantations, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Kirkpatrick-Fleeming, comprehending in its present state the united parishes of Kirkconnell, Irving, and Kirkpatrick-Fleeming, (annexed some time before the Reformation), extends in length from the northern to its southern extremity, about 6 miles; but the distance between the E. and W. boundaries, in different parts of

\* The Statistical Account of this parish is made up, partly from the papers transmitted by the Rev. Mr Monilaws, and partly from additional information supplied by another gentleman, whose name was not communicated; but whose accuracy, it has been assured, from respectable authority, may be relied upon.

of the parish, varying exceedingly, the mean breadth will not exceed 3 miles, containing in all about 9000 Scots acres. Its form is nearly an oblong square, but very irregular, particularly towards the W. and S. corners, where it is bounded by Dornock and Greta. The origin of the name Kirkpatrick is obvious; being a cell or church, dedicated to St Patrick, who, though a native of Scotland, became the tutelary saint of Ireland, and whose memory, the piety and reverence of his countrymen, seem to have honoured with the consecration of several churches\*.

The appearance of the country in this district, which gently rises from the S. towards the N. by a gradual succession of waving swells, presents at the same time no unpleasing variety, and a most striking contrast. In several parts, the lands are in a high state of cultivation, enclosed and sheltered with natural woods and plantations; while here and there large tracts of uncultivated ground, still retaining its original heath, meet the eye. Excepting the mosses, however, of which there are several tracts of very considerable extent in the parish, few parts are so exceedingly coarse and wild, as in the course of the present increasing spirit of improvement, not to afford the pleasing hopes of gradually disappearing to a certain degree.—Of woods and plantations, there may be, at an average, 290 or 300 acres. One natural wood, belonging to Mr Irving

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of

\* Kirkconnell, in like manner, seems to have taken its name from Connell, a Scots saint, who flourished in the beginning of the 7th century, to whom doubtless the church was originally dedicated; or by whom, there is some reason to think, it might have been settled and consecrated. The origin of Fleeming and Irving is likewise evident; these being the names of two very ancient and respectable families, who in former times enjoyed large and considerable possessions in this part of the country, and whose consequence seems, for the sake of distinction, to have given name each to its respective parish.

of Cove, upon the banks of Kirtle, of about 40 or 45 acres, and consisting in general of oak, has been twice cut within the space of 53 years; and besides many occasional advantages arising from weedings of small wood, at different times, left the proprietor near L. 600. Upon the estate of Springkell, lying within this parish, there are many thriving strips, clumps, &c. consisting of Scots, spruce, silver, and balm of Gilead firs, larch, oak, ash, birch, and various other barren timber: Not less than 150 acres of these have been planted by the present Sir William Maxwell since 1761. Upon the estates of Mofsknow, Allerbeck and Langshaw, are upwards of 50 acres of thriving clumps, strips, &c. which do honour to the judgment and taste of the several proprietors, and have rendered a place of the country, formerly bare and bleak, one of the most pleasant spots in Annandale.

*Soil.*—The soil varies exceedingly; and soils which appear in other respects much the same, become more or less valuable from the bottoms upon which they lie. In many parts, it consists of a strong red earth, with a large mixture of sand, to a considerable depth; which, when lying upon a gravelly bottom, as is generally the case along the side of the river, is deservedly esteemed land of the first quality; and when under proper culture, and good management, produces the most luxuriant crops of every kind. A soil nearly the same, but more shallow, is frequently to be met with, upon a bottom inclining to clay and gravel, which, though land of an inferior quality, is perhaps to the farmer equally valuable as the former; though less capable of producing crops of wheat, it is easier cultivated and managed, and generally yields crops of every other kind, in equal abundance. The same kind of earth, with a very small mixture of sand, frequently makes its appearance upon

upon a strong brick clay bottom, exceedingly cold, and almost impenetrable by water. Where this is the case, the soil is wettest, requires a stronger culture, and is always later, and more dependent upon the seasons. The crops least liable to disappoint the expectations of the husbandman upon this soil, are oats and grass. A second kind of soil, consisting of a whitish clay, from 12 to 20 inches deep, in some parts rich and loamy, and sometimes mixed with a little moss, forms a great part of the parish. This soil being almost constantly upon the clayey bottom, is wettest and uncertain. When, however, excited by lime and other stimulating manures, it generally produces oats and grass in abundance. Most of the lands lately broken up, and those still remaining in a natural state, will, in the course of improvement, become of this complexion. The present surface, which, to the deepness of 10 or 12 inches, inclines to moss, and which seems to have been formed, from the putrefaction of coarse vegetables, which have from time to time sprung on its surface, experience proves, will disappear in the course of 15 years; or even in a period much shorter than this, by repeatedly fallowing. The value of moor for pasture may, at an average, be called 3 s. a acre; that of arable land, from 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s.

*Agriculture.*—The wretched mode of cultivation, which formerly prevailed all over this country, begins now gradually to disappear, and a more extensive and liberal system of agriculture has been adopted. The intelligent farmer is now fully convinced, that a well chosen rotation of crops, and regular cessation from tillage, by laying his fields out under grass, are of the utmost importance in husbandry. With a view to render this more general, the chief heritors in this parish have prescribed in lease a particular mode

mode of rotation, which certainly hath not been without effect. The following rotation of crops is most generally pursued. The summer, previous to breaking up the ground, or if convenient, an year earlier, 25, or if the bottom is cold and clayey, 30 Carlisle bushels of shell-lime are laid upon each acre. After this preparation, the 1st crop is oats, which never fail to be exceedingly luxuriant; and a 2d, equally strong, might be expected; but, in this case, the ground would be much impoverished, and require its strength to be recruited for a barley crop in the 3d year, with a strong manure of dung, which every good farmer will study to manage with the greatest œconomy. After a slight preparation with a little dung, barley is sown the 2d year; the following crop is oats; and the 4th year it is in potatoes, turnips, and fallow. The 5th year is barley, with which it is sown down in grass-seeds. A different mode of rotation, sometimes is to defer liming until after 2 crops of oats. The 3d year it lies in fallow, or yields a potato crop, and receives the same quantity of lime as before mentioned. The 4th crop is wheat, and the following barley, with which it is sown down with grass-seeds. It lies in grass at least three years; and during the 2 first years, the 1st crop each year is generally cut. To cut it a 3d year, or even twice in 1 year, is deemed extremely prejudicial to the land. By the latter, the farmer is certainly more restricted, on account of his wheat crop, which requires the liming immediately to precede it. In this respect, the former has the advantage, as he not only reaps the benefit of the lime during the whole time his land is in crop, but enjoys this further advantage, that he can lime 2 or 3 years previous to the breaking up of his ground, which greatly increases the quantity of grass produced, and is by experience found to be in no degree detrimental to the following crops.

There

There being no marl in this district, the manures chiefly made use of for meliorating the soil, and raising crops, are lime, and the dung collected upon the different farms. Little attention has hitherto been paid to the melioration and improvement of pasture-grounds by manures, and it is only till within these few years that any attempts to raise crops of grass this way have been made; from the success with which these attempts have already been rewarded, it is to be hoped, that they will in future be frequently repeated. The manures used for this purpose, are, ashes, lime, and a composition of earth and lime; which last, when properly mixed and compounded, forms a very rich manure; and being spread plentifully upon the surface, never fails to be followed successively with 2, and sometimes 3 very rich and luxuriant crops of grass.

The crops to which most attention is paid in this parish, and which indeed most liberally reward the toils of the husbandman, are oats, barley, and potatoes. Of these, oats are the most general, and perhaps, upon the whole, the most valuable crop; a very considerable part of people's food depending on this grain. Yet notwithstanding what is exhausted this way, and in feeding horses, a large quantity is annually furnished for the market. The great difference between the average produce, and that of the best, is owing to the large quantity of land, not only coarse, but in bad heart, which is annually sown with this grain. Barley may be considered, in a great measure, an article for the market, though no inconsiderable quantity of it too, is sometimes manufactured into a flour, of which a bread is made abundantly pleasant, and esteemed exceedingly healthful. The potato crop, though in a less sensible manner, with equal certainty, repays the labours of the husbandman. As an article of food, potatoes are of infinite value in his family, and for feeding horses and  
cows,



cows, and rearing young cattle, they are perhaps surpassed by nothing. A great number of swine, which have for many years in this place been deemed a very lucrative branch of rural attention, is annually fed in this parish. Wheat and pease are not much sown, though the former generally answers well, being never sown but when the land is in high cultivation. The latter is rather an uncertain crop, and depends much on the season. Turnip are here a very precarious crop, and seldom compensate the trouble, expense, and labour of raising. The real produce and state of cultivation, will be best communicated to the Public in the form of the following Table, next page.

T A B L E.

T A B L E #.

of Kirkpatrick-Fleeming.

Crops.	No. of Acres under each.	The acre. Bef.	Produce. Average.	Total.	Average value.			Total.	Total value of produce.
					The Bushel.	The Acre.	The Stone.		
Oats, - - -	1375	20	10	13750	L. 0 6 0	L. 3 0 0	L. 4125 0 0	L. 5440 9 0	
Barley, - -	234	15	10	2340	0 9 0	4 10 0	1053 0 0		
Wheat, - -	22	12	10	220	0 16 0	5 0 0	176 0 0		
Peafe, - -	26	12	7	182	0 9 6	3 6 6	86 9 0		
Potatoes, -	1657	-	-	16,492	0 0 0	0 0 0	-	837 0 0	
Turnips, -	150	50	30	4500	0 3 0	4 10 0	675 6 0		
Straw, - -	204	-	-	-	0 0 0	0 0 0	-	1030 15 0	
Natural Grass, Sown	1657	-	9	16,492	0 1 3	0 11 3	1030 15 0		
Natural Grass, Sown	368	192	120	44,160	L. 0 0 4	2 0 0	736 0 0	2616 15 0	
Sown Grass	200	200	170	34,000	0 0 6	4 5 0	850 0 0		
Pasture of	568	-	-	78,160	0 0 0	0 0 0	-	1925 8 0	
Draught Horses, Young Horses, Cows, - - - Inferior Cattle, Sheep, - - -	255 105 631 862 426	L. 3 0 0 2 0 0 1 15 0 0 18 0 0 9 0	L. 1 0 0 0 15 0 1 0 0 0 10 0 0 2 0	L. 1 15 0 1 1 0 1 4 0 0 12 0 0 5 0	L. 446 5 0 110 5 0 745 4 0 517 4 0 106 10 0	1925 8 0 10,819 12 0			

The above table, though containing a pretty accurate statement of the extent of the present cultivation and produce of the parish, must by no means be regarded as a standard for future years, as annually large fields of land are taking in, and that which hath already been in tillage, is continually rising into higher degrees of cultivation.

*Stock.*—The number of stock kept in this district, is only small in proportion to its extent, owing to the large quantity of moss, and the little attention which hath hitherto been paid to the improvement of pasture-grounds. There is reason, however, to hope, that more attention will, in future, be turned to this object, which doubtless would be an essential benefit to the public, and could not fail liberally to repay both the proprietor and tenant. The black cattle, excepting the cows kept by one of the principal heritors, and a few others, are mostly of the Galloway breed. They are esteemed more hardy and firm, agree better with the pasture, and in general find a more ready market. There is a considerable number of work-horses kept in this parish, many of which are

Note for Page 255.

\* The only measure now used in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Fleming, and over the greatest part of Annandale, is the Carlisle peck, 4 of which make a Carlisle bushel. A quart, adjusted by the standard measure, kept at Carlisle, being a cylinder of 36 inches diameter, and 6 inches deep, contains 64.152 cubic inches; therefore the gallon contains 256.608; and 6 of these gallons being the Carlisle peck, it contains 1539.648 inches, which is a small fraction more than 14 Scots pints  $3\frac{2}{3}$  mutchkins, or is decimally 14.877 Scots pints; and 4 of those Carlisle pecks being a Carlisle bushel, one third of the said bushel is less than a Winchester bushel by 97.56 inches, or nearly 3 mutchkins, 3 gills Scots. The Scots pint here referred to, contains 10.342.

In grain of all kinds, sleek or even measure is used; but in lime measure, the peck is heaped; and in potato measure, generally 8 pecks, of sleek or even measure are allowed to the bushel, and this measure is meant in the foregoing Table.

are large and valuable; while, on the other hand, a very considerable part is small and of low value. Besides work-horses; a great number of young are likewise kept; and about 90 foals are annually bred in the parish. Of late, considerable attention has been paid both to the breed of horses and black cattle, formerly too much neglected. There are only a few sheep kept in this parish, and these are chiefly of the Eskdale breed.

T A B L E.

Stock.	Number	Valued at each.			Total.
		Best.	Inferior.	Average.	
Draught horses,	255	L. 25 0 0	L. 7 0 0	L. 13 0 0	L. 3315 0
Saddle and Carriage ditto,	15	60 0 0	25 0 0	45 0 0	675 0 0
Young ditto,	105	15 0 0	6 0 0	9 0 0	945 0 0
Cows, - -	621	9 0 0	3 0 0	4 15 0	2949 15 0
Inferior Cattle,	862	5 5 0	2 0 0	3 3 0	2715 0 0
Sheep, - -	426	1 15 0	0 15 0	1 0 0	426 0 0
Swine, - -	505	5 0 0	2 0 0	2 15 0	838 15 0
Total value of Stock, L.					11,864 10 0

*Exports and Imports.*—Though far distant from the utmost extent of improvement at which it is capable of arriving, this parish, besides maintaining its own inhabitants, makes very considerable exports; consisting of the following articles, and to the following amount, as nearly as can be ascertained. The articles imported into the parish, are, iron, coals, earthen and stone ware, liquors; and all other goods retailed by the shopkeepers, of which neither the value nor quantity can be precisely determined.

TABLE OF EXPORTS.

Articles ex- ported. Crops.	Quantity in Bushels.	Value		
		per Bushel.	Total.	
Barley, - -	1200	L. 0 9 9	L. 540 0 0	} L. 980 0 0
Oats, - - -	950	0 6 0	285 0 0	
Wheat, - -	170	0 16 0	136 0 0	
Pease, - - -	40	0 9 6	19 0 0	
			L. 980 0 0	
Stock.	Numbers of each.		Total.	
Draught horses,	25	L. 13 0 0	L. 325 0 0	} L. 2526 7 0
Young horses,	40	9 0 0	360 0 0	
Cows, - - -	70	4 15 0	332 10 0	
Inferior cows,	30	3 0 0	90 0 0	
Inferior cattle,	187	3 3 0	589 1 0	
Sheep, - - -	142	1 0 0	142 0 0	
Swine, - - -	250	2 15 0	687 10 0	
	<i>Firkins of each.</i>		L. 2526 1 0	
Butter, - - -	150	L. 1 10 0	L. 225 0 0	} L. 307 0 0
Cheese, - - -	Cwts. 30	1 8 0	42 0 0	
Eggs in dozens,	3200	0 0 3	40 0 0	
				} L. 3813 1 0 Tot. value of exports.

*Mills and Multure.*—There are 2 mills, one in each parish. The tenants upon each estate were formerly restricted to their respective mills, at a very high multure, amounting in some cases to nearly a tenth part of all the grain carried to the mill; and what is somewhat extraordinary, the tenant was obliged to pay a very considerable tax for all the grain he carried to market, without even the exception of wheat, which neither of the mills were capable of grinding. The proprietor, about 8 years ago, by letting the mill of Kirkconnell to that part of his tenantry under a striction thereto, relieved them of this grievance.

vance. The proprietor of Kirkpatrick mill likewise, at Whitsunday next, liberates his tenants from all astrictions of this kind. The other proprietors of this parish are under no grievances of this kind, excepting 2 farms, which are astricted to the mill of Kirkpatrick.

*Air and Climate.*—The air is rather moist, yet the inhabitants are in general robust and healthy, and the openness of the country around, and especially to the E. and S. may contribute to this very considerably. Few epidemical distempers have been known in this parish; the small-pox, which was wont to carry off many, is now become more favourable, by inoculation, which is every year becoming more general. No malignant fevers have been known for many years past; at times, the slow nervous fever makes its appearance, but few or none die of it, who otherwise enjoy a sound constitution. The rheumatism is the most common complaint; it is pretty general among the lower class of people, especially when advanced in life, and is not unfrequent even among those of better circumstances. The country being open and plain, and seldom infested with fogs, the air, upon the whole, is pure and healthful; situated at an inconsiderable distance from the Solway Frith, it enjoys, with respect to salubrity all the advantages, without experiencing, in a high degree, the thin and nipping chillness of a coast situation; and though exposed to frequent and strong gusts of wind, and heavy rains from the W. and S. yet these do not seem to be attended with any pernicious effects to the health of the inhabitants, many of whom live to an extended age. There is one who is 90, and another generally reputed at 100. But the most extraordinary instance of longevity that this parish can boast of, was a Thomas Wishart, who lived upon the estate of Mr Irving of Wyeshie; he  
was

was born in the parish of Finglassie, upon the 26th of September 1635, and died upon the 19th of December 1759, and consequently lived something more than 124 years: he retained the use of his faculties to the last; had lost none of his teeth; and had the use of his sight in such perfection, that he could thread a needle with ease. Not 2 days before his death, he travelled six miles upon very uneven ground; none ever heard him complain of his infirmity, but he frequently expressed much regret at funerals; envying the deceased, he was wont to say, "every body can die but me." There lives a woman at present in this parish, aged 96, who enjoys a considerable degree of health, is able to walk about, and at times to work a little.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 1147. The population of this district at any former period cannot be precisely ascertained, there being no parochial register, the accuracy of which can be depended upon. It must, however, upon the whole, have considerably increased, though by no means in so high a proportion, as the present state of population and health of the people might have led one to expect. This is owing to the greater number of emigrants, than the influx of strangers, and chiefly to the decay of 2 small villages, which about 20 years ago contained each upward of 100 inhabitants, and which at present do not contain both above 45. As no manufacture is carried on in this parish, the increase of population must be chiefly owing to the increasing spirit of agriculture. Many of the farms being formerly large, have, by the respective proprietors, been divided into 2, 3, and some even into more; and some farms have also been taken in from moors and commons, which were lately divided. The following

following is the present state of population, as taken in September last, with every degree of accuracy.

Souls in 1792, - - -	1542	Families, - - -	319
Males, - - -	720	Married persons, - - -	436
Females, - - -	822 *	Twins born within 10	
Under 10 years of age, - - -	369	years, - - -	14
Under 20, - - -	748	Bachelors, - - -	16
Under 30, - - -	1256	Unmarried women, a-	
Under 40, - - -	1495	bove 45, - - -	48
Under 50, - - -	1536	Widowers, - - -	18
Under 60, - - -	1541	Widows, - - -	71
Under 70, - - -	1542	Annual average of births	
Members of Established		for 7 years, - - -	40
Church, - - -	1480	———— of deaths, ditto, - - -	21
Seceders, - - -	52	———— of marriages, - - -	
Episcopalians, - - -	10	ditto, - - -	15
Males born out of the		———— of settlers for	
parish, - - -	247	10 years, - - -	13
Females ditto, - - -	291	———— of emigrants, - - -	
Persons born abroad, - - -	1	ditto, - - -	17
———— in Eng-		Average of children from	
land, - - -	42	each marriage, - - -	7
		Clergyman,	

\* The difference between the males and the females in this parish must strike the most inattentive observer. This difference must be accounted for chiefly from the longevity of the female, who on account of her domestic situation and manner of life, being less exposed to irregularity and accidents, may be said to enjoy a greater certainty of life than the male. This opinion is confirmed by the striking difference between the widowers and widows. A greater number of the males likewise emigrate. In the annual average of births for the last 7 years, the males are to the females in the proportion of 20 to 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

It



Clergyman,	-	1	Millers,	-	-	2
Surgeon,	-	1	Bakers,	-	-	2
Schoolmasters,	-	2	Gardeners,	-	-	3
Farmers, above L. 50,	17	17	Male farm-servants,	-	-	68
Ditto, under L. 50,	85	85	Female ditto,	-	-	15
Shopkeepers,	-	9	Male domestic servants,	-	-	9
Smiths,	-	6	Female ditto,	-	-	15
Masons,	-	21	Persons serving in the	-	-	
Carpenters,	-	18	navy last war,	-	-	7
Weavers,	-	36	Ditto in the army,	-	-	5
Shoemakers,	-	7	Cloggers *,	-	-	2
Tailors,	-	11				

*Inns,*

It deserves likewise to be remarked, that in ascertaining the average number of children from each marriage, the number was found to be greater in Kirkconnell than in Kirkpatrick by  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ; the former being 8, and the latter  $6\frac{1}{4}$ . Without entering into the physical cause, this tends to show that the increase of population is in proportion to the state of population in a country, and that it will always be less as countries become more and more populous. Kirkconnell is still considerably behind Kirkpatrick in population.

† A Clogger is a person whose employment consists in making clogs. As clogs are an article not generally used, and deserve to be better known a particular description of them may not be improper. They appear, many years ago, to have been introduced from Cumberland, and are now very generally used over all this part of the country, in place of coarse and strong shoes. All the upper part of the clog, comprehending what is called the upper leather and heel-quarters, is of leather, and made after the same manner as those parts of the shoe which go by the same name. The sole is of wood. It is first neatly dressed into a proper form; then, with a knife made for the purpose, the inside is dressed off, and hollowed so as easily to receive the foot. Next, with a different kind of instrument, a hollow or guttin is run round the outside of the upper part of the sole, for the reception of the upper leather, which is then nailed with small tacks to the sole, and the clog is completed. After this, they are generally shod or plated with iron by

*Inns, Morals, and Character.*—There are 5 public inns or ale-houses in the parish; and, it is reported, still a greater number of tippling-houses. The multiplication of public-houses, and so general use of spiritous liquors, are justly thought to have a pernicious effect upon the morals and character of the people. It ought, however, in justice to be mentioned, that there are, in this parish, comparatively speaking, few instances of that devotion to the bottle, of which numerous examples are not wanting around us. The people in this district are, upon the whole, virtuous, intelligent, sober, active, industrious, regular in their attendance upon public worship, and deservedly marked for their moderation and liberality of sentiment in religious matters. Comparatively few instances of fraud and dishonesty occur to require the interposition of the civil judge. They are kind and hospitable to strangers; benevolent without ostentation; and, when occasion requires, ready to relieve the wretched. Enjoying all of them the necessaries, and many of them, in a considerable degree, the conveniences of life, though ambitious of improving, they seem in general contented and happy in their present situation.

### *Roads,*

a blacksmith. The price of a pair of man's clogs is about 3s. including plating, and with the size, the price diminishes in proportion. A pair of clogs, thus plated, will serve a labouring man one year; or, if good care is taken of them, an year and a half; and at the end of that period, by renewing the sole and plating, they may be repaired so as to serve an year longer. Whether considered with respect to the price or utility, they are certainly preferable to shoes. They keep the feet remarkably warm and comfortable, and entirely exclude all damp, and thence are thought to contribute highly to the healthiness of the labouring part of the community.

*Roads, Rivers.*—The road from Carlisle to Glasgow, and Edinburgh, by Moffat, runs through the southern part of the parish; and, in the western corner, crosses the road from Annan to Edinburgh, by Langholm and Hawick. Both these roads are of infinite advantage to this parish, and have contributed highly to its improvement; and the former, by opening up a connexion between Carlisle and Glasgow, hath in an eminent degree promoted the extension of commerce and manufacture. Both roads were originally made, and are still kept in repair by the profits arising from a toll, levied in consequence of an act of Parliament obtained for that purpose. The interior roads in the parish are made and kept in repair with the sums arising from the commutation of the statute-labour. But so sensible are the tenants upon the estate of Springkell, lying in this and the neighbouring parishes, of the advantages arising from good roads, that independent of the statute-labour, which is commuted, they have voluntarily subscribed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. upon their rents, to be annually laid out in making and repairing roads within that estate; a circumstance which does them infinite honour. The proprietor himself gives  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. on his rental for the same purposes.—Kirtle is the only river in this parish †.

*Stipend,*

† It takes its rise in the parish of Middlebie; and falling upon the north corner of Kirkpatrick, divides the two parishes, for a space of more than 4 miles, and then crosses the parish in a S. E. direction. It is only a small stream, but pure and transparent. In it, there are trouts, eels, pike, perch, and some flounder; but not in such quantities, as to be an object worthy of attention. Its banks are in many parts well covered with natural woods and plantations, and in its course are exhibited much beautiful and romantic scenery. The burying ground of Kirkconnell is remarkably so. It is situated in a crook of the river, upon a rich holm of considerable extent. On the opposite side of the river, the banks, which are bold and simple, rise to a considerable height, and are all covered with

*Stipend, School, Rental, &c.*—The Earl of Hopetoun; and Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, are vice-patrons of the parish. The living has been augmented within these 6 months; and exclusive of L. 5 for communion-elements, consists of L. 60 in money, and 5 chalders of victual, the one half oat-meal, the other barley, a glebe of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and 14 acres of moor, which the present incumbent has enclosed and improved at a very considerable expense. The church was partly rebuilt about 15 years ago, and is at present in a state of complete repair. The manse was repaired in 1785, but is still very insufficient both in the walls and roof. The offices are in pretty good condition.—The parochial school-house was built within this 18 years, and hath been kept in very good repair. Two circumstances have concurred to render this school less beneficial to the inhabitants than could have been wished, *viz.* its situation, and the frequent change of schoolmasters. Being situated at one end of the parish, it can be of no service at all to the inhabitants of the other; and the want of a dwelling-house, and of a competent salary, have doubtless had an influence upon the frequent change of our teachers. The salary is only 100 merks Scots; the late Dr Graham of Mosknow, considering the difficulty which some poor parents labour under, in obtaining education for their children, and the pitiful salary of the schoolmaster, in great humanity mortified L. 5 a-year to the schoolmaster, for which he is to educate 8 poor children. The schoolmaster is also session-clerk, and hath some advantages from marriages, baptisms, and the writing of certificates.

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with thriving woods and plantations. The river Black Sark, though here distinguished by another name, has its source in the old parish of Kirkconnell. A considerable arm of White Sark may likewise be said to take its rise in this parish.

The average number of scholars for some years past has been about 45. There are other schools in the parish, but none of them have any fixed salary.

The valuation, rental, and general situation of the parish in other respects, are as follows :

Valued rent in Scots money,	-	L. 2700	Number of Carts,	-	202
			Ploughs,	-	104
			Houses in-		
		Sterling.	habited,	-	315
Real rent in the year			Ditto un-		
1772,	-	L. 1752	inhabited,	-	22
in the year			New hou-		
1792,	-	2870	ses built in 10 years,	-	52
Rents spent in the			Old pul-		
parish,	-	1947	led down,	-	25
Number of carriages,		3			

*Poor.*—The number of poor in this parish is considerable, and hath for some years past been increasing. This is owing to the advanced age of the day-labourers, the produce of whose labours are diminished, while their exigencies remain the same, or rather increase with the decay of nature. But the greater number consists of the widows of labouring men, who, with their children, are frequently upon the death of their husbands, left destitute of every support and provision. The number at present upon the roll is nearly 30. Of these, a part receive regular supply, and others occasionally, as their exigencies seem to require. There being no funds for their maintenance, they are supported chiefly by the weekly collections made in the church, which, with the money levied for the use of the

the moort-cloth, and some other perquisites, may amount to L. 30 annually \*.

*Fossils and Fuel.*—There is upon one of the proprietor's estate, a very considerable body of limestone of the first quality. The tenant, who farms the quarries, is bound by compact to supply the tenants upon the estate, at 7 d. the bushel; and for every bushel sold from the estate, 1 d. is paid to the proprietor, the only rent exacted. There has

\* There is every reason, however, to expect, that the number of poor in this parish will, in future, gradually decrease, with the more extensive operations of a society of a benevolent complexion, which about 7 years ago, was formed here, under the appellation of the Brotherly Society of Kirkpatrick-Fleeming. By this institution, it is intended, in the days of health and prosperity, to make provision for old age, sickness, and infirmity. Societies of this kind must have considerable influence upon the prosperity and happiness of a country, and consequently merit every attention and support. By combining the interests of individuals, they have a tendency to strengthen the social principle, and enlarge the circle of friendship; while, by the provision which is thus made for indigence and poverty, man is prevented from becoming burdensome to man. His wants are supplied without hurting the delicacy of nature, or checking that decent pride and independence of mind, which animate mankind to bear with fortitude the hardships of the most difficult and trying situations, and with patience to struggle against the turbulence and impetuosity of those evils, with which human life, in every situation, abounds. With pleasure the humble labourer, and useful artisan, may reflect, that while he is thus making provision for himself against the evil day, which may soon overtake him, the well-earned fruits of his present labours, now contribute to soothe the calamities, and soften the miseries of those around him. The plan upon which the Society proceeds, is this: Every member, upon admission, pays 2 s. 6 d. and while he continues a member, 1 s. 6 d. quarterly, which are added to the stock. The money thus collected is, according to certain stated and fixed regulations, distributed by the stewards to such members as are found proper objects of relief. The stewards are elected yearly, and responsible for their management during their continuance in office.

has also marble been found upon the same estate, which, though only polished in part, had a very beautiful and variegated appearance. There is some appearance of coal in this parish, and though hitherto without success, repeatedly attempts have been made to discover it. But whether really no coal doth here exist, or the efforts hitherto made, have been too feeble to be successful, remains for some more effectual attempts to discover.

The parish abounds with freestone, very different both in quality and colour; in that part of the parish called Kirkconnell, the freestone is of a grey colour, porous, but hard and durable; in Kirkpatrick, and especially upon the banks of Kirtle, the freestone is of a dark red colour, and in many places so hard and fine in the grain, as to split into boards 3 quarters of an inch in thickness, which are used as a slate for covering houses. But the principal freestone here is found upon the estate of Cove; it is nearly of a white colour, admits of a fine polish, and is very durable. It is applied in all the neighbouring parishes, for flagging houses, for stairs, pillars, tomb-stones, &c. for many years past; at an average, not less than 125 tons of it dressed into flags, have been shipped for Ireland, and 60 tons have been consumed in the country annually. Blocks of stone have been raised in this quarry, which measured 34 cubic feet, and considerably above two tons in weight. The quarry was rented at L. 11 a-year, but is now out of lease.—The fuel chiefly used by the heritors who reside in this parish is coal, which is generally carried from the Duke of Buccleugh's collieries, in the parish of Cannobie. Owing to the scarcity there at times, on account of the increasing demand of late years, and miserable management which for some years these collieries have been under, many are obliged to carry their coal from Tindall Fell in Cumberland, though an inferior coal,  
and

and nearly twice the distance. From the spirited efforts, however, which are now making for the better management of these works, there is every reason to expect, that, in future, the country will be better supplied. Peats, with which this parish is remarkably well supplied, form the chief fuel of those of inferior rank. They will, however, be less used, and their value consequently decline, as coal becomes more plentiful, and is more easily obtained; this latter being esteemed not only a preferable, but upon the whole, a cheaper fuel.

*Springs.*—This parish is not only remarkably well watered by burns and rivulets, but also by a number of pure springs of the finest qualities. In particular, there is a very remarkable one, about a quarter of a mile from the mansion-house of Springkell, which Mr Pennant in 1772 said was the largest spring he had ever seen, excepting the famous spring at Holywell in Flintshire. Of itself, without any additional supply, it moves the mill of Kirkconnell. There are four mineral springs in this parish, of which three are nearly of the same nature and qualities, differing only in power\*.

#### *Heritors,*

\* Although not hitherto generally known, they have, from time immemorial, been frequented by the neighbourhood, and justly celebrated for their medicinal virtues. The first is in the parish of Kirkconnell, and distinguished by the name of the Branteth Well. It is a strong sulphureous water, and which is most remarkable, is situated in a moss of very considerable extent, and which as the well is many yards deep, which cannot fail much to diminish the strength of its sulphureous quality, particularly in wet seasons. Notwithstanding the disadvantage of situation, it is found in a dry season, or in a very hard frost, to be stronger than Moffat well. A chymical analysis was some years ago made of it by a medical gentleman; the result of whose experiments tended to confirm, that



*Heritors, &c.*—There are 14 heritors, 7 of whom reside. The mansion-house of Springkell stands in the parish of Kirkconnell, and is situated about 200 or 300 yards to the eastward of the place where the old mansion-house and town of Kirkconnell stood. It was erected in 1734, and is a genteel and well executed building. There are in the neighbourhood of Springkell, woods and plantations of considerable extent, all in a very thriving condition, which

that it possesses a larger quantity of sulphur than the sulphureous spring at Moffat. Some of the ingredients, contained in the Moffat water, were indeed found to exist in smaller quantities in this; but these he considered rather injurious to the health of the patient. Its smell is highly sulphureous, and is by the people in the neighbourhood compared to that of rotten eggs, or the washings of a foul gun. It is used with great success in scrofulous and scorbutic cases; and frequently, as a wash, in healing ulcerous and cutaneous eruptions. It is light and diuretic, and so remarkably volatile, that it can scarcely be preserved in perfection over one night. It is drunk in the highest perfection at the fountain, about sun-rising, or in the dusk of the evening. The other three mineral springs are all of the chalybeate kind, and differ not considerably from each other, with respect to the qualities of their waters. Of these, one known by the name of the Highmoor-well, doubtless possessing less of the chalybeate quality, and which likewise appears to be impregnated with a substance which the others do not possess, hath been successfully used for creating appetite, and promoting digestion, for bilious and other complaints of the stomach. It is situated in the vicinity of a large body of limestone; but whether it is affected in any degree by that fossil, remains yet to be ascertained. The second of this kind, distinguished by the name of Charley's well, upon the farm of Goukhall; and the third, by that of Wyobie well, are purely of the same nature and qualities, and said to possess all the power and medicinal virtues of the celebrated Hartwell Spaw at Moffat. Of these, the two first are in the parish of Kirkconnell; the latter is in Kirkpatrick, upon the estate of Wyobie. The stones about the edges of the Wyobie well are completely coated with an ochre or iron ore. Recourse is had to it in stomachic complaints and debilities. A few years ago, in the time of a great drought, a farmer, whose cattle were seized with the red water, drove them to this well, by the use of which they were all cured.

which have been mostly planted since the year 1762, by the present proprietor, who hath also made several other considerable improvements. The mansion-houses of most of the other residing heritors have been built within these 30 years, are well executed, and in every respect proportioned to their respective estates and fortunes. There are 6 gardens in this parish, which, according to their style and cultivation, yield apples, pears, cherries, plumbs, and the smaller garden-fruits in abundance. A hot-house was some years ago erected, which hath succeeded remarkably well. Of the money spent in the parish, the idea is taken from the rental of residing heritors.

The prices of labour and provisions are nearly the same as in the neighbouring parishes of Dornock and Greta.

*Antiquities.*—As may be expected from its situation, this parish still exhibits marks of having, in former times, frequently been the scene of action. Of this kind, an action happened in this parish, in the family of the Fleemings, which on account of the bravery and courage displayed by this determined and resolute band, may justly be compared with the most illustrious actions of antiquity. The family of the Fleemings, who seem to have been more distinguished for their gallant defence of their native confine, and nobly repelling a foreign foe, than that depredatory manner of life, which in these times was styled the spirit and joy of the borders, in the 13th and beginning of the 14th centuries, possessed certain lands in this parish, by the tenure of defending them at all times against the English. Their chief seat and castle was at Redhall. This tower, towards the conclusion of Baliol's reign, in one of Edward's incursions into Scotland, was attacked by an English army, against which it held out three days, though occupied

cupied only by 30 of these brave Fleemings, who defended it to the last extremity, and who rather than survive its destiny, or live to see their habitation in the hands of the English, chose all to expire in the flames\*.

### About

\* No vestige of this tower now remains, only the place where it formerly stood is pointed out. It was entirely demolished in the beginning of the present century. Two other towers, at a moderate distance, and both within view, are said likewise to have belonged to the Fleemings. Of these, the one at Holmhead, in this parish, was only demolished about 30 years ago. The other at Stonehouse, Earl Mansfield's property, is partly standing; and though at present comprehended within the limits of Greta parish; yet, from its standing directly upon the border, there is the greatest reason to think, that it likewise, in ancient times, formed a part of the parish of Kirkpatrick-Fleeming. Upon an eminence, about the distance of three quarters of a mile eastward of Redhall, there is the vestige of an old camp or fortification. Some are of opinion, that this was formerly a Roman camp; but this opinion is contradicted, both by the form of the camp and manner of its fortification. Indeed, if used by the Romans at all, it must have been only as their simple castra, and a resting place for refreshing the troops, upon their march between the stations of Netherbie and Middlebie. It is most probable, that this was the camp occupied by the English army, which attacked the tower of Redhall. Upon an eminence to the westward, and nearly at the same distance from Holmhead, there is the vestige of another camp, doubtless of the same kind as the former. There are several tumuli in this parish, along the south bank of the river, which there is every reason to believe are British, and which appear to be of the sepulchral kind. The name, indeed, of one, seems to favour a conjecture of its having been, in ancient times, consecrated to the purposes of religion. This, which is also distinguished above most of the others, on account of its size, is called Beltonmont, which name it appears to have derived, from its having been the mount or altar upon which the Druids worshipped, and offered their sacrifices at this season of the year. Several years ago, a considerable part of this cairn or mount was removed; and in its bottom, within a large square stone chest, formed of 6 flags, were found some Druidical beads. It doubtless has been the sepulchre of a Druid of rank, which, on account of his respectability, was afterward consecrated to a religious purpose.

About 30 years ago, when a person was casting peats in a moor, belonging to Mr Irving of Cores, he found a piece

A little to the south, there are two other tumuli of considerable size, and most probably of the same nature. About a mile to the N. W. there are several, 2 of which were opened only about 2 years ago. In the one, within a chest of the same kind as that mentioned above, was found an urn of elegant workmanship. This urn was filled with ashes, standing with the mouth up, and covered with a stone. At a small distance from the urn, and within the chest, were likewise discovered several iron-rings, each about the size of a half crown, but so far destroyed by rust, that on being touched, they fell into pieces. About three quarters of a mile to the westward of this, there is the appearance of a Druidical temple; and upon the farm of Branteth, in the parish of Kirkconnell, there is likewise the vestige of another Druidical temple, or place of sacrifice.

There is upon the estate of Cove, an artificial cave or house, wrought into a rock. This rock overhangs the river, above the bed of which it is elevated nearly 30 feet, and is at present inaccessible. Its interior form is oval, the greater diameter of which is about 16 feet; the lesser, 9. From its floor to the roof, is nearly 7 feet. The ancient British are said to have used places of this kind as granaries or storehouses. In later times, however, they were used as places of strength and security.

The old tower of Woodhouse, though not inhabited for many years past, is still standing. This is reported to have been the first house in Scotland to which Robert Bruce came, when flying from Edward Longshanks. From thence, he carried one of the sons of this family, whom he afterward made his secretary; and who having attended him in all his troubles and prosperity, to his death, was created a knight; and as a reward of his fidelity and services, was presented with the lands of the forest of Drum. The family, then in possession of this tower, were Irvings; and in a branch of the same family, it still remains.

A little to the northward of this tower, stands the cross of Merkland. It is an octagon of solid stone, elegantly dressed and cut. Its elevation above the socket upon which it stands, is 9 feet; that of the socket, 2 feet 4 inches. Its form is conoidal; the circumference, at the base, being 3 feet 2 inches, and at the neck 2 feet 2 inches. The head consists of 4 fleur-de-lis, cut out of the solid stone, so as to form a square, each

piece of gold, about 18 inches under ground. It was very soft and pliable, and about L. 12 in value; on one end of it, was plainly seen the word *Helenus*, in raised Roman capitals, evidently effected by a stamp; and on the other end, in pricked or doted characters, the letters *M. B.* Some have pronounced it an ornament for the wrist, others a fibula for fastening a garment. It was given to the late Mr Irving of Bonshaw\*.

each side of which is 2 feet. The time and occasion of its erection is uncertain. The following is the most probable.

In 1483, the Duke of Albany, and Earl of Douglas, who for some time had been exiles in England, wishing to learn the dispositions of their countrymen towards them, made an incursion into their native country, went to Lochmaben, and plundered the market there. In the mean time, a Master of Maxwell, son of Baron Maxwell of Caerlaveroc, upon whom the wardenship of the borders had devolved, in consequence of his father's imprisonment in England, receiving intelligence of this affair, assembled his friends and dependents to repel and chastise the insolence of these rebels. He came up with them at Burnswark, where the action commenced, and was fought to Kirkconnell, when Douglas was taken prisoner, and the Duke of Albany made his escape. Having now recovered the booty, and obtained a complete victory, he was pursuing the broken remains of the hostile army; and being wearied with the fatigues of the engagement, and the wounds which he is said to have received in battle, was supporting himself with his spear, resting by its handle upon the crutch of his saddle, when one Gals, from the parish of Gummertrees, who had fought under him in the engagement, coming up, thrust him through, on account of a sentence, which he, as master warden of the marches, had passed upon a cousin of Gals. This cross is said to have been erected upon the spot where Maxwell fell, and the execrable deed was committed, to perpetuate the remembrance thereof to posterity.

\* In the burial-ground of Kirkconnell, are still to be seen the tombstones of Fair Helen, and her favourite lover Adam Fleeming. She was a daughter of the family of Kirkconnell, and fell a victim to the jealousy of a lover. Being courted by two young gentlemen at the same time, she

the one of whom thinking himself slighted, vowed to sacrifice the other to his resentment, when he again discovered him in her company. An opportunity soon presented itself, when the faithful pair, walking along the romantic banks of the Kirtle, were discovered from the opposite banks by the assassin. Helen perceiving him lurking among the bushes, and dreading the fatal resolution, rushed to her lover's bosom, to rescue him from the danger; and thus receiving the wound intended for another, sunk and expired in her favourite's arms. He immediately revenged her death, and slew the murderer. The inconsolable Adam Fleeming, now sinking under the pressure of grief, went abroad and served under the banners of Spain, against the infidels. The impression, however, was too strong to be obliterated. The image of woe attended him thither; and the pleasing remembrance of the tender scenes that were past, with the melancholy reflection, that they could never return, harassed his soul, and deprived his mind of repose. He soon returned, and stretching himself on her grave, expired, and was buried by her side. Upon the tomb-stone are engraven a sword and cross, with "Hic jacet Adam Fleeming." The memory of this is only preserved in an old Scots ballad, which relates the tragical event, and which is said to have been written by Adam Fleeming, when in Spain. As the piece is little known, and affords a pretty good specimen of the vulgar dialect spoken at present in this country, which must have undergone little variation for upwards of 200 years, it is sent for insertion.

## FAIR HELEN,

### *A Tragical Old Scots Song.*

My sweetest sweet, and fairest fair,  
Of birth an worth beyond compare,  
Thou art the cause of my cair,  
Since first I loved thee :

Yet God hath given to me a mind,  
The which to thee shall prove as kind,  
As any one that thou wilt find,  
Of high or low degree.

Yet

Yet nevertheless I am content,  
 And ne'er a whit my love repent;  
 But think my time it was well spent,  
 Though I disdained be.

The shallowest water makes most din,  
 The deepest pool the dearest lin,  
 The richest man least truth withhold,  
 Though he disdained be.

O Helen fair, without compare,  
 I'll wear a garland of thy hair,  
 Shall cover me for ever mair,  
 Until the day I die.

O Helen sweet, and maid complete,  
 My captive spirit's at thy feet,  
 Think'st thou still fit thus for to treat,  
 Thy pris'ner with cruelty.

O Helen brave! this still I crave,  
 On thy poor slave some pity have,  
 And do him save, that's near his grave,  
 And dies for love of thee.

Curst be the hand that shot the shot,  
 Likewise the gun that gave the crack,  
 Into my arms bid Helen lap,  
 And died for love of me.

O think na' ye my heart was fair,  
 My love sank down, and spak na mair,  
 There did she swoon wi' meikle cair,  
 On fair Kirkconnell lee.

I lighted down, my sword did draw,  
 I cutted him in pieces sma',  
 I cutted him in pieces sma',  
 On fair Kirkconnell lee.

O Helen chaste! thou wert modest,  
 Were I with thee I would be blest,  
 Where thou ly'st low, and tak'st thy rest  
 On fair Kirkconnell lee.

I with I were where I have been,  
Embracing of my love Helen,  
At Venus's games we've been right keen,  
On fair Kirkconnell lee.

I with my grave were growing green,  
A winding sheet put o'er my een,  
And I in Helen's arms lying,  
On fair Kirkconnell lee.

I with I were where Helen lies,  
Where night and day she on me cries;  
I with I were where Helen lies,  
On fair Kirkconnell lee.

NUM.



## N U M B E R X I X.

UNITED PARISHES OF NORTH YELL AND  
FETLAR,

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF SHETLAND.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES GORDON.**Situation, Name, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Yell and Fetlar is one of the most northerly in Shetland. It lies in latitude  $61^{\circ} 20'$ , and is bounded on the N. E. by the island of Unst, which is 2 leagues asunder from Fetlar; on the S. by the island of Whellay, and the Main Land, which is about 6 leagues distant from it; on the E. of Fetlar is the Northern Ocean, and about two distant on the W. of Fetlar is the other part of the minister of Fetlar's charge, called North Yell parish, which was erected into one charge, commonly called the parish of North Yell and Fetlar, in the year 1709. As to the name of Fetlar, it appears to be changed from that which it had when it belonged to the Danes; for then, as  
the

the oldest records in Norway show, it was called *Fadar Oi*, the meaning of which in the Danish language signifies, the "Green Island;" and from another word or name of a place on the eastmost angle of the island, called *Fwaxie*, which signifies the place first found out; so that, *Fadar oi Fwaxie*, signifies the place first discovered in the country\*.

The

\* It has been a matter of dispute who were the first inhabitants of this country. It is the general opinion that it was first inhabited by the Norwegians; the writer is of a different sentiment, and believes that the Picts were the first inhabitants. His reasons for dissenting from the general opinion are as follow:—1st, We have no account in ancient history, that the Danes were in possession of this country prior to the year 850. In said year, Kenneth II. gave the Picts such a total defeat, that they never by themselves adventured to engage with the Scots in battle thereafter; but were compelled to fly to the northward, as is recorded by Bede and Boetius, and ancient historians. 2d, The frith that separates Caithness from Orkney, is called the Pictland Frith, from a number of the Picts being drowned in their passage over to Orkney, in order that they might escape from the fury of the Caledonians, who had expelled them out of the fertile plains of Caithness and Sutherland, at the same time that Kenneth had totally overthrown them to the southward. As the number of the Picts that landed upon Orkney could not be accommodated in that country, (for it is plain from Tacitus that it had been inhabited by the Saxons, from whom the Picts originally derived their origin at least 1000 years before), they set sail *de novo* for the next spot of land which was in their view, which could be no other but the island of Fula; but upon their near approach to Fula, they were in the greatest pain in nature what course to take. Some of them observed the appearance of a great thickness or mist, lying directly to the N. E. of Fula, and accordingly steered their course to the spot where the thickest of the fog appeared, and then, to their very great joy, they espied the top of Fitfield Head, upon which the one that first espied it, cried with great raptures, Zetland, *i. e.* there is yet land, so we shall all of us be safe. Hence the name of Shetland took its origin, it being very ordinary with the Saxons to use Z instead of Y in their language. And here it may be necessary finally to settle a question that has long been matter of dispute among the learned asent the situation of Thule. It is plain from Tacitus, that the Roman Fleet conquered Orkney, and made their king, Belus, pay them tribute, in the same manner as the rest of their provinces did: This happened in the first

The parish of Fetlar is 4 miles long, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. North Yell is 8 miles in length, and 6 in breadth. The soil is various; in the parish of North Yell the ground is a deep black morass, full of ferruginous springs. The island of

first century; but the Romans would not attempt farther, by reason of the boisterous seas and rapid tides; another reason was according to Tacitus in *Vita Agricole*, because, *despecta est et Thyle, quam hactenus mix et biems obdebat: Mare quoque pigrum et grave remigantibus, perhibent*. The place seen by the Romans could be no other than the island Fula, which probably then was called Thule, though it now has got the name of Fula; for it is a certain fact, that throughout the whole of Shetland, the snow frequently covers the top of the hills, when there is none to be met with on the plains; and the space was too far for them to discern the tops either of Fitfield Head, or Sumburgh Head. The Picts, upon their landing in Shetland, set to work, and erected a number of small castles, called afterwards Broughs, upon which they placed large fires, to give warning of an approaching enemy, and so artfully were these light-houses contrived, being every one placed in the view of another, so that the whole Lordship of Shetland could have been apprized of their danger in less than an hour's warning. But this stratagem sometimes was the cause of their destruction, as Torfeus in his History of Norway acquaints us. The Picts having secured themselves in the best manner they could, in the islands of Shetland, which then were uninhabited, they sent over some of the principal men to the Court of Norway, to solicit aid against the Caledonians, that they might regain the delicious fields of Caithness and Sutherland, from which they had been so lately expelled; and their request was readily complied with by the warlike Harold, who warmly espoused the cause of the exiles; and accordingly, a powerful fleet was put to sea without delay, and they landed at a place in this island called Funzie, as above observed; but as Harold could not procure anchorage for his fleet, he sailed a little to the N. E. to a bay on the neighbouring island of Unst, which still retains his name to this day, being called Harold's Week; and it is handed down by tradition from one generation to another, that this was the way that it acquired its name. Harold continued at anchor with his fleet till he had collected all the Picts in Shetland, capable of bearing arms, and then he set sail for the coasts of Caithness and Sutherland. Of both these counties he made a very easy conquest, and they became tributary to the Kings of Norway until the end of the

of Fetlar is of a better quality, and consists mostly of a rich black loam, and some sand; which produces barley, oats, and kitchen roots. On this island, Polish, Blindsley, and early barley, have been tried, and they grow fully as luxuriant as in their native soil, and equally as large in the grain, but they rarely ripen to perfection, and unless cut down the moment when they acquire any kind of ripeness, are liable to be shaken by the equinoctial storms; and when we do save them, the husks are so thick, that we find our own oats produce more meal than any foreign grain whatsoever; and they ripen fully as early. Our turnip, cabbage, radish, and cress seeds, grow better than any we import. The quantity of arable ground is but small, in comparison of the ground used for pasture, and is divided into what is here called merks. In the island of Fetlar there are nigh 800 merk-lands; and in North Yell there are 636 merks; there is no determinate quantity of ground assigned each merk-land. In the island of Fetlar there may be one half acre to each merk-land; but in North Yell parish there is not above one-fourth of an acre, computed to each merk-land in said parish, every merk is rented at 7 s. 6 d. the merk; but in the island of Fetlar only at 5 s. the merk, all charges included.

#### *Climatic.*

the 12th century, at which period William King of Scots overthrew the Earl of Caithness in a great battle, and the countries were annexed to the crown of Scotland for ever after. This was the first time that we read of any Danes or Norwegians being in Shetland. The poor Picts, being frustrated in their expectation of their gaining their beloved country, were reduced to the disagreeable necessity of returning to Orkney and Shetland again; and along with them a number of Danish adventurers took up their abode with the Picts, and made intermarriages with them; after which the inhabitants of Orkney and Shetland were called Danes down to the days of James the VI. who married the maid of Norway for her dowry, and both countries were finally confirmed to the kingdom of Scotland *in perpetuum*.

*Climate.*—The climate of this country in general is very damp; we have no great snows in winter, but a vast quantity of rain, and what is here called fleet, *i. e.* wet snow. Neither are our frosts so severe as in England. In the year 1744, the Thames freezed to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, and ice here at that time did not exceed 9 inches. Before traffick and commerce were introduced, this remote corner was the most healthy spot in the kingdom. There was one man that reached his 140th year; he married in his 100th, and in the year that he died, pulled ashore alone in his small skiff in very severe weather; and within these 20 years there died a man in North Yell parish, aged 120; at present there is one man in Fetlar, aged 93, and some few more above 90. But these are *rare aves*. Traffick produces riches, and riches luxury, and luxury diseases; and maladies of every kind prevail here perhaps with more violence than any where upon the Continent. But within these 20 years by-past, the great Giver of every good and perfect gift to mankind, has been pleased to vouchsafe this poor land one of the most merciful discoveries ever bestowed upon sinful mortals, (the sending of a Saviour excepted), I mean inoculation, which is here practised with very great success. Besides the small-pox, fevers of divers kinds prevail amongst us, particularly intermittents, which, though long kept under by the use of the bark, rarely fail to land either in dropfies or consumptions. The leprosy rarely makes its appearance in this ministry; for these 200 years by past, there has been only one set apart\*.

#### Rivers,

\* The diseased person was first totally removed at the expense of the parish; but afterward returning to his former mode of living, and not strictly adhering to the regimen prescribed him by his physician, his disease

*Rivers, Minerals, Woods, Animals, &c.*—We have no rivers here, nor is it possible in nature that there can be any upon this island, nor indeed in the country; we have some burns in the head of our many bays, into which the salmon trout enter about the 29th of September, in their going up to our loughs, where they deposit their sperma during the winter; some of them are exceedingly large, and weigh no less than 25 lb. a-piece; if they are caught in the month of July, are nothing inferior to the richest salmon caught in the kingdom. We have many mineral springs, which, from their appearance at the top of the surface of the water, display certain vestiges of a great quantity of iron ore deposited at the bottom. A little below the mane of Fetlar there is a pretty large loch, where there is a kind of black sand thrown up by the N. W. wind on the opposite shore. How sand of such a quality comes there (there being no iron-stone in its vicinity) was for a long time a mystery to the writer, till of late he, by accident, found upon the declivity of a rising ground, about 3-4ths of a mile distant from the loch, a considerable quantity of what is called bog-iron, richer and more ponderous than any he has seen at Carron, or in any other part of the kingdom; he supposed that the winter heavy rains wash  
down

ease recurred upon him, and we were reduced to the disagreeable necessity of setting him apart, where he very soon died. The rheumatism prevails here to a considerable degree, as might be expected from the humidity of the climate, but not to so severe a pitch as might be looked for. The dropy also is very prevalent here, but it is frequently relieved by using scurvy-grass both externally and internally, (which the Author of Nature has liberally bestowed upon us), as also by frequent cupping in the legs. The free use of butter-milk is a very powerful remedy; the writer is in no strait to prove, that he was so fortunate as to put a stop to an anasarca (that was far advanced before he was applied to) for four years, solely by the use of this prescription.

down small particles of iron into the loch, and that the N. W. wind lands them upon the opposite S. E. shore; out of one pound we can extract by the magnet  $\frac{1}{4}$  of black-iron particles, nothing inferior to that which is imported to us from Hungary. Woods we have none in this country; and it is the opinion of the writer, that there never were any. He has been at considerable pains to investigate the mode in which the several trees found here made their appearance, but could never find one root in an horizontal direction, as the roots of trees are placed in other parts of the kingdom where wood has grown; all were deposited in the earth, lying sideways in swamps, and appear to have been conveyed thither (however distant the period) by water. He is more confirmed in this opinion, when he considers that no wood will thrive here above the garden walls. To this may be added, that hazzle, mountain-ash, and elder shrubs, are found in the mountains, some miles from all sea, but they never grow above 8 or 9 inches high, and not 2 inches thick; which can be attributed to no other cause, but that the air from one side of the country to the other, is so impregnated with saltish particles, as to stop vegetation in a great measure, unless (as said above) where there is a shelter. There are also found in the island some veins of copper-ore, and we have great reason to believe, that there is black lead, but our small finances prevent us from working them. There is also found here the *lapis asbestinus* of the filamentous kind, and some few garnets, and a huge quantity of fullers earth, and pieces of rock-crystal, also some limestone very poor in quality, one small vein excepted\*.

### Population

\* We have no artificial caves here. We have several migratory birds; the swans come here on their passage to a very northerly climate in the month

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1098. The population here continued from the year 1709 till 1769 without increase or decrease; but since inoculation took place, we have increased considerably, viz. from 900 to 1300 and upwards, as the statement below will show. The births are about 30, the deaths (since 1769) are 15 a-year at an average, and the marriages 6. In North Yell and Fetlar there were alive January 1. 1793, 1346; of whom there were in Fetlar,

Men unmarried,	-	-	-	45
Women unmarried,	-	-	-	80
Widowers,	-	-	-	17
Widows,	-	-	-	26
Souls in non-age, children, &c. and married persons,	-	-	-	628

Under

month of March, and return again in September; the lapwing, black-bird, and cuckoo, are frequently seen here, and a very large kind of hawk nestles here every summer; a young one was kept only for three months, yet measured 42 inches from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other; the bird has kept the same precipice for perhaps this century bypast. We have no horses here in this ministry, but we have plenty of ponies, which we keep at no charge, and they answer our purpose in every point much better than those of a larger breed. The sheep here are greatly upon the decline; we have no fine wool in this island, but on the other part of the minister's charge, there would be sheep in great abundance, did not theft prevail there, and in a great many places of the country, to such a degree, that it beggars description. Neither will this be wondered at, if it is taken into consideration, that there has not been one capital punishment inflicted in this Lordship (which consists at least of 24,000) for a century bypast, for any crime whatever; the punishments inflicted for this crime of theft, in particular, are so extremely mild, that they rather excite to the commission of the crime than deter from it. The price of wool is every day increasing, which bears extremely hard upon the poor; and above 2-3d of our people are really so. About 40 years ago, our coarse wool sold for 3 d. the merk, or 20 ounces; the lowest price now for the worst wool is 8 d. the merk, and our finest wool far exceeds the price of Spanish wool.



Under 10,	-	210	Aged 60,	-	42
Aged 10,	-	124	— 70,	-	29
— 20,	-	147	— 80,	-	3
— 30,	-	108	— 90,	-	2
— 40,	-	76	Upw. 90,	-	1
— 50,	-	54			

## In North Yell,

Men unmarried,	-	-	-	28
Women ditto,	-	-	-	55
Widowers,	-	-	-	2
Widows,	-	-	-	11

## Souls in non-age, and children, &amp;c. and married

persons,	-	-	-	454	
Under 10,	-	119	Aged 50,	-	47
Aged 10,	-	80	— 60,	-	25
— 20,	-	91	— 70,	-	3
— 30,	-	94	— 80,	-	3
— 40,	-	87	— 90,	-	1

In this ministry there are above 40 heritors, who have among them about L. 5000 Scots of rent a-year. The highest rent drawn by any of them does not exceed L. 100 Sterling a-year, and some of the lowest do not draw 10 s. a-year. Our feed-time commences the first of March, and ends by the first of May. We pay no multures here, having no water-mills but such as are called quirns, driven by water, on the same construction as the mills used formerly in the Highlands of Scotland.

*Poor, Stipend, Artists, &c.*—Though the country is poor in general, yet we have no daily vagrants among us. Every parish is divided into districts; when any person is in poverty, the session, with concurrence of the heritors, .. appoint

appoint them to a certain spot in the parish, where they are maintained; the session clothes them, and when they die, defray the expense of their burial. The present incumbent has a stipend of L. 64. The kirks have been lately newly built, and the manse, though an old one, is in tolerable good repair; it was built 37 years ago by the present incumbent out of the vacant stipend, and he imagines it will serve all his lifetime, as he is now 66 years of age, 38 of which he has been minister in this very fatiguing charge. We have few regular bred artificers here; the people are all of a mechanical turn; we have 3 smiths in this ministry, and one carpenter; but the people in general, according to the Danish mode, are their own artificers. They are in general very quick in comprehending any branch of literature, or mechanical employments which they apply to. But their great misfortune seems to be this, that they never will have the patience to apply so long to any one employment as to become proficient in their profession. I speak here of the commons; for with respect to the gentlemen, it is believed there is no part in the kingdom, where genius is more displayed, or who make greater progress in academical literature, and in the polite arts, which they apply to. The people in general are very hospitable to strangers. We have here three gentlemen in the medical line, who are very eminent in their profession.

*Manufactures and Trade.*—Manufactures we have none. We have tried the linen-manufacture of late, but it did not succeed, for which many reasons may be assigned. 1st, The fair sex here are so accustomed to roam about among the rocks in their earliest moments, (while they are procuring bait for the fishing), that they cannot apply with that diligence that the manufacturing business requires, had they time to do it, as they really have not. 2d, Constant sitting

sitting brings on hysteric disorders upon not a few of them. 3d. We find we can purchase linens cheaper than we can afford to make them. After the Danes took possession of Shetland, which, as above observed, they did between the 8th and 9th century, the settlers here were supplied with all their necessaries from the Kings of Norway, and there were ships fitted out for the purpose, of a particular construction, called *Scudas*, who carried from Norway wood houses, and other necessaries for the new colonists, and brought back with them again the King's rent, *viz.* cefs, scatt and wattle : for which there was paid butter, and a kind of cloth called wadmall. This trade continued during all the time that this Lordship was subject to the Danes. At the end of the 12th century the people in this Lordship began to trade to Norway on their own bottoms ; this trade continued till the time of Patrick Earl of Orkney, who, among the rest of his enormous crimes, robbed the Nisbets of Kirkabiscetter, heritors in this parish, of the last vessels used in the trade. About this time the merchants in Bremen had the whole trade in this county, till such time as the gentlemen in the country found it convenient to take their fisheries into their own hands, when Government thought proper to encourage thereto, by giving them such large debentures for the fish exported. Within these 40 years trade has undergone the greatest change perhaps of any small part in the kingdom. At that period we had no trade with England, and our trade with Scotland and Hamburgh was very trifling. Now we have no less than 8 vessels, who trade to England, Leith, Holland, Hamburgh, and Bergen, exclusive of 5 or 6 ships, which we annually load for the Mediterranean.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—We have a tolerable good soil, considering our latitude; in most years this island



parcel of poor beggars will never make a rich master. The commons, on the other hand, are equally inconsistent in their conduct, for formerly their clothing was only such as was manufactured about their own houses, but now they must be habited like gentlemen, and many of them are more extravagant in the luxuries of life than the gentlemen formerly were in this country. Though their masters afford them a higher price for their fish, butter, and oil, than was ever given in the land, yet it answers no end; they are so addicted to dress, spiritous liquors and tea, that a considerable part of their gain is spent in that way. They still retain a good deal of the disposition of their ancestors the Danes; they think themselves the greatest slaves in nature, and that their masters take every thing from them for nothing, vainly imagining, that they would be happier in any place than in their own native soil. They accordingly enter on board the navy in crowds, where they are esteemed sailors inferior to none in the kingdom. In one word, the writer, after 40 years study of the constitution of this country, must frankly own, he can see no way of preventing the impending ruin of the poor land in general, and of every honest man in particular, unless the gentlemen of the country, *una voce*, enlarge their farms in the first place, and then let them to none, unless such as are of approved morals. Next, that they put the laws of their country in execution against some few of the many culprits, that have infested this country for a number of years bypast. Lastly, it would contribute greatly to the prosperity of the country in general, that the one half of the superfluities imported annually were curtailed; were this done, it would tend greatly to the advantage of the landholders, and still more so to the people in general. But such a happy change the writer is afraid he never will see. However, he has this  
to

to comfort him, that he has done all in his power to check vice and encourage virtue for a considerable time bypast; but sorry he is to say, not with that success that he earnestly wished, having had the misfortune to have such a torrent to struggle against. What is related above may not be agreeable to every one in this land, especially to those whose characters the writer has set in a proper light; but they are the words of truth, and the sentiments of an honest man, who bids defiance to any one, in a consistency with truth, to disprove one averment that has been related in the above narrative.

NUM-

## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF SOUTH UIST;

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRESBYTERY OF UIST.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MUNRO.*

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**S**OUTH UIST, or, as it is called South Wist by some modern writers, is a Danish name, and the derivation of it cannot be traced back with any degree of certainty, by any of the present inhabitants, at this period of time. Perhaps it might originally be called Uista, or Wista, as I am informed that there are some places, both in Orkney and Shetland, called Unsta; for the highest hill in the parish, is named Heckla, and the largest mountain in Iceland is Heckla, in the Norse language. The parish is of an oblong figure, separated from the parish of North Uist, to the eastward and northward, by an arm of the sea, which ebbs at low water. It is also separated from the parish of Barra, to the southward and westward, by

by a channel or foudn, nearly 8 or 9 miles broad, which never ebbs; towards the W. and N. W. it is bounded by the great Atlantic ocean, and to the eastward and southward, it is separated from the island of Sky by a channel, perhaps 18 or 20 miles broad. The parish is long, from N. E. to S. W. 30 computed miles, and its greatest breadth may be estimated from 7 to 9 miles.

*Soil, Surface, Climate, &c.*—Towards the west side of the parish, the soil is totally light, and perfectly sandy, and the most part of it rendered quite useless, by the severity of the constant storms, that blow from the W. with the force of the sea, during the winter and spring seasons; further back, there is one continued chain of swamp and lakes, abounding with the greatest variety of the finest trouts; and still to the eastward, there are high and lofty mountains, covered with heath and verdure, fit enough for pasturing black cattle, horses, sheep, and goats, during the summer and autumn months. The well known harbours in the parish, worth mentioning, *viz.* Lochskiport, Lochunort, and Lochboisdale, are so accurately and clearly laid down by Mr Murdoch Mackenzie, the surveyor, in his draughts of this coast, that it is quite unnecessary to mention them here. As the soil to the west side of the parish is for the most part light and sandy, it of course must be barren of itself, without the force of manure. There are delightful fields to be seen covered with the finest natural grass in summer; yet, in the winter season, many of these very spots are covered over with drifted sand in such a manner, that the least trace of verdure cannot be seen for many months. Were it not for the immense quantity of floating sea-ware that is thrown ashore during the winter-storms, the inhabitants never could ma-  
nure



nure the ground, so as to raise a crop that signified, of any kind. Barley, oats, rye, and potatoes, with fish, are the chief productions for the support of the inhabitants of the parish. It ought to be observed, also, that the produce of the country does not serve the people for 9 months in the year, at an yearly average.

From the great number of swamps and lakes in the parish, the air of course must be moist and damp. The inhabitants are often subject, in open seasons, to fever and rheumatism; notwithstanding, there are several instances of long-lived people in the parish, to the advanced age of 90 years.

*Productions.*—The well known article of kelp is the staple commodity of the parish, of which 1100 tons may be yearly manufactured at an average; and this quantity, in a great measure, depends on the dryness and serenity of the season, for making sea-ware into kelp. Next to kelp, black cattle is the only article that brings any return to the parish. There may be sold, at a moderate calculation, about 450, or even 480 head of cows and young oxen yearly, should the preceding spring-season turn out favourable; and in bad years, the number of cattle sold in the parish will not amount to what is specified above. Considering the great risk, expense, and trouble that the buyers and dealers in black cattle are at, in coming to this remote island to buy them; again, the disadvantage of ferrying the cattle, purchased in the parish, to the continent of Scotland; it cannot be a matter of surprize, should their price be low, which is nearly, at an average, L. 2, 10s. a-head yearly; and with respect to the price of kelp, which, for a great number of years, is considerably fallen in its value, it ought to be observed, in giving an account of

of that once valuable commodity, that its sudden low price, is owing to the great importation of barilla and other foreign ashes, at a low duty.

*Sheep.*—The number of sheep in the parish does not exceed 7000. The sheep are, for ordinary, of the small Highland breed, their mutton sweet and delicious, and their wool of a very good quality, exceeding in fineness the wool of any sheep imported to the parish, from the main land of Scotland. There was an attempt made some years ago, by some gentlemen, to import some black-faced sheep; but a disorder, well known by the name of braxy, got among them, and the cross-breed still die of that disorder, though not in such numbers as the low-country breed, originally imported. There are no sheep, to any value, sold in the parish, only a few to vessels, who put in to harbours by contrary winds; the inhabitants find use both for their wool and mutton.

*Horses.*—The number of horses in the parish, at an average, may be called 800; they are of a small breed, incredibly strong and hardy, considering their size. The great fatigue and toil they undergo, during winter and spring, in leading sea-ware from the shore to manure the ground for barley and potatoes; add to this, the making of kelp in summer, and their feeding on sandy soil, for the greatest part of the year, all this of course must soon render them useless. Rearing, and buying horses in this parish, is one of the greatest disadvantages; for without the labour of horses, the kelp is unmanufactured in summer, and the ground unmanured in winter. A young horse or mare, fit for labouring, cannot now be purchased below L. 5 Sterling.

*Goats,*

*Goats, Game, &c.*—There are some goats in the parish, that pasture the east side, belonging to some gentlemen, but they are few in number, and of no consequence; there is some deer and rabbits, which are preserved by the proprietors. The parish abounds in game of the aquatic species, of every kind to be seen in the Hebrides, namely, swans, wild-geese, herons, cormorants, ducks, teals, solon geese, and curlews. Game, to be found in the mountains, are, moor or heath-fowls, woodcocks, and pigeons, carnivorous birds in great numbers, such as, eagles, hawks, falcons, ravens, and grey crows, in all seasons of the year.

*Fisheries, &c.*—There is no trade or manufactures carried on in the parish, either in the importation or exportation line, only the kelp and black cattle, mentioned above. It is very certain, that the coasts of the parish, both towards the east and west side of it, abound with every species of fish, to be found in the Hebrides; such as, herrings, ling, cod, mackerel, turbot, skate, and flounder, besides the greatest variety of shell-fish, *viz.* lobsters, crabs, cockles, oysters, muscles, and spout-fish. There are numbers of whales, seen at all seasons of the year, on the coasts of the parish; but the fishermen, as yet, do not understand the proper method of harpooning them, as the whales do not remain above the surface of the sea for any length of time. The sail fish, or barking shark, appears on the coasts of the parish early in the month of May, if the season is warm; he is a stupid and torpid kind of fish; he allows the harponeer often to feel him with his hand, before he darts at him. The inhabitants to the east side of the island, (such as are able to fit out boats, lines, and harpoons,) have been for some years very successful during the summer months,

months, in this branch of business, owing entirely to the laudable exertions of the trustees for managing the fisheries in Scotland, in granting premiums to the owners of boats, that extract the greatest quantity of oil from the liver of the barking shark. The lucky adventurer in this fishing, should he chance to harpoon a large one, may have 9 or 10 barrels of liver, from which the return in clear oil is about 8 barrels. The ling and cod fisheries along the coasts of the parish deserve the attention of the public; should this branch of trade be carried on with diligence and perseverance by monied people. The banks for ling, cod, skate, and turbot, are now discovered in the fullest extent, to answer as well as the Shetland coast. Colin Macdonald of Boisdale, Esq; one of the heritors in the parish, is the only person here who attempted to carry on this branch of the fisheries with any degree of success, excepting some adventurers from Peterhead, who come to the coast here to fish in March, and return in July generally pretty successful. The herring-fishing is the great object in the fishing trade, to the inhabitants of the parish; notwithstanding, this branch of the fisheries cannot be carried on to any great degree, while the salt laws continue in their present form. The severe laws, with respect to the importation of salt to these remote parts, is the greatest shackle that the invention of man could find out, to put a stop to the industry of the poor inhabitants of the parish. It is therefore hoped, that our wise legislators will remedy this evil in a short time, according to their accustomed goodness, and prevent the misfortunes that follow of course to many of the poor inhabitants of the Hebrides.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 2209. The population of the parish has of late years considerably diminished. Its

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inhabitants

inhabitants may now amount to 3450, of which number, there are 500 Protestants, and the remaining 2950 Roman Catholics. The great cause of the decrease of population in the parish, is owing principally to the vast numbers that have emigrated of late years to the island of St John's, Nova Scotia, and Canada. Emigration from the parish commenced in 1772; and again, no less than 400 stout young fellows since that period, have gone as recruits to the army and navy from the parish. The inhabitants are industrious, and a very hardy set of mankind, able to undergo great fatigue; they are particularly attached to the Royal Family, and the Established Constitution.

*Stipend, Heritors, Poor.*—The value of the living in the parish, including the glebe, is about L. 50 Sterling. It is a royal patronage. The heritors are, John Macdonald of Clanranald, Esq; and Colin Macdonald of Boisdale, Esq; The manse is in ruins, and quite uninhabitable; the incumbent dwells in a farm-house in the middle of the parish.

In a district of the parish, called Benbecula, a missionary resides, with L. 30 of a salary, paid by the trustees for managing the royal bounty. There has been no church built in the parish since the time of the Reformation. The Protestants assemble in two school-houses, which are now in good order and repair, and the Roman Catholics have three mass-houses in the parish. As to the state of the poor of the parish, there is only a fund of L. 10 Sterling yearly, which was mortified by Alexander Macdonald of Boisdale, Esq; lately deceased; the fund is distributed impartially by his son Colin Macdonald, Esq; with additional donations of his own. The people of both persuasions, in general, are attentive and generous to the poor, in supplying them with meal, according to their abilities, in seasons of scarcity.

*Rent*

*Rent of the Parish.*—The land-rent is supposed to be about L. 2200 Sterling. It has risen about one half within these 6 years back ; by the accounts given of the land-rent of the parish, the factors say, that the whole is laid out in paying the kelp manufacturers. One heritor resides now in the parish.

*Antiquities.*—The only thing remarkable in this way to be observed in the parish, are the remains of the Danish forts, which are all built in a circular form, of large whin stones, without any kind of cement ; these towers, or forts, are to be seen in all the Hebrides. In the island of Benbecula, a district of the parish, called, in Gaelic, Beian-Vealla, the remains of one of these towers, of a very large size, are to be seen ; the name is Dun Elvine nean Ruarie, or the Tower of Elvina, the daughter of Rory ; this Elvina being the daughter of some Danish chieftain, as traditionary account tells. There are also the remains of Druidical temples still visible in many parts of the parish. Although by tradition, it is said, that this island, in old times, abounded with wood, yet the smallest stump of a tree cannot now be seen in it ; indeed, attempts were made lately to plant wood of different kinds, but there is the greatest probability against its coming to any perfection.

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## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF NORTH UIST,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRES-  
BYTERY OF UIST.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALLAN MACQUEEN.*

*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil and Surface.*

UIST is taken from the Scandinavian word, *vist*, signifying west in the English language, a name given to it by the Danes, when in possession of these countries, on account of its westerly situation. North Uist lies near the middle of the Long Island. It is bounded on the N. N. E. by a sound a mile broad, which divides it from Bernera, an island belonging to the parish of Harries; on the E. S. E. by a channel, which divides it from the Isle of Sky, and the continent of Scotland; on the S. S. W. by a strand of considerable breadth, which is overflowed with the sea at high water, and which divides it from Benbecula, an island belonging to the parish of South Uist; and on the W. N. W. by the Atlantic Ocean. The length of this parish cannot be exactly ascertained, as it  
never

never was surveyed, nor divided into miles; but by allowing a computed mile to be equal to a mile and a half measured, there can be no great mistake: According to this rule, the length of it, from the Sound of Bernera to the island of Benbecula, in a straight line, will be 20 measured miles, but 30 by following the ordinary tract that travellers take. The breadth of it varies, being in some places 18, and in others 12 miles. Along the whole of the W. coast, and round the N. end of this island, (being almost the only parts of it that are cultivated), the country is low and level for the most part for a mile and a half from the shore to the moor. In this part of the country the soil is sandy, especially near the shore, and at some distance from it: Between that and the moor is a thin black ground, covering either a hard gravel, or solid rock, interspersed in some places with flats and meadows. The rest of the country consists of a barren, soft, deep moor-ground, and mountains of no great height, covered with heath. The cultivated part of the country, already mentioned, is extremely pleasant and beautiful in summer and autumn, yielding in favourable seasons the most luxuriant crops of barley, and the richest pasture of white and red clover. But, though in the warm season of the year no country in the Highlands can exhibit a more delightful prospect, yet in winter and spring the scene is totally changed. The face of the country then is quite naked and bare, there being no trees nor high grounds to shelter it from the inclemency of the weather. The grass is so soft and tender, that the winter rains and snow take away its substance; so that cattle, during these seasons, feed partly upon corn and straw, and partly upon sea-weed, thrown in time of bad weather in great quantities upon the shore.

*See*



*Sea Coast and Harbours.*—That part of the coast washed by the Atlantic is inaccessible to vessels of any burden, and even to small boats, but in very good weather, on account of the rocks, shoals, and breakers that surround it. In bad weather, when the wind blows upon this part of the coast, the sea swells to a prodigious height, and rolls with inexpressible violence against the shores, exhibiting a prospect awfully grand beyond description. The coast on the E. side of the country is bold, except where it is intersected by inlets of the sea, which form safe and commodious harbours. The harbour farthest to the northward is called Cheesebay, of easy access from the S. E. where vessels may ride with safety at all seasons of the year. S. of this lies the well-known harbour of Lochmaddie, much frequented by ships trading from Ireland, and the W. of England and Scotland to the Baltic. It extends 5 or 6 miles into the country, and, on account of the great number of islands it contains, is subdivided into several harbours, which are all safe and commodious. This is certainly one of the best stations for a village in the Western Islands, being a good outlet for vessels going either S. or N. and in the centre of the fishing stations from Ulapeol to Tobermorry. A few miles S. of this harbour lies Lochevort, not much frequented on account of its vicinity to Lochmaddie. It extends 5 or 6 miles into the country. The entrance is narrow, but the anchoring ground safe. At some distance to the southward lies the harbour of Rueheva, which is also very narrow at the entrance, and on that account not much frequented. About a league farther S. lies the harbour of Kellin, formed on one side by the island of Grimfay, and on the other by a barren island called Rhona. This harbour is very safe for vessels of no great burden, and is near a good fishing ground. Round about these harbours, and all along the E. coast, the ground is barren,

mountainous, and almost uninhabited, which gives strangers, who do not give themselves the trouble of visiting the cultivated parts of the country, a very disagreeable idea of it.

*Islands.*—A league to the northward of North Uist lies Boreray, a fertile island, a mile and a half long; and half a mile broad. It is presently possessed by a gentleman of the name of Maclean, whose predecessors have been in possession of it for several generations back, one of whom, for services done to the family of Macdonald, obtained, for the small yearly rent of L. 12 Sterling, a very long lease of it, 57 years of which are to run after the present possessor's demise. Between this island and the main land of North Uist lies Orinsay, an island only at high water half a mile long, the soil sandy for the most part, but fertile in favourable seasons. 3 miles westward of the last mentioned island, but still N. of the main land of North Uist, lies Vallay, also an island only at high water, and separated from the shore, when the tide is out, by a sand 2 miles broad. It is a mile and a half long, not half a mile broad, the soil for the most part sandy. It is beautiful and fertile in corn and grass, when the summer is rainy, but yields very little of either when the season is the reverse. In the winter and spring it is quite barren, the surface being covered with sand, which a gale from the N. W. never fails to blow over it. 2 leagues to the westward of North Uist lies Heisker, nearly 2 miles in length, but very narrow. The soil is sandy, yields very little grass at any time, and is only valuable on account of its kelp shores, and a small quantity of grain it produces. The islands of Kirkbost and Ilaray lie stretched along the W. coast of North Uist, pretty close to it, and separated from it, and from one another, by a sand which the sea overflows at high water. The former is 1 mile long, but  
very

very narrow; the soil sandy, lies quite exposed to the Western Ocean, which makes yearly encroachments, and is in danger of being soon blown away by the wind. The latter is 3 miles long, and half a mile broad in most places. The soil is partly sandy, and partly black ground, yielding tolerable crops of barley and pasture for cattle. South of the main land of North Uist, between it and Benbecula, lies Grimsey, an island only at high water. This is a barren island, 2 miles in length, and covered with heath; but is very valuable on account of its kelp shores. It is in the possession of Mr Maclean of Boreray, and is included in the long lease already mentioned.

*Produce.*—Barley and small oats are the only kinds of grain that this parish produces; the quantity and value of which can hardly be ascertained, on account of the variable-ness of the seasons. The only method of finding out, with any degree of precision, the average quantity, is from a state of the multure. The 13th part of the grain ground in the mills is taken up by the millers for multure, of which they are obliged to pay 180 bolls to the proprietor. As they are bound to keep the mills (of which there are 3 in the parish) in repair, they will require 8 bolls each for that purpose; and also 18 bolls each for the support of their families, so that the 13th part will amount to 258, and consequently the whole that is brought to the mills will amount to 3354 bolls. Besides this quantity, there are at least 500 bolls given as provender to cows and horses. In favourable seasons, indeed, the quantity will be a great deal more; but in bad seasons it will fall far short of it. A dry summer scorches the sandy soil, and a wet stormy autumn destroys every thing the ground produces. A scarcity is the consequence. In this case, recourse must be had to the importation of low-country meal, which is purchased at  
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an average for 17 s. the boll; but in very bad years, such as the years 1783 and 1784, at 24 s. The season, indeed, must be very favourable, when the country produces a quantity sufficient for the support of the inhabitants. The returns in barley are from 15 to 20, though there are a few instances of more than 50 fold. The boll of this country meal consists of 16 pecks; and if at any time a person has any that he can dispose of to his neighbour, it is sold at 13 s. 4 d. Potatoes are also a considerable part of the produce of this parish, being cultivated for a few years back to a much greater extent than formerly. The quantity cannot be ascertained; but it is become so plentiful, that it makes the principal part of the food of the inhabitants for 5 months of the year. The manure chiefly used here is sea-weed, which is thrown upon the shores in bad weather. This manure, though favourable to the production of barley, does not at all enrich the ground so much as dung, which is also used, though not in great quantities. Kelp is the principal part of the produce of this parish, the manufacturing of which was totally unknown here, as well as in every other part of the Highlands, till about the year 1735, when it was but imperfectly introduced by one Rory Macdonald, whom a gentleman in this country (Hugh Macdonald, late tacksmen of Ballishar) had invited over from Ireland, for the purpose of making experiments\*. The quantity of kelp manufactured yearly in

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this

\* In his first attempts, he only reduced the sea-weed to ashes, on which account he was called Rhuary-na-luahigh, or, 'Rory, maker of ashes.' At first it sold at L. 1, 1 s. a ton; but gradually rose in value, till some time after the breaking out of the American war, when it drew about L. 8 the ton at the different markets in England and Scotland. Since the close of the war, the price has been on the decline, on account of the importation of great quantities of barilla and pot-ashes; and it is now so low, that

this parish will amount to a little more than 1200 tons, the greatest part of which is in the hands of the proprietor; 150 tons belong to Mr Maclean of Boreray, and the rest to principal tacksmen, whose leases are not yet expired. All the inhabitants of the parish are employed in manufacturing kelp from the 10th of June till the 10th of August; excepting the principal tacksmen and their servants, with a few tradesmen.

*Cows, Horses, and Sheep.*—Though there may be about 2000 cows, yet the number exported yearly will not exceed 300, owing to the numbers that die of want, and to distempers, to which they are here more liable than in any other part of the Highlands. They are sold in the month of June at a public fair, to drovers from different countries, at different prices, according to their value, from L. 2, 5 s. to L. 2, 15 s. a-head; and there have been a few instances of parcels drawing L. 3. The risk and expense of ferrying cattle to the isle of Sky, make them of less value here than in that country. The price of a milch-cow is at an average L. 3, 10 s. The number of horses may amount at least to 1600. Their value in general is from L. 2 to L. 6, excepting a few that the principal tacksmen keep for the plough, which may be valued from L. 8 to L. 15\*.

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that it is to be feared the manufacturing of it will be given up entirely, (to the utter ruin of the tenants of this parish), unless Government, to encourage home-manufacture, may look upon the commodities used in the place of it as proper objects of taxation.

\* It may be a matter of surprize, that one parish should require as many horses as a county in some other parts of the kingdom. But when it is considered, that the sandy soil here requires a greater quantity of manure than any other; that this manure is carried (not in carts, but in small creels on horseback) to the distance of a mile in some places; that the  
plough

There are no farms here fit for sheep; but every tenant endeavours to rear as many as will furnish him with a little mutton and wool for clothing. They never thrive so well as to enable the tenant to export any. The number of sheep in the whole parish may amount to near 5000, of a very small unmixed breed, covered with fine short wool, of which about 15 fleeces go to a stone. The price of a sheep with lamb is 4 s. 6 d. and of a wedder the same.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—Although no country can be more capable of being improved than this, little has hitherto been done to recover it from a state of nature. The implements of husbandry, with very few exceptions, are the same kind that were used a century back. The plough generally used is little known any where else beyond the Long Island. It is drawn by 4 horses, has only one handle, which the person who directs it holds in his right hand, as he walks beside it, having in his left a lash to drive the horses. Before this plough is a machine drawn by one horse, to which is fixed a crooked iron, of the form of a reaping-hook, to cut the ground, so that the plough may turn it up with greater facility. The number of men and horses requisite to keep this plough a-going, makes it very expensive. It requires one man to direct the plough, and another

plough used here requires more horses to keep it agoing than any other; that the fuel is carried in the same manner that the manure is, at the distance of a mile and a half, and 2 miles in some places; that the kelp ware is led by horses from the shore to the drying ground, and from thence to the kilns, in which it is to be burnt; the occasion for such a number of horses will in some measure be accounted for. The great number of working horses requisite to carry on the business of the farmer does not allow him to keep breeding mares, so that horses are in great numbers yearly imported from the isle of Sky and Lewis, which occasions a constant drain of cash from the parish.

another to lead the horses, one to direct the iron that cuts the ground before the plough, and another to lead the horse that draws it. The gentlemen who possess the principal farms have given up this awkward machine, and introduced in its place the plough generally used in the low country, which they find much more convenient. The thin ground, which does not admit of the plough, is turned up with an instrument called the crooked spade, which is described by Dr Johnson in his tour. There are only 8 carts in the parish, where some hundreds might be used to advantage; most of the farms being so level, that carts might be easily drawn over them.

*Climate.*—In no country can the climate be more variable than in this. There are instances of frost, snow, sleet, and deluges of rain, in the course of the same day. High gales of wind are frequent throughout the year, but particularly the vernal and autumnal equinoxes are attended with storms that sometimes prove fatal in their effects upon corn and cattle. Westerly winds, with hazy weather, prevail for two-thirds of the year. At the same time, the climate is not unhealthy, there being no distempers peculiar to it; coughs, colds, and the rheumatism, prevail here as in other places.

*Fresh Water Lakes.*—There is such a number of fresh-water lakes in this parish, that a person standing on the top of a hill in the middle of it, would imagine, that  $\frac{1}{4}$ th part of it is covered with water. Some of these lakes are very large, and contain a great number of rocks and islands, where wild-fowl, such as geese, ducks, sea-gulls, &c. build their nests, and hatch their young. The whole of them are full of trout, which, in size and quality, are equal to any in the kingdom.

*State*

*State of Property.*—Lord Macdonald is sole proprietor of this parish, and his predecessors have been in possession of it for several centuries back. He is the representative of the Earls of Ross, whose history is well known, and who, in point of power and antiquity, yielded to none of the Scots barons. The rents in the year 1763, including kelp-shores, amounted to upwards of L. 1200. In 1771, they amounted to L. 1800, including kelp-shores. The present land-rents amount to L. 2100, besides the profits arising from the sale of 800 tons kelp, the amount of which cannot be ascertained, on account of the fluctuating state of the price of that article. The tenants may be divided into 2 classes: *1st*, The gentlemen farmers or tacksmen, who possess one or more farms each; and, *2dly*, The small tenants, a number of whom live together in a farm, according to the value and extent of it. The division of tenants into these two classes is not peculiar to this parish, but extends to all the western islands, and the adjacent parts of the continent. The first of these classes, namely, the gentlemen farmers, are for the most part the descendants of the different branches of the families of the chieftains, on whose estate they live. Of old, when the chieftains lived upon their own estates, and had no encouragement to send their younger sons as adventurers to a foreign land, they planted them about them upon their own properties, and gave them portions of lands for small yearly rents, which were continued with their descendants from one generation to another. At the expiration of one lease, another was granted nearly upon the same terms\*.

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\* The chieftain prided himself upon the number of his gentlemen so much, that he looked upon himself as their common father. In their distress he relieved their wants, and when one of them died, he became the



The present set of gentlemen farmers in this parish, are; though few in number, men of a liberal education, who would be an ornament to society even in a more public part of the kingdom. They are renowned for their hospitality, which the strangers, who travel through the country, can attest, and which they find very convenient, there being no inns or public houses for their accommodation.

The 2d class of tenants have the lands divided in small portions among them. The division of farms is into pennies, half-pennies, and farthings. The greatest part of this class of tenants possess half a-penny each, some one-third of a penny, and some one-fourth, or a farthing lands. All the cattle on the same farm feed in common, each tenant being restricted to a certain number, according to his division of lands. The state of this class of tenants will best be illustrated by an instance; so that when the incomes and expenses are compared, a discovery will be made on which side the balance lies. A tenant possessing half a

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penny

the guardian of his children, and the executor of his will; which trust was in general executed with fidelity. On the other hand, when the chieftain was threatened with danger from the invasion or encroachments of his neighbours, his gentlemen flocked to his castle to assist in his deliberations, and to offer their services. If war was determined upon, they, with their adherents, followed him to the field, to support his pretensions, and share his fate. By this means the strongest attachment was established between them, partly on the ties of consanguinity, and partly on mutual services. This attachment continued unimpaired, till the rebellion in the year 1745, which, though attended with the happy consequence of civilizing the Highlanders, and making them good and loyal subjects, yet was attended with this disadvantage, that it weakened the attachment between the chieftains and their people; for since that period, the chieftains, from different motives, have withdrawn themselves from their estates, have become unacquainted with their people, whom they visit but seldom, are not so attentive to the ties of consanguinity, and are become less scrupulous in removing the tacksmen from their farms, if a higher offer is made than the possessors can afford to pay.

penny lands, if he has any grown up children to assist him, will, by manufacturing kelp, make about L. 6 Sterling yearly. He has 6 cows, that is to say, as many great and small as will be equal to 6 grown up cows. Three of them will probably be milch-cows. One of their calves will be killed, in order to have 2 of the cows coupled, another may be supposed to die by accident, or through want, before the time it should be fit for the market, so that this man has only one cow yearly to dispose of, for which he may be allowed to draw L. 2, 8 s. at an average, and which, added to the L. 6 above mentioned, will amount to the sum of L. 8, 8 s. This is his whole yearly income, having nothing else that he can turn into money. On the other hand, this man pays L. 5, 4 s. rent, including public burdens. As he must keep 6 horses, he will be under the necessity of buying one every second year, at the average price of L. 3, 10 s. which makes L. 1, 15 s. a-year. Though in an extraordinary good year, his lands may supply his family with meal, yet he is for ordinary obliged to buy that necessary article; so that matters are not exaggerated, when it is said, that he buys 1 boll a-year, at the average price of 17 s. From this statement, this-tenant has only a balance of 12 s. in his favour, for the purpose of buying all his other necessaries; such as timber, for keeping his houses, implements of husbandry, and perhaps boat, in repair; for buying iron, tar, spades, flax, and several other articles that a tenant has occasion for throughout the year. This man, therefore, will either fall in arrears to the proprietor, or become indebted to those from whom he buys his necessaries; so that if the proprietor's chamberlain should be rigorous in taking up the rents, and others in exacting their lawful debts, many such would find themselves much distressed.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report,  
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the number of souls in 1755 was 1909.—The state of population at any former period cannot exactly be ascertained, there being no list to which a reference can be made; but at present, from an exact list lately taken, it amounts to 3218 souls, which in the opinion of the oldest people in the parish, is more than a third above what it was 30 years ago. This great increase of population is owing principally to 3 causes: 1<sup>st</sup>, The preference given by the proprietor to the small tenants; 2<sup>dly</sup>, To early marriages; and, 3<sup>dly</sup>, To inoculation, which is now become so general, that the poor people, to avoid expenses, inoculate their own children with surprising success. They are all, with a very few exceptions, natives of the parish, and of the Established religion, excepting 4 of the Romish persuasion. The average of births, deaths, and marriages, cannot be ascertained for want of a parish register; but the minister remembers, that during the currency of the year 1792, he celebrated 25 marriages. Below, is a Table, containing a list of the inhabitants, classed according to sex and age, as exactly as could be done, without the help of a register.

Years.	Males.	Females.
Below 10,	497	438
From 10 to 20,	306	323
From 20 to 30,	248	272
From 30 to 40,	204	217
From 40 to 50,	120	177
From 50 to 60,	97	98
From 60 to 70,	72	75
From 70 to 80,	22	26
From 80 to 90,	11	12
From 90 to 100,	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1578	1640
		Tradesmen.

## TRADESMEN.

Smiths,	-	-	5	Boat Carpenters,	10
Tailors,	-	-	25	House ditto,	3
Weavers,	-	-	23	Millers,	3

There are only 2 shoemakers by profession, the people for the most part making their own shoes. There are 40 women who work at the loom. There is 1 surgeon, 1 merchant, 1 schoolmaster. There are 460 families, so that, at an average, there is nearly 7 to a family. There are 460 houses that are inhabited. There are 860 married persons, male and female: 25 widowers; 34 widows.— There are 180 boats, from 2 tons burden to 8 tons, which, at an average, may be valued at L. 5, the whole amounting to L. 900. There is likewise 1 sloop, of 70 tons, and another, of 30 tons burden, both built in the parish.— The number of ploughs amounts to 200\*.

*Fisheries.—*

\* *Wages, &c.*—Men servants are of 2 sorts, married and unmarried. The yearly wages of unmarried servants are from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, besides shoes. Young lads, from 12 to 14 years, have from L. 1 to L. 2; and an unmarried grieve, from L. 5 to L. 6. The married servants have the price of their labour paid them in quite a different manner. Each of them has a milch cow, with its followers, ranging with his master's cows throughout the year, with grafs for a few sheep; he has the labouring of some ground, which is carried on at the master's expense, and which produces about 3 bolls meal, besides some potato ground, which yields from 8 to 10 barrels. A married grieve has grafs for 3 or 4 milch cows, with their followers, as also grafs for some sheep, besides the labouring of so much ground, as will yield from 6 to 10 bolls meal, besides potatoes. The married servant has also 5 bolls meal yearly for his maintenance, and a free house, and fuel. The unmarried servants are much cheaper; but on account of the common people's early marriage, they are very few in number, which is the only cause why masters hire such as have families. There are no labourers to be had for day's wages, so that the

*Fisheries.*—The constant round of employment in which the people are engaged throughout the year, puts it out of their power to pay any attention to fishing, though, without doubt, the sea all around the coast abounds with fish of different kinds. Soon after the sowing season (which generally is from the beginning of April to the latter end of May) is over, they remove, with their cows, sheep and horses, to the east coast, where the kelp shores for the most lie; and where they continue manufacturing kelp till the 10th of August. About the beginning of September, they begin to cut down their corn, and it is in general the latter end of October before they can secure it in their corn-yards. They begin to manure the ground very early in winter, and continue at it when the weather permits, till the sowing season comes on again. The present laws respecting salt are a great bar in the way of fishing, though the people could otherwise attend to it.

*Stipend, Poor, School.*—There are 6 places of worship in the parish \*.

**There**

the masters are under the necessity of hiring their servants for the year, which obliges them to keep the same number when they have least as when they have most occasion for them. The wages of women servants are very low, not exceeding L. 1 at most.

\* These are, Kilmuir, in the centre, where there is a church in very good repair, and where the minister officiates 2 Sundays successively; another place of worship is at Clachan, in the district called Sand, at the distance of 13 miles from the former, where the minister officiates every third Sunday. There is no church at present in this place, the house in which divine service used to be performed having lately fallen to ruin. A third place of worship, is Sollas, at the distance of 7 miles from Kilmuir, where the minister officiates once in the quarter. He is also bound

to

There is a glebe, but no manse, the proprietor furnishing the present incumbent with a house on the farm he possesses. The King is patron. The stipend is 1200 merks Scots, and the allowance for communion-elements 60 merks.—The number of poor to whom charity is given amounts to 50. The only fund for their support arises from the fines of delinquents, the collections made at the church-doors on Sundays, and at the time set apart for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Lord Macdonald also orders a few pensions for the benefit of the most needy. But the poor are indebted for their principal support to the people at large, among whom they go about begging, and who are in general very charitable.—There is only one school in the parish. The Committee for managing the Royal Bounty pay L. 25 a-year of the salary, to which is joined the parochial salary of 200 merks Scots. The number of scholars is in general from 40 to 60, 10 of whom in general read latin; the rest study geography, book-keeping, arithmetic, writing, and reading English. This school sends one yearly to College. There have been 2 at the University last winter, who got the rudiments of their education at this school\*.

*Fuel.*—

to preach once in the year in each of the islands of Borreray and Heister. Carinish, the farthest south part of the parish, is also a place of worship, at the distance of 12 miles from Kilmuir, where the minister used to preach once in the quarter, but it is now a part of the charge of the missionary stationed at Benbecula, on the establishment of the Committee for managing his Majesty's bounty, for reformation of the Highlands, &c.

\* Dr Kemp, Secretary to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, who was in summer 1791 employed upon a tour through these parts of the Highlands, with the intention of discovering those stations where missionaries and schoolmasters on the Society's establishment were most

*Fuel.*—The fuel used here is peat, which is procured at an immense labour and expense. Nothing contributes more to retard the progress of improvements, than the time, expenses, and number of hands requisite to secure a sufficient quantity of peats. It is cut down in the month of April with irons made for the purpose. Four men to an iron, 30 of which will hardly be sufficient to supply a tackfman's family and servants with fuel\*.

*Emigrations.*—

most necessary, pointed out 2 populous districts in this parish, *viz.* Pable and Sand, as places deserving the attention of the Society; and where schools might be erected to great advantage. He also fixed upon the last mentioned place, a district containing 800 souls, with the adjacent islands of Berwea and Paba, belonging to the parish of Harris, as a proper station for a missionary. The Society, always ready to bestow their funds where they may best promote the objects of their institution, propose to grant a salary of L. 50 yearly to a missionary to be employed in the above station, and L. 15 yearly to each of 2 schoolmasters to be employed in the districts already mentioned; if the proprietor should co-operate with their views, so far as to grant certain accommodations required by the Society. His Lordship has not hitherto signified his acquiescence; and it is hoped, that he will not long withhold his countenance from a measure tending so much to promote the civil and religious interests of his tenants.

\* When it hardens a little, it requires near the same number of hands to raise it on end, for the purpose of drying. The next step, is to put it into stacks near the peat moss, which requires a great number of men and horses, but the greatest part of the whole trouble and expense lies in leading them in creels by horses a mile and a half, and in some places two miles, to their respective homes; so that this business of procuring a sufficient quantity of fuel, employs the tacksmen's men-servants, from the month of May to the 1st of September, excepting the time spent in making heath ropes for securing their houses. The small tenants are employed every hour they can spare from other necessary occupations, in furnishing themselves with peats; and after all they can do, they seldom have but a scanty supply of that necessary article. In very rainy seasons, such as the year 1790, there has been such a scarcity of fuel as to oblige people to go with their horses several miles for heath to dress their victuals with.

*Emigrations.*—The sudden rise of the land-rents was certainly the original cause of emigrations from the isle of Sky and Uist to America. Those who found a difficulty in supporting their families when the rents were low, could not be persuaded that any exertions in industry would enable them to live with any degree of comfort, when raised a third more at least. This determined several of them to look out for an asylum some where else. Copies of letters from persons who had emigrated several years before to America, to their friends at home, containing the most flattering accounts of the province of North Carolina, were circulated among them. The implicit faith given to these accounts made them resolve to desert their native country, and to encounter the dangers of crossing the Atlantic to settle in the wilds of America. From 1771 to 1775, several thousands emigrated from the western Highlands to America, among whom were more than 200 from North Uist. These in their turn gave their friends at home the same flattering accounts that induced themselves to go, so that these countries would in a short time have been drained of their inhabitants, had it not been for the American war. However, it will be acknowledged, that in this parish, those who took the benefit of the leases granted at that time, never lived in greater affluence than during the currency of them, owing to the sudden and great advance in the price of kelp, occasioned by the American war. Since the close of the war, the rage for emigration has broke out again in different parts of the Highlands. To produce this, other causes have concurred with that already mentioned. The sense of grievances, whether real or imaginary; the fear of having the fruits of their industry called for by their landlords, many of whom think they have a right to the earnings of the tenants, except what barely supports life; the want of employment for such as have

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so lands to cultivate; the encouragements held out to them by their friends, who are already settled in that country, of living in a state of much greater affluence with less labour; and the facility of procuring a property for a small sum of money, the produce of which they can call their own, and from which their removal does not depend on the will of capricious masters. These are the principal motives that determine people now to emigrate to America, without at all attending to the difficulties and discouragements in their way, arising from the danger they must encounter in crossing the seas; the expense and trouble of removing with their families some 100 miles from shore, for the benefit of enjoying the society of their friends, who have gone before them; the inconvenience of buying all their necessaries, till such time as they are enabled to live by the fruits of their own labour, and the disagreeable effects that a change of climate may have on their healths and constitutions. This contagion has not, indeed, done much to the prejudice of this parish since the close of the American war, excepting, that after a lease that Lord Macdonald had of his lands lately, there were some murmurings, which produced a general desire to emigrate, but which his Lordship in some measure removed by augmenting the manufacturing fees of kelp; however, the people are still in such a state of suspense, that very trifling circumstances may weigh down the scale in favour of emigration. To put a stop to the present rage for emigration requires very nice management in the proprietors. The old attachment between them and their people must in some measure be renewed; long leases must be granted to secure the tenants the possession of their lands for a period of years, to remove their apprehensions of frequent calls upon them for an augmentation of rent. A melioration for improvements to a certain extent ought to be granted,

with premiums to the most deserving. Manufactures must be established for the benefit of such as have no lands to engage their attention, and villages must be erected for the benefit of those who may discover a spirit for commerce, and where those who, by the severity of their masters, may be driven from the plough, may find an asylum, and betake themselves to other occupations; but this is not to be left wholly to the proprietors. The community at large are interested, and may reap some benefit from the improvement and prosperity of the Highlands. The joint-stock Company have discovered a laudable zeal to promote the general good of the Highlands, and have made such beginnings as their small capital would permit: but their exertions must be feeble to bring about this desirable end, without aid from the fostering hand of Government. The Highlands have a claim upon the attention of Government, being inhabited by as loyal subjects as can be found in his Majesty's dominions, and having furnished, frequently, numbers of brave fellows, who have signalled themselves in all the corners of the world, fighting for their King and country. It is a matter of surprise, that the Highlands have so long been neglected by Government, and that while they lay out so much of the public money in settling distant colonies, a channel should be left open, whereby a considerable part of the mother country may be drained of its valuable inhabitants; but this cannot long be the case; it is to be hoped, that the time is approaching when a relaxation from war, and other objects of importance, will afford them leisure to direct their attention to these remote corners. Then means will be made use of that will be adequate to an object of such magnitude as the improvement of the Highlands. Towns and villages will rise in different places, where nature has furnished the most advantageous situations; lands, that are now barren, will, in  
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the vicinity of these villages, be brought to a state of cultivation ; population, which under the present disadvantages, still makes a rapid progress, will then increase to a much greater degree ; an entire stop will be put to the spirit for emigration ; new sources of wealth will spring up from an extension of commerce and manufactures ; a nursery for seamen, in which the strength of the British nation in a great measure consists, will be established : So that the Highlands, which now wear a gloomy aspect, will then become a flourishing part of the British empire.

*Antiquities.*—There is a number of Druidical temples in this parish, differing little from others in several parts of the Highlands, which are already described, particularly by Dr Smith of Campbeltown, in his history of the Druids. There are 2 very large heaps of stones, thrown together without order or regularity, near the tops of two hills in the middle of the parish. What makes these any way remarkable, is their great size, and their distance from any place where stones could be found. Some of the stones are so large, that it is inconceivable by what mode of conveyance they were carried up hill to the ground where they lie. They seem to be the tumuli of leaders of great influence, who have signalized themselves by their valour or accomplishments\*.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* There are many Danish forts in this parish, some of them built on rocks in the middle of fresh water lakes accessible from the shore by a causeway, raised almost to a level with the water, and others built on high ground in different parts of the country, 2 of them being in view of one another, for the purpose of communicating the alarm speedily, in case of danger or invasion. In a part of the parish, called Carinish, there is a church called Teampul na Trianade, or Trinity Temple, which tradition



distance, that is to say, when the lands extended a great deal farther to the westward\*.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The inhabitants of this parish enjoy the great advantage, that no services are exacted. They are likewise supplied by the proprietor, with low-country meal, and some other useful and necessary articles at prime cost. The disadvantages they labour under, arising from the number of horses they must keep, the labour and expense of securing fuel, and the want of timber, which they must buy from other countries at a dear rate, have already been observed: but one great disadvantage they labour under, and for which a remedy has been offered, is, that the means they enjoy of being instructed in religious and useful knowledge, are not adequate to these great ends. For it is impossible that one clergyman,  
however

\* For it is evident, that the sea makes considerable encroachments, even in the course of one generation, so that in the course of many, it may be supposed to have washed away a great extent of country. The rocks and shoals, and banks of sand, extending a great way to the west, corroborate this hypothesis. There are 2 rocks to the westward, the one at the distance of 16, and the other, of 4 miles from shore, inhabited only by seals, which the possessors of the farms these rocks belong to, attempt to kill once a-year, either in the month of October or November; for this purpose, they use clubs or long sticks, heavy at one end, and with which they strike them on the head, a blow in any other part being ineffectual. These rocks have once been very valuable; but for some years back, their inhabitants have, for the most part, deserted them, and betaken themselves to other habitations, where they probably meet with milder treatment. This parish once abounded with deer; but on account of the increase of population, the ground that afforded them the best pasture formerly, is now partly cultivated, and partly covered with cows and sheep. There is a variety of wild fowl, which may afford recreation to the sportsman, such as geese, ducks of different kinds, moor-fowl, snipe, plovers, pigeons, with numberless tribes of a smaller kind, too tedious to mention.

however assiduous he may be in the discharge of his duty, can be equal to the task of instructing in the principles of religion, such a multitude of people dispersed over a great tract of country, many of them in situations so discontinuous to the places of worship, that they hardly have an opportunity of hearing the word of God preached once in the twelvemonth. It may also be affirmed, that the labours of one schoolmaster, however central his situation may be, cannot be of extensive usefulness in a parish of such extent, and where the people are not rich enough to send their children to school at a distance from their own houses.

*Character of the People.*—The common people of this parish are sober and industrious, sagacious and acute, in discovering their own interest, when placed within the sphere of their observation, and persevering in the pursuit of it. Though living on a poor simple diet, they may be usefully employed in matters that require patience and fatigue, when their exertions are properly directed. They are full of curiosity, which makes them inquisitive, to a degree bordering on impertinence, and rather offensive to strangers. They are insinuating and artful in their address, obliging and peaceable in their dispositions, excepting when their interests interfere; and in that case, if any difference or quarrels subsist among them, they plead their own cause before the baron-bailie, who is the only magistrate in the parish, with surprising eloquence and address; and rest quite satisfied with his decision, without ever appealing to any higher tribunal. They are honest for the most part; but among the poorer sort of them, petty pilfering, and even sheep-stealing, is too common, for which there is no adequate punishment, for want of a proper police; for though the most of the gentlemen are on the

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rolls

rolls of justices of the peace, none of them have undertaken to act as such, for want of means to enforce their decisions, there being no prison nearer hand than Laverneſh, which is at the diſtance of more than 100 miles. They are indeed ignorant, for reaſons already mentioned. They are of a middle ſize, there being neither dwarf, nor any remarkable for height among them. In their manners and cuſtoms there is nothing peculiar.

*Methods of meliorating the Condition of the People.*—Long leaſes are certainly the beſt means that can be put in the people's power to better their condition. It is not to be ſuppoſed, that without this encouragement, they will diſcover any new exertion in induſtry, or be at the expenſe of introducing any new implements of huſbandry, or give themſelves the trouble of making any improvements that will turn out to no advantage to them before the expiration of their leaſes, which were only 9 years at their commencement. It will be ſaid, in anſwer to this, that though there were 19 years leaſes granted in the year 1769, there has not been much done to improve the country. But to obviate this objection, it may be obſerved, that ſuch as were in the vigour of life at that time did a good deal in that way, that the moſt to whom theſe leaſes were granted were people on the decline of life, attached to the old method of farming, and ignorant of any other. But the caſe differs widely now: The gentlemen who poſſeſs the principal farms in the pariſh now are all young and active, and diſcover a ſpirit for improvements. They have likewiſe, by their intercourſe with the low country, acquired a knowledge of the methods of cultivating the ground there, which they are inclined to introduce in this country upon proper encouragement.

A melioration to a certain extent for building good houses, would also contribute much to the improvement of this country. There is not a slated house in the parish, but the church, one mill, a house at Lochmaddie, that was intended for a public house, and another in the Island of Vallay, in a ruinous condition. But if the above encouragement was granted, the principal tacksmen would soon have slated houses; the great quantities of straw now used for thatch to their houses, would then become provender for cattle; and the time employed by their servants in making heath ropes to secure the thatch, would then be laid out in improvements of different kinds. The small tenants have not much time indeed to improve their lands on account of the round of employment already mentioned. But if any method could be fallen upon, that would enable them to lessen their number of horses, nothing could turn out more to their advantage; using carts in place of creels, would help much to bring about this desirable end. If the proprietor should send a quantity of seasoned wood, and some cart-wrights to the country, so as to have carts made, adapted to the small size of their horses, which might be sold at prime cost, a great reduction of the number of horses might be the consequence. In that case, a part of the corn now given as provender for horses might be saved; a part of the money sent out of the parish to purchase them, might be otherwise employed, and the people enabled to keep a greater number of black cattle. It is almost unnecessary to observe, that establishing manufactures, and erecting villages, would help much to better the condition of the people, as then the tenant would be furnished with a market at hand for many articles that now turn to no account.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF BARRAY,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRESBYTERY OF UIST.)

*By the Rev. Mr EDWARD MACQUEEN.*

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

THE ancient name of this parish is not known. Its present name seems to be derived from St Barr, the tutelar faint of the island, and to whose memory the 25th of September is dedicated as a holiday. On this day the Priest says mass, and all those of the Romish religion used punctually to attend \*. On the N. this parish is divided from

\* After mass the people amused themselves with horse-races, and spent the evening in mirth and conviviality. Of late years this custom has been much on the decline. Formerly there was an image of the faint in the church-yard of Shilbar, (the principal place of worship, and probably the burial-place of the faint), which was clothed with a linen shirt every year upon his own anniversary. Some of the priests who resided here informed me, that it was not enjoined as a necessary part of their duty to pay

from Uist by a channel of 8 miles; the island of Tyree, in the county of Argyle, and the property of the Duke of Argyle, is the nearest land to it on the S. and lies at the distance of about 40 miles; Canna and Rum, in the parish of the small isles, lying at the distance of 24 miles; on the W. it is exposed to the Atlantic Ocean. The parish of Barray consists of the main island of Barray, particularly so called, and a number of other islands, distinguished by their respective names, the largest of which are inhabited, such as Waterfay, Sanderay, Dabay, Mengalay, and Bernaray, to the S.; Flodday, Keillefay, and Gigay, on the E.; besides a number of smaller islands not inhabited. The main island of Barray is 8 computed miles in length, and from 2 to 4 in breadth, being intersected in different places by arms of the sea. The compilers of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* will do well to correct their error in calling Barray a rock half a mile in circumference, inhabited only by solan geese and other wild fowls. The island of Waterfay, separated from the main island by a channel of one mile, is about 3 miles in length, in some places a mile and a half broad, and is divided into two distinct farms; the one, possessed by Mr M'Neil of Waterfay; the other is now in the hands of the proprietor, called the farm of Kilis.

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pay so much veneration to Saint Barr, as he never had the honour of being ranked with the Saints of Rome, nor was his name at any time enrolled in the Roman kalendar. From this it appears, that the churches in these parts, which were subject to Icolmkill, never recognized the authority of the church of Rome. It appears from Bede, who wrote in the beginning of the 8th century, that the monastery of Icolmkill was not subject to Rome at that time. Later writers have shown the same in their times; besides, if at any subsequent period it had submitted to Papal jurisdiction, it is more than probable that some Pope or other would have dignified with canonization, a person who had sanctity enough to render him worthy of being appointed the patron or protector of any district of ecclesiastical territory.

The next is Sanderay, distant 5 miles from Barray; it is 2 miles in length, 2 in breadth, and contains 9 families. Pabay, lying at the distance of 8 miles from Barray,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in length, and 1 in breadth, contains 3 families. Mengalay, at the distance of 12 miles, 2 miles in length, and 2 miles in breadth, contains 8 families. The last is Berneray, which, from its being called the Bishop's Isle, seems to have once belonged to the Bishop of the isles; it is 16 miles distant from Barray, 1 mile in length,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in breadth, and contains 3 families. These islands are fertile in corn and grass, but liable to be blasted by the S. W. winds; which frequently blow here. They are very difficult of access, on account of the strong currents running between them, and landing is sometimes not only difficult, but hazardous. Close by the island of Mingalay is a high rock, with very luxuriant grass growing on the top of it. The inhabitants of this island climb to the top at the risk of their lives, and by means of a rope carry up their wedders to fatten. This must be the *Scarpa Vervecum* mentioned by Buchanan \*. The main island of Barray has a barren appearance, from the great quantity of rock to be seen every where, excepting the north end, which, for its fertility, if the climate were equally good, might be compared to any

\* To this, and to the island of Bernera, great numbers of sea-fowls resort every year in the month of May, the same with those in St Kilda; though not in such variety; they come in the latter end of April or the beginning of May to clean their nests from the rubbish of last year, then set off, and after some days return to lay their eggs, and hatch, and so soon as the young are able to take the wing, they disappear, and are not to be seen till the same season next year. The inhabitants of these two islands catch some of them in the rocks, which they think very good eating, and from which they get very fine feathers; these feathers they sell at 6 d. the lb. in the country, as they never have them in such quantities as to send them to a public market.

any of the same extent in any part of Scotland. In the middle and south end are very high hills, and some flat; the hills are a mixture of green, rock, and heath; and seem to be better calculated for a sheep-walk, than for rearing black cattle, but lie at too great a distance from market.

*Agriculture, Soil, &c.*—Agriculture has been almost invariably the same here (as in most of the western isles) for time immemorial, till within these last 5 years, when Mr Macneil, the proprietor, returned from visiting foreign countries, has begun to introduce the method used in the low country, as far as he thinks the soil and climate can admit of. The soil in general is thin and rocky, (excepting the north end, which is a mixed soil, and almost free of rock); there is also a great deal of sand, which is blown one way or other with every gale of wind, so that a great part of the best corn-land has been thus blown away, or covered with sand. There is some meadow ground between the hills. The ground here requires that the manure be thick laid, in order to procure a tolerable crop; there are some meadows that yield three successive crops with one coat of manure, *viz.* one of potatoes, and two of oats. The people here use the plough for the most part; but in their rocky ground they dig or turn up the ground with a kind of lever, which they call the crooked spade, and which Dr Johnston has described in his tour through the Hebrides. They lay their potatoes for the most part in lazy beds, in the following manner:—1st, They mark out a ridge of about four feet wide, then lay on the manure, and with a spade cover it with earth taken out of the furrow; in this state it remains till the beginning of April, when they begin to plant the potatoes by means of a dibble, or pointed stick, with which they penetrate the earth thus laid on, (making a hole to receive the seed), then break the earth with a

hand-rake, which serves the purpose of harrowing ; this is a more tedious operation than laying the plant upon the manure before it is covered with earth, but is the only method that can be used on these meadows, which are deep and wet, and the season must be very bad when they do not make good returns. They have of late begun to plant potatoes in light sandy soil, which answers very well ; and Mr Macneil, the proprietor, plants almost all his with the plough, which gives ample satisfaction, and every one begins to follow the example. The principal crop here is barley and potatoes ; there is some small black oats, and little rye. The returns in barley are from 10 to 15 ; in potatoes from 15 to 20. Sea-weed is the principal manure here ; as that is sometimes precarious, the crop must be so also, for when a sufficient quantity of sea-weed is not cast upon the shore, a plentiful harvest is not to be expected. Formerly the sea-weed that grows upon the shore was used for manure ; but since kelp has become so valuable, the proprietors every where have restricted the people from cutting it for that purpose, which is certainly prejudicial to agriculture. The people also make some compost. In good seasons they raise as much crop as will be sufficient for their subsistence, otherwise there is a scarcity ; but the proprietor supplies the country with low-country meal at the market price. It is to be hoped, that a scarcity may not happen so frequently henceforth, if the people in general could adopt the improvements lately introduced, in raising crops and rearing cattle. The cattle here are generally small. Mr Macneil, who has an extensive farm in his own hands, having bought from the best folds in different parts of the Highlands, can now produce a fold of his own rearing equal to any of them. The lands here, as in many other places in the Highlands, are distinguished into single and double lands, and the division of them is into pennies.

pennies, halfpennies, and farthings. No tenant here possesses more than halfpenny, for which he pays from L. 3 to L. 4 for single lands, and L. 6 for the halfpenny of double lands. The fouming of the halfpenny, that is, the number of full grown cattle, is 8, young stock and sheep included; 2 three-year old queys, or 3 two-year olds, are equal to a foum, and 8 sheep. So that the stock of the possessor of a halfpenny of single lands, consists of 3 horses, 4 cows, and 8 or 10 sheep. The tenants pay their rents by manufacturing kelp and sale of their cattle. The proprietor employs a number of them in making kelp upon his farm, for which he pays from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, 2s. and for the kelp made upon their own shores, which he also has at his own disposal, L. 2 : 12 : 6 the ton, which is the highest manufacturing price given in the Highlands, so far as I know. So that, from the sale of their cattle, and making of kelp, the people live very easy, excepting in bad years, when there is a scarcity of bread, they are under the necessity of buying low-country meal. There are 5 farms which were let for 19 years at stipulated rents; the leases are nearly expired\*.

*Population.*

\* The distance of this place from market, and its insular situation, has prevented the price of cattle from advancing in the same proportion as it has done in places more accessible, and more conveniently situated. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, the price has advanced to a third more at least within these 18 years; for a cow that sold then at L. 1, 10s. would sell now at L. 2, 5s. or L. 2, 10s.; and parcels that sold then at L. 2, sell now at L. 3; milch-cows sell at from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4; whereas, at the period above mentioned, they sold for L. 2, and L. 2, 10s. according to their quality. They are bought by drovers who come hither from different places at stated times. The expense in carrying them from this to the nearest part of the continent, which lies at the distance of 20 leagues, is 2s. 6d. the head, besides the buyer's expense and trouble in coming for them, and the risk of losing some by the way, as they sometimes make a tedious passage.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1150. There has been no exact list taken of the number of inhabitants here since it was erected into a parish; at least I could find none. But it is evident that population must have increased considerably within these last 20 years, from this circumstance, that then there were some lands unoccupied, and many of the tenants possessed a whole penny; whereas, lately, the proprietor was obliged to divide the lands into smaller portions, in order to accommodate the inhabitants. At this time, no tenant occupies more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny, and many have but  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a penny. In the last case, it is to be observed, the land is what is called double; at present, the number of souls in this parish is 760 males, and 864 females, in all 1604, of which only 80 are Protestants. Besides this number, upwards of 200 left this country within the last 2 years; some emigrated to the island of St John's, and Nova Scotia, in North America, being inveigled thither by a Mr F\*\*\* upon promises of the undisturbed possession of their religion, (being all Roman Catholics), and of free property for themselves, and their offspring for ever; but how soon they were landed, he left them to their shifts, and returned back to his native country\*.

*Superiority.*—Barray held originally of the Kings of Scotland till the reign of James VI. when an English ship

\* These poor people were left in the most deplorable situation. If the inhabitants of the different places in which they landed, had not exerted themselves for their relief, many of them must have perished, for want of the common necessaries of life. They became sensible of their folly when it was too late; others went to Glasgow, being invited thither by Mr David Dale, to work in his cotton manufactory; but Mr Dale's terms not coming up to their expectations, some of them returned home; and many of them, from a change of diet and occupation, contracted

ship was seized upon the coast by Roderick Macniel, then Laird of Barray, surnamed Ruary 'n' tarter, or Rory the turbulent, probably so called, from the frequent depredations he committed in different places, which were not uncommon in those days. Queen Elizabeth complained to the Court of Scotland of this act of piracy committed upon her subjects; upon which, the Laird of Barray was summoned to appear at Edinburgh, to answer for his unjustifiable behaviour; but he either refused or despised the summons. Several attempts were made afterward to apprehend him, which proved unsuccessful. Mr Mackenzie, commonly called the tutor of Kintail, predecessor to the late Lord Macleod, undertook to effect by stratagem, what others could not do by more direct means. Having come, under cover of a friendly visit, to the Castle of Kifimul, where the Laird then resided, he invited him and all his retainers on board, who not suspecting any hostile design, suffered themselves to be overpowered with excess of liquor, so that all his friends were easily persuaded to go on shore, and trust their chief in the hands of one who had so hospitably entertained them\*.

### *Antiquities*

tracted distempers, of which they died; many more prepared themselves for emigration, but repented time enough to avoid the snare into which their friends have been inconsiderately led, by going to America; they also sold their effects, and spent the money arising from the conversion, so that they would have been destitute in their native country; but Mr Macneil, the proprietor not only gave them, and such as returned from Glasgow, lands, but likewise money enough to purchase a new stock of cattle, and all the other necessary implements of husbandry. The spirit for emigration is now happily and totally suppressed.

\* Kintail improved the advantage put into his hands, hoisted sail under night, and the wind proving fair, he was soon out of reach of his pursuers.



*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—There are several duns in this parish, most of which were built by the Danes, others of greater antiquity, built by the natives, to defend themselves against the encroachments of the neighbouring clans, as also of the Danes, when they invaded those islands. The Danish duns are 11 in number, 5 on the island of Barray, 2 in Waterfay, 1 in Sanderay, 1 in Perbay, 1 in Mengalay, and 1 in Berneray, the last of which is taken notice of by the learned Dr Macpherson of Slate, in his antiquities, and is more entire than any of the rest. Each of these duns is in sight of some other, that, in case of an invasion, the alarm might be the more speedily communicated to the whole. That upon the island of Berneray, being the farthest south, it may be supposed, served for a pharos or watch tower, as well as a place of defence, as did another in the island of Griskay, (the property of Colin Macdonald, Esq; of Boisdale, but at that time the property of the Laird of Barray,) on the east. While the Danes were in possession of these islands, they confined the natives to their own duns, which are all built on fresh water lochs,

purfuers. He at length arrived with his prisoner at Edinburgh, where he was tried for his life. Being interrogated why he treated Queen Elizabeth's subjects with such barbarity, he replied, that he thought himself bound, by his loyalty, to retaliate, as much as lay in his power, the unpardonable injury done by the Queen of England to his own Sovereign, and his Majesty's mother. By this answer, he obtained his Majesty's pardon, but forfeited his estate, which was given to Kintail, who restored it back to the Laird of Barray, on condition of holding of him, and paying him 60 merks Scots as a yearly feu-duty. Some time after, Sir James Macdonald of Slate, great-great-grandfather of the present Lord Macdonald, married a daughter of Kintail's, who made over the superiority to Sir James, either as a present or as a part of his daughter's dowry. The superiority continues in the family of Macdonald to this day.

lochs, or small creeks formed by the sea; whereas those of the Danes are built upon eminences\*.

*Fisbery*.—There are great quantities of cod and ling caught upon the E. coast of this island. The fishing banks extend from the mouth of Loch Boisdale to Barrayhead; from 20 to 30 boats are generally employed in this business from the latter end of March, or the beginning of April, to the end of June, and five hands in every boat; at an average they kill from 1000 to 1500 ling to each boat. Mr Macneil of Waterfay, who took an exact account of the number of ling sent to Glasgow in the year 1787, found it to amount to 30,000, besides a great number sold in the country. They have not been equally successful at all

\* At one time, the Danish governor made alliance with Macneil of Barray, by marrying his daughter. But after the battle of Largs, the power of the Danes began every where to decline; and such of them as remained here after the Ebuðæ, were restored to the King of Scotland, were expelled or massacred by the natives. In one of the adjacent islands, there is a collection of human bones, where it is said the last of the Danes were murdered. In Kilbar are two churches, built by the monks, belonging to Icolumkill; another at Borne, dedicated to St Michael. In Castle-bay, is a fort, built upon a rock, which must have formerly been almost covered with the sea. This fort is of a hexagonal form; the wall is near 30 feet high; in one of its angles is a high square tower, on the top of which, at the corner immediately above the gate, is a perforated stone, through which the gockman or watchman, who sat there all night, let a stone fall upon any person who attempted to surprise the gate by night. Within the wall are several houses, and a well dug through the middle of the rock. The tradition here is, that this fort was built upwards of 500 years ago. Buchanan calls it an old castle in his time. It has always been the residence of the Lairds of Barry, till the beginning of the present century. Here are also several Druidical temples, none of them remarkable for extent or structure; near one of these is a well, which must have been once famous for its medicinal quality, as also for curing or preventing the effects of fascination. It is called *tobbar nam buadh*, or the well of virtues. There are a few mineral springs.

all times ; but one year with another the quantity may be computed at 30,000 ling, besides cod. They carry their fish to Glasgow in the very boats they use at the fishing, where the ling fell from L. 5 to L. 6 the hundred. Herring has often been got here in great abundance ; but the want of salt has sometimes prevented the inhabitants from deriving any considerable advantage from it. It is to be regretted, that the severity of the salt-laws hinders the poor people here from using any other than what is got from the customhouse, which lies at the distance of 20 leagues ; if the Legislature thought proper to remove this grievance, fishing of various kinds might become a source of affluence to the people in general, of wealth to individuals, and the public markets would be more plentifully supplied. They have been at times so successful in the caraban fishing as to be entitled to some of the premiums granted by the Board of Trustees ; they also make some dog-fish and cuddy oil, some of which they burn in their lamps, the overplus they sell at 7d. or 8d. the Scotch pint. Some have even been known to pay their rents with the oil extracted from the small fish called cuddy. Shell-fish abound here, such as limpets, muscles, wilks, clams, spout fish, or razor-fish, lobsters, crabs, &c. &c. but what is singularly beneficial to the inhabitants, is the shell fish called cockle. It is found upon the great sand on the N. end of Barray, in such quantities, that in times of great scarcity all the families upon the island (about 200) resort to it for their daily subsistence. It has been computed, that the two last summers, which were peculiarly distressing on account of the great scarcity, no less than from 100 to 200 horse-loads of cockles were taken off the sands at low-water every day of the spring-tides during the months of May, June, July, and August. If the people made use of cockles in plentiful years, they

might save as much bread as would prevent a scarcity in the worst of times\*.

*Harbours.*—The first towards the N. is Ottirvore, which is more properly a road than a harbour; the entrance to it is from the E. between the islands of Griukay and Gigay. The next further S. is Flodday Sound, surrounded by a number of islands, and opens to the S. E.; here the largest ships may ride with safety all the seasons of the year. Tivivah, or the inland bay, so called from its cutting far into the middle of the country; here vessels may ride out the hardest gales; it opens also to the S. E. On the S. end of Barray is Kistmul-bay, so called by the natives, and by mariners Castle-bay, from the old castle formerly mentioned; it opens to the S. In the island of Waterfay is a very commodious harbour for ships of any burden; it is accessible from the S. E. between the islands of Sanderay and Muldonich, or the Deer Island. Ottirvore and Flodday are much frequented by ships to and from the Baltic. The convenience of these harbours, and the great quantity of fish killed upon the coast, should make Barray a more eligible situation for a village than any that the joint-stock company have yet pitched upon. These harbours have good outlets for the S. and N. and are near the fishing-

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banks;

\* Buchanan is undoubtedly mistaken, when he asserts, that the cockle originated from small animalculi coming down along with the water of a spring in the top of a green hill above the sand. It is true, there is such a hill, with a spring on the summit of it; but any water running from it does not come to the sea, being absorbed by the intervening ground, which is sandy; besides, that it is allowed by all naturalists, that every animal procreates its own species. But this vulgar notion prevails among the inhabitants to this day. The shell of the cockle makes the whitest, if not the strongest lime; they lie in great banks on the sea-side, where a small vessel may be loaded in a tide.

banks; they also abound in small cod and flounders. There are some fresh water lochs with plenty of trout.

*Religion, Stipend, School, Places of Worship, Poor, &c.*—  
The Protestant religion universally prevailed here till after the Restoration; when the Church of England was established in Ireland, some Irish priests took banishment from that kingdom to those islands; at that time Harris and Barry made one parish; the minister always resided in the former, and was at too great a distance from the latter; so that the inhabitants were exposed to the artifices of the priests, who taking advantage of the absence of the minister, and the ignorance of the times, perverted the people. The stipend of this parish is 2 chalders meal, and 900 merks Scots, of which 300 are paid out of the unaffected tiends of South Uist, together with 58 for communion-elements. There is no manse\*. The glebe is a small farm given by the heritor, when this place was erected into a parish, to the Presbytery, on condition that every incumbent should pay 46 merks Scots yearly rent; the whole may be valued at L. 12. The number of Protestants has been always so small, that it was thought unnecessary to put the heritor to the expense of building a church. There is no school here but one granted by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, which is now upon a more respectable footing than formerly, as the Society, since the last visitation by the Rev. Mr Kemp, their secretary, have augmented the salary from L. 12 to L. 15; the heritor

\* A short time after the present incumbent was settled in the parish, Mr Macneil, the heritor, went to America at the commencement of the last war. The minister agreed with his man of business at Edinburgh to accept of L. 10 a-year for his manse, and melioration for any house he should build to accommodate himself, till the heritor should return. The matter stands so still.

heritor has built a good school-house, as also a house for the master, and has furnished the schoolmaster with all the conveniences required by the Society. At the last visitation upwards of 40 scholars attended; it might be of considerable benefit if it was equally well throughout the year; but in the busy seasons, such as seed-time and harvest, the parents are obliged to withdraw their children. There are three places of worship, *viz.* Kilbar, Borve, and Waterfay. The minister preaches two Sundays at Borve, which is only a mile and a half from his own house; the third Sunday at Kilbar, at the distance of 3 miles; and the fourth at Waterfay, which, including a ferry of 1 mile, is at the distance of 5 miles. The inhabitants of the South isles are all Roman Catholics; the priest goes there only twice a-year, unless by a particular call to visit the sick, and to administer extreme unction. What renders this parish singularly troublesome, is its distance from the seats of Presbytery and Synod; the first is in North Uist, at the distance of 40 miles, besides a ferry of 8 miles, where he attends two stated Presbyteries in the year, the one in the beginning of December, and the other the middle of March; besides occasional meetings, and attendance upon sacraments in North Uist and Harris, the last of which is at the distance of near 60 miles, besides the ferry already mentioned, and that between North Uist and Harris, 12 miles in length; this distance the minister is sometimes under the necessity of walking on foot; though at other times, when horses are in good order, he is obliged to the generosity of the principal gentlemen on the way for the use of their horses, which he takes this occasion to acknowledge. The seat of the Synod, which is Glenelg, on the continent of Scotland, is at the distance of 30 leagues by sea, when he must be at the expense of boat and crew; and if he goes from hence to North Uist, to take passage by the packet-boat

boat to Dunveggan, and then through Sky, the distance is much greater, and the expenses more considerable.—The number of poor is generally from 40 to 50; there are L. 400 Sterling of a fund for them, L. 200 of which is a mortification by Archibald Macneil, late tackfman of Sanderay, and L. 100 by Roderick Shaw, tackfman of Alafdale, now living; they never go any where else to collect their subsistence.

*Servants, Wages, &c.*—The number of servants depends upon the extent of land a man possesses; a farm of any considerable extent, according to the present mode of farming, employs 5 or 6 men, 4 or 5 maid servants, and 2 or 3 boys; the wages of a labouring man servant, for the whole year, are from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2.; the boys have from 15s. to L. 1, 5s.; women from 15s. to L. 1. Besides the above wages, the men and boys get a seventh part of the crop to divide among them, the grieve has double wages. Giving them a share of the crop, makes them more industrious, and binds them faster to the master's interest, as it is for the time inseparably connected with their own. Such a number of servants must be very burdensome to a farmer, and must run away with a great share of the produce of his farm; but the difficulty of winning their peats, which is the only fuel used here, renders it necessary to keep so many servants, and double the number of horses that would be sufficient for their ploughing; for a farmer that must keep such a number of servants, must also keep 16 or 18 horses, both which are almost wholly employed drying and carrying home their peats, from the beginning of June, when the sowing is at an end, till the latter end of August, when the reaping comes on. If the Legislature thought proper to take the duty off coal, it might, in

a great measure, alleviate this grievance; and if the farmers could use coal, instead of peats, they might employ their servants for very useful purposes, such as, making kelp, building walls, making inclosures, composts, &c. &c.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The Gaelic is the only language commonly spoken here, and I believe the purest dialect of it to be met with in any country; though by their frequent excursions to Glasgow, the people have introduced a number of English words. Numbers of the inhabitants, who attended the school, speak English tolerably well.—There are 200 tons kelp sent annually to the markets of Liverpool and Leith, and fetch the best price that is given for any that is sent from any part of the Highlands; fish and oil are sent to Glasgow; price as formerly mentioned. There are also from 200 to 250 head of cattle sold to drovers, at an average, about L. 2, 5 s. a-head, great and small, besides about 100 hides of beef sent to Glasgow, or sold on the nearest part of the continent. The number of horses here is 557; cows, 1170, the number of founs in sheep, 277, which, at the rate of 8 sheep to the foun, is 2216.—The weather is rather inconstant. The W. and S. W. winds blow most frequently here, and prove very destructive to corn. This last winter was very wet and stormy, much the same with that of 1790, both which have been the most distressing to the people here, in the memory of any man living. We have had very little snow this winter or spring, and none at all the two preceding. The sea seems to have made some encroachments here. The tradition here is, that 3 or 4 generations back, the cattle used to feed in places, where kelp is made at this day; but now it can hardly go any farther, as the shore along the west coast, (where the sea could have made any progress formerly), is almost all rocky, and may serve as a sufficient



sufficient barrier against any future encroachments. It is to be observed, that notwithstanding the great quantities of fish killed upon this coast, the proprietor never claimed any emoluments from that lucrative business, but allowed the people to make the best of it for themselves; and he always gives premiums to the first people that discover the arrival of the herrings upon the coast; nor does any proprietor in the neighbouring parish derive any advantage from the fishing there.—The island of Barray, with all the surrounding islands, is the property of Roderick Macneil, Esq; of Barray, whose predecessors are said to have been in possession of those islands before the Danes, and were the first of that name who came from Ireland, whence they derive their pedigree; so that they have always been acknowledged the chief of the Macniels in Scotland.

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## N U M B E R XXIII.

## P A R I S H of A N W O T H,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY,  
PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. Mr HUGH GORDON.

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**I**N old records, respecting this parish, dated about 60 years ago, it is spelled *Anwoth*, sometimes *Anweth*, and at other times *Anwoth*, but the name Anwoth is at present retained, and its origin, we believe, cannot now be ascertained. The parish is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, from N. E. to S. W. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  broad. The sea-shore, which bounds the parish for about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the mouth of the river Fleet, to the confines of Kirkmabreck, is generally flat and rocky, though in one place it is bold and elevated. It contains no harbours. The land which lies upon the sea-shore, and near the mouth of the river, is in general flat; the soil is dry and fertile, lying for the most part on a bed of sand or gravel. This part produces excellent crops of grain and grafs; but the soil being thin, it is much injured by

by dry seasons. Farther up the river, towards the north, the surface becomes more uneven, broken, and barren, and hills, which are not very elevated, every where appear. The lesser part here is arable, excepting a small strip on the banks of the river. On the borders of Kirkmabreck, the country becomes rather mountainous; the hills are covered with heath, intermixed with grass, and principally appropriated to feeding sheep. As soon as the traveller turns his eye towards that part of the parish, which lies along the river, and on the sea-shore, a beautiful prospect opens to his view. This spot, nature has embellished with some of her finest ornaments, to which have been added some of the improvements of art. There is a great variety of prospects. For about 6 miles along the banks of the river, and at some distance from it, there is a considerable quantity of natural and planted wood, which being intermixed with gentlemen's seats and cultivated fields, having the river on one side, and the hills on the other, rising at proper distances, forms one of the most beautiful prospects that is to be found in this part of Galloway. These woods grow on the estates of Messrs Maxwell of Cardonefs, Macculloch of Ardwell, Murray of Broughton, Hannay of Rusco. They consist mostly of oak, ash, birch, and fir, and it is believed, that if sold at 20 years growth, they would give L. 7000 Sterling.

*Climate.*—The climate here, like that of all districts where the elevation of the land, in one place, differs so much from that of another, varies in different parts of the parish. It is often sharp and cold on the hills, while it is warm and comfortable on the shore, and in the vallies. In winter and spring, the tops of the hills are sometimes covered with snow, when, about a mile or two distant, on the shore, and in the vallies, there is not a speck of it to be seen,

seen, and a general verdure appears on the face of the ground. Though the hills on the west attract the clouds, and cause them to discharge a considerable quantity of rain, yet as the general surface declines towards the sea and the river, and as the soil is such that it readily absorbs the water, the air is for the most part as dry, pure, and salubrious, as any where in the neighbourhood. No epidemical diseases are known to prevail here, the measles and small-pox excepted; to prevent the baleful effects of the latter, inoculation is now generally used.

*Rivers.*—The river Fleet runs on the borders of this parish about 7 miles; one branch of which issues from a small loch of the same name, in the parish of Girthon; the other branch has its source in the parish of Kirkmabreck, near the base of a very high hill, called Cairnsmuir. It is navigable for small vessels of about 50 tons as far as the village of Gatehouse, which is situated about 3 miles from the mouth of the river. Fish are not plenty in this river; a few salmon, sea trout, yellow trout, and flounders, are caught in it. The salmon and sea trout are taken with draught nets, but the quantity is so small, that it will scarce defray the expense of labour, and is not a tenth part of what it was 50 years ago. They are caught from May to the middle of August, and sold in Gatehouse and the neighbourhood at about 3d. the pound.

*Hills.*—The most remarkable hill in this parish is Cairnharrah, which is situated partly in this parish, and partly in Kirkmabreck. It is elevated above the sea about 1100 feet. The soil on it is of a mossy kind, covered with heath, intermixed with grass, and not much incumbered with rocks. It is the highest ground in this part of the country, Cairnsmuir excepted, commanding an extensive

view of the adjacent country, of the shire of Wigton, of the Isle of Man, of a part of Cumberland, and of the high land on the coast of Ireland. It exhibits no volcanic appearances.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 531. The number of inhabitants in this parish has within these 50 years considerably diminished. At that time, the number amounted to 500 examinable persons. Last year (1792) an exact enumeration of the inhabitants, of all ages, was made, when they amounted to 495; 270 of whom were males, and 225 females. About 450 of the inhabitants live in the country part of the parish, and the rest in a village, which is in its infant state. It is built on the river Fleet, opposite to Gatehouse, and being connected with it by a bridge it is considered as part of the same village. The inhabitants in the village are mostly employed in manufacturing cotton, which a few months ago was carried on with spirit and success, but like many other branches of trade, it is now almost given up. The decrease of the inhabitants is caused partly by some of the proprietors taking farms into their natural possession to improve them, and conjoining several in one when again let, and partly to the vicinity of the parish to the village of Gatehouse, to which many of them have removed, where those who formerly were common labourers, commence spinning cotton, and tradesmen follow their former occupations. I find the annual average of marriages from 1750 to 1760 to be 4, and that of births 12; for a long time thereafter the registration seems to be discontinued. The annual average of births during these 3 last years has been 10, and that of marriages 1. There are 9 proprietors belonging to the parish, 2 of whom constantly reside in it, and 1 occasionally. By far the greater

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number

number of the inhabitants are tenants or cottagers. There are 6 weavers, 4 tailors, 2 shoemakers, 5 wrights, 6 masons, 3 smiths, and 2 millers. All the inhabitants are of the Established Church. It would be unnecessary, it is presumed, to attempt to give a peculiar character of the inhabitants. In every parish in which no town is situated, and where few people of fortune reside, the inhabitants must be nearly similar in manners to their neighbours. I shall only observe, that they are in general sober and industrious, and, with several exceptions, enjoy in a moderate degree the comforts and conveniencies of life.

*Quantity of Acres, Rent, &c.*—There is no map of the whole parish. The quantity of acres amounts to about 8600, nearly 2900 of which is arable. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2871 Scots; the real rent is about L. 2200 Sterling. Some farms are rented so low as L. 10 a-year; others so high as L. 200; it is believed the average is about L. 60. Best arable land is in general let at 15 s. the acre; but some contiguous to the village is taken in small quantities at double that price. The improvement of land in this parish and the neighbourhood has been very rapid within these few years. Formerly there were but few enclosures, and the ground was in its natural state; consequently, when tilled, it yielded but small returns to the farmer, sometimes two, sometimes threesfold. Now the land is generally enclosed, and before it is broken up, it is improved with shells, marl, or lime. There is some marl in the parish, and the shells on the sea-shore seem to be inexhaustible. Lime is brought from Cumberland, and sold at 1 s. the Carlisle bushel, 50 of which are commonly laid on an acre. For the most part 3, sometimes 4 crops of grain are taken from the land thus improved, with the last  
of

of which clover and rye-grass seeds are sown. The following year the grass is sometimes cut for hay, and sometimes pastured. The land lies 6 or more years before it is again broken up, and affords excellent pasture for cattle.

*Animal and Vegetable Productions.*—A much greater quantity both of grain and cattle is produced in the parish than is necessary for the sustenance of its inhabitants. About 650 acres are employed in raising oats, 70 in barley, and a few acres in potatoes, about 1 at an average to each farm. The soil is not considered to be well adapted to the production of wheat, though in some spots good crops of it have been raised. Little attention is paid to the cultivation of hemp and lint. Oats is the principal crop. The grain not consumed in the parish is partly sold in the neighbourhood, and partly shipped for Whitehaven, Liverpool, and the Clyde. There are about 1260 black cattle, 140 horses, and 4000 sheep in the parish. A few cattle are fatted for home consumption, or sold to butchers, who slaughter them in the neighbouring towns and villages; but the greater part are sold when three years old to drovers, who take them to the English market. They are of a middle size, fatten well, and weigh far beyond their apparent bulk. The sheep which pasture on the moorish part of the parish are of a middle size; their face and legs are black, the body white. They sell at about L. 7 a score, of 21 to the score, before they are fatted; their wool is rather coarse, and is sold about 9s. the stone, of 28 pounds. There is another kind commonly called muggs; they are much larger; their wool is far superior, both in quantity and quality, but their flesh is not reckoned near so delicious as that of the moor sheep. The kind most esteemed in the cultivated

cultivated part of the country is a cross breed; that is, between the moor ram and mugg ewe, or *vice versa* \*.

*Living, School, Poor.*—The manse was built about 40 years ago, and is now receiving a considerable repair. The patron is David Maxwell of Cardonefs, Esq. The stipend of the parish in ordinary years is about L. 80; a part of this, however, being payable in grain, it is sometimes a little above, and sometimes below that sum. The glebe contains about 6 or 7 acres.—The public school is at the church. About 30 or 40 scholars attend in winter, but fewer in summer. They are taught reading English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, French, practical mathematics, and Latin. The emoluments of the school are L. 11. of yearly salary, 1 s. 6 d. the quarter for teaching English, 2 s. for writing, 2 s. 6 d. for arithmetic, 3 s. for Latin and French, and 10 s. 6 d. for teaching a set of book-keeping. The schoolmaster also receives L. 2, 2 s. a-year, (together with 2 s. 6 d. for each proclamation), for being session-clerk and precentor if he holds these offices.—There are

\* *Seed Time and Harvest, Prices.*—The ordinary time of sowing oats here is from the 20th of March to the 20th of April; and potatoes are planted and barley sown from the 20th of April to the end of the first week in May. In warm and dry seasons, when the crops come sooner to maturity, the harvest begins rather before the middle of August, and is concluded in the course of 5 weeks. In wet and cold seasons, however, the harvest is much later. The ordinary price of beef and mutton is 3 d. of pork 4 d. of butter 6 d. and of cheese 3 d. the pound of 16 ounces. The Winchester bushel of oats is commonly 1 s. 8 d. and of barley 2 s. 6 d. The stone of meal is 1 s. 8 d. but at present all these articles, particularly grain, are much higher. The common wages for labourers are 1 s. the day, but when employed in certain kinds of work they have more. Masons and wrights receive 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. the day; tailors 10 d. and victuals. The ordinary wages for a male-servant, when he hires for the half-year, are L. 4; for a maid-servant, L. 2, 15 s.



are 10 persons on the poor's list, some of whom are entirely supported; some who can earn part of their sustenance receive a quarterly aid, and others an occasional one, as their necessities require. The fund for this purpose arises from the weekly collections, amounting to about L. 14 a-year, from dues received for the use of the mortcloth, fines imposed on delinquents, and from the interest of L. 200 lent money. This last sum has accumulated, partly from donations, and partly from the overplus of the poor's funds, after their necessities had been supplied.

*Antiquities.*—There are two old buildings in the parish, the Tower of Rusco, and Castle of Cardoneis. The former has a slate roof on it, and is inhabited; the latter has had no roof in the memory of the oldest person living. Both are nearly of a square form, and like many of the old buildings seem to have been designed for strength and magnificence rather than convenience. They have no characters on them by which their age can be ascertained; nor can we find any records in which it is mentioned. Both these stand on the banks of the Fleet; the Tower about 2½ miles above where the river ceases to be navigable, and the Castle a mile below where it becomes navigable. This latter is situated on an eminence, or point of land, looking towards the bay at the mouth of the river, and a more beautiful situation and prospect can hardly be imagined\*.

On

\* At the S. W. end of the parish there is a beautiful moat, standing on a steep and rocky peninsula that juts out into the sea. It has been completely fortified by a deep trench, cut quite across the narrow piece of ground that joins it to the main land. Near to this moat stands a thin stone, nearly perpendicular, 5 feet 3 inches high, engraved on both sides with the rude figure of a cross, accompanied with several ornamental strokes, which some antiquaries supposed to be Runic inscriptions. An

exact

On the top of a hill, about half a mile S. E. of the church, is one of those vitrified forts which have lately excited the curiosity of modern antiquaries. It consists of a steep rock, elevated about 300 feet above the level of the sea, and is fortified on the most accessible places with a double fosse. The top, which forms a level area 30 paces long and 20 broad, is nearly surrounded with an irregular ridge of loose stones, intermixed with vast quantities of vitrified matter. The stones, consisting of the common blue schistus of the country, have been softened, twisted, and partly fused by the fire. These heaps of loose stones and vitrified matter are scattered irregularly over the top of the fort, and exhibit no appearance of having ever formed a continued wall. The vitrification is only partial and superficial, and seems to have been the accidental effect of large fires kindled on these high rocks, either for some domestic purpose, or for signals to alarm the country on the approach of an enemy. It was formerly believed that these vitrified forts were peculiar to that part of the island which is N. of the Forth. But besides the one described above, there are other two in this country, and they all command a very extensive prospect of the sea. On the S. side of this fort, there is a broad flat stone, inscribed with several waving and spiral lines, which exhibit however no regular figure. Near it likewise were lately found several silver coins; one of King Edward VI.; the rest of Queen Elizabeth; each of them seems to contain about one third or fourth

exact drawing of this stone has been lately sent by Mr Reid to the London Society of Antiquaries. This moat and stone seem both to have been formerly either places or objects of religious worship. And the figure of the cross seems to have been a pious artifice of some Christian missionaries, in order to sanctify the idolatrous worship which their new converts paid to these perpendicular stones.

fourth of an ounce of silver; some of them are in the possession of Miss Brown in Borland.

*Derivation of Names.*—Some names of places here are said by those who know something of the Saxon, to be derived from that language. Sceraburn (Skyfeburn, the name of a burn or small river which runs through the parish) signifies Clear Burn; this seems to be descriptive of the colour of its water. Cardonels, derived from Cæra a fort, Don or Dun a hill, and Nels a point of land jutting out into the sea; that is, the fort situated on the hill jutting out into the sea. This is also very descriptive of the situation of the Castle. The sea still flows to within a few paces of it; and from the banks of shells that are deposited on each side of the point of land on which it is built, it appears that the sea, at no very distant period, washed the rock on which it now stands. Some names are said to be derived from the Gaelic.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of this parish are, its vicinity to the sea, on account of which, lime and other articles are got with very little land-carriage, and great quantities of shells lie on the shore, in the lower end of the parish, which experience has proved to be well adapted to the improvement of land. The great road from Carlisle to Portpatrick passes through the parish. The other roads in it are judiciously directed, and generally in good repair. The scarcity of fuel is one disadvantage; peats are not plenty; in some places of the parish they must be carried 4 miles. The coals used must be brought from Cumberland or Ayrshire; the high duty hitherto imposed on which, rendered them extremely dear, and amounted almost to a prohibition against their being used by the middle and lower ranks.

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NUMBER XXIV.

UNITED PARISHES\* OF GARVALD  
AND BARO,

(COUNTY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr* ANDREW NISBET.

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*Name, Extent, Climate, Soil, and Surface.*

**B**Y some persons who understand the Gaelic, it is said that Garvald is compounded of two words in that language, *vis.* Gar, rough or rugged, and Vald, a small water or burn. This etymology is exactly descriptive of the local situation of Garvald, for the village is situated

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upon

\* The parishes of Garvald and Baro were united in 1702. The present incumbent's immediate predecessor preached, in terms of the decree of annexation, at Garvald and Baro, *per alternatas vices*, till about the year 1743 or 1744, when the kirk of Baro fell into disrepair. It is now a complete ruin. In old papers, the name of this place is always written Garvald, never Garvit.

upon a small water or burn, the bed or run of which greatly abounds in stones of various sizes, as there are a great many freestone quarries along its banks. When this water is flooded, such is the immense force and rapidity of the stream, that it sweeps along, and throws out upon the low grounds, stones of a great weight and size. In October 1775 this water was prodigiously flooded, overflowed all its banks, and had it not cut out a new run for itself, the whole village would have been infallibly swept away by this sudden inundation. The depth of the water in some houses of the village was upwards of 3 feet. The united parishes of Garvald and Baro extend from E. to W. about 8 or 9 miles, and from N. to S. about 4 or 5. Their figure is irregular, being intersected by several of the adjacent parishes. The air is extremely pure and healthful. Having at all times a free and full circulation, its salubrity is seldom injured by noxious vapours. The inhabitants are of a robust and healthy constitution, and generally enjoy the blessings of life to a remote old age. There died lately in this parish a man upwards of 90, and there are living in it just now a number of persons on the borders of 80, who support the fatigues of their respective employments with a considerable degree of strength and activity. No epidemical distempers are peculiar to the inhabitants; colds, fevers, of different kinds, and the small-pox, sometimes prevail here \*. The grounds that lie in the S. and N. of these parishes, exhibit so different an appearance, that they are a striking contrast to each other. The grounds that lie in

\* Inoculation for the small-pox hath been introduced, but the common people are not quite reconciled to it. However a great many of this class do now inoculate their children, as inoculation hath been practised with great success in this country; few having died that were inoculated. Formerly this distemper proved fatal to a vast number of young people.

in the S. are mostly covered with heath, of a thin gravelly soil, others are of a deep moor, abounding with swamps and marshes. The whole range of the Lammermoor Hills, which in these parishes extend from E. to W. about 8 or 9 miles, are for the most part covered with heath, interspersed with large plots of grass. The grounds that lie in the N. are of a deep, rich clay soil, and produce excellent crops of wheat, barley, oats, &c. These towards the E. are of a fine light gravelly soil, excellently adapted for the culture of turnips and potatoes, both of which are here raised to a great extent. A great part of the soil in these parishes is either of this description, or of a deep rich clay.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Agriculture is the prevailing occupation in these parishes, as the farmers who rent the Lammermoor Hills rent at the same time the adjacent low grounds to a considerable extent. The lands which lie on the N. of these hills are mostly enclosed, and their agriculture in a state of very high improvement. Lime brought from the distance of 4 or 5 miles is extensively used, and proves an excellent stimulus. Turnips, as they are always raised with dung, and frequently cleaned, have a surprising effect in meliorating and enriching the soil. Fallow is another species of improvement practised with great success, and to a considerable extent. But the greatest improvement in agriculture is that of sowing the land with grass-seeds, and turning it into pasture for a few years. This species of improvement is found to be the best restorative where manure cannot be procured. Excellent crops of all kinds of grain are raised, but the most prevailing are those of oats and barley; wheat and pease to a less extent. As a great part of the soil of these parishes is of a fine light gravelly soil, excellently adapted for the culture of turnips and potatoes, both of them are raised to a considerable extent.

On

## Statistical Account

On two farms adjacent to this village, for several years past, from 80 to 90 acres of turnip have been raised; and on several other farms to the westward, from 20 to 30 acres. A few sheep, and a great number of black cattle, were fed with these turnips, and sold to the butcher. Potatoes likewise are raised to a considerable extent; for, besides what the tenants and their cottagers raise for the use of their families, a number of people in the village and neighbourhood rent land from the tenants, and plant it with potatoes, at the rate of L. 4 or L. 5 the acre. They esteem this root both an agreeable and wholesome food, and it is one of the principal articles on which they subsist for a considerable part of the season. The ploughing with two horses without a driver is a method which is universally adopted in this country. Some affirm, that a plough with two horses will perform as much work in a day, as one with four which was formerly used. Others are of a different opinion. There are in the parish about 20 tenants, remarkable for their industry, application, and knowledge in agriculture. Indeed, a set of more intelligent and respectable tenants are scarcely to be found any where. One of these lately wrote an essay upon the best method of raising a green crop, for which he was adjudged a gold medal, value L. 5, 5 s. by the Trustees for the Improvement of Fisheries and Manufactures, &c. He hath since written another essay upon the same subject, for which he was also adjudged a gold medal of the same value. But it is now said, that in lieu of these medals, the Trustees intend to compliment him with a piece of plate. There are about 46 or 47 ploughgates in the parish, and each ploughgate is assessed in L. 1 Sterling, for making and repairing the roads. The heritors meet every year, according to act of Parliament, for the allocation of this assessment, and are extremely attentive to this important branch of police. On this account

count the roads are kept in pretty good repair, as least as much so as the extent of the funds will admit \*

*Sheep, Horses, and Black Cattle.*—In winter, the number of sheep pastured in this parish is about 5680; in summer, about 400 more at an average. These are all of the Lammermoor kind, except a very few which pasture on the low grounds. An attempt was made to introduce the Bakewell kind, but proved unsuccessful; the gentleman who made the attempt is now crossing the breed with rams of the Lammermoor kind. Salving or smearing is a practice which here universally prevails. Store farmers are of opinion, that this operation greatly contributes to preserve the animal from vermin, to render it more healthy, to improve, and even increase the quantity of wool. The store farmers annually sell a considerable number of ewes, lambs, and wethers, but do not choose to have this number published. There are in the parish about 213 horses, the greatest part of which is employed in agriculture. The high

\* *Price of Labour and Provisions.*—An experienced man-servant receives from L. 7 to L. 8 yearly. A woman-servant from L. 3 to L. 4. Women, and young people of both sexes, employed in hoeing turnip, and weeding the corns, from 5 d. to 6 d. a-day without victuals. Taskers, whose employment it is to thresh out the corn, receive one boll of every 25, or the 25th part of their labour, and this hath been their stated wages time immemorial. Cottagers or hynds receive their wages in grain and other perquisites, which in this parish are much the same with those detailed in the Statistical Accounts of this county already published. Masons receive 1 s. 8 d. a-day; wrights 1 s. 6 d.; day-labourers from 10 d. to 1 s.; tailors from 6 d. to 8 d. and their victuals. The price of oat-meal is generally about 2 s. the stone; beef, mutton, pork, and veal from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound. Hens from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. each; chickens from 6 d. to 8 d. each. In this country hens and chickens were never sold by the pound weight time immemorial. All these articles of provision vary according to the different seasons of the year, and have risen greatly within the last ten or twelve years.



high price which horses now bring at market hath induced the tenants to rear their own horses, and a few for sale. In this country the price of a draught horse is from L. 25 to L. 30, some higher. The number of black cattle amounts to 575, consisting chiefly of young and milch-cows. The tenants breed a considerable number, not only to supply their own demands, but likewise for sale; but this number cannot be easily ascertained, as it varies every year; besides these, for many years past upwards of 100 black cattle have been annually fed on turnip, and sold to the butcher.

*Villages.*—There are 2 villages in these parishes, Garvald and Baro. The village of Garvald contains 214 inhabitants. Within these 14 or 15 years upwards of 30 new houses have been built in this village; but prior to this period, and even since, almost an equal number of old ones have been pulled down. All the new houses (except 2 or 3) are feus at the rate of L. 3 the acre, built by masons, wrights, weavers, &c. In the vicinity of the village there is a great number of freestone quarries, of an excellent quality, some of which are only at the distance of 200 yards. The grounds in this neighbourhood are almost all enclosed with stones from these quarries. There are 4 public houses in the village; besides these, there is an inn or public house at Dankine, on the great road from Haddington to Dunfermline, where travellers receive proper accommodation. These, however, have had no bad effect on the morals of the people. Drinking to excess is less prevalent here than it was 20 years ago. The inhabitants of these parishes, with a very few exceptions, are sober, virtuous, industrious, and remarkably attentive to their different employments. The village of Baro is small, thinly inhabited, and

and does not contain half the number of people which are in the village of Garvald.

*Seats.*—There are only 2 gentlemens seats in the parish, Nunraw and Hopes. The house of Nunraw some centuries ago was a nunnery belonging to the priory of Haddington, and though modernized, still exhibits evident marks of great antiquity. The house of Hopes is pleasantly situated, very near the bottom of a glen, and to the westward of one of the Lammermoor Hills, on which there is an extensive and flourishing plantation of various sorts of trees. This, and several others upon the estate, were raised by the late Charles Hay of Hopes, Esq; a most polite and worthy gentleman. Adjaent to this pleasant and romantick villa, there is a large garden, well stocked with a variety of fruit trees, through which a rivulet gently glides, and plentifully supplies it with water.

*Ecclesiastical State, School, Poor, &c.*—The Crown and Marquis of Tweeddale are patrons. The stipend, including the glebes of Baro and Garvald, upwards of L. 100 Sterling; the manse and office-houses are in excellent repair; the church is old, but hath been lately repaired. There are 6 heritors, 2 only are resident. All the inhabitants are of the Established Religion, except 8 or 10 Seceders.—There is but one school in the parish. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots, besides his perquisites as precentor and session-clerk, an house and small garden. The number of scholars from 60 to 80. The school-wages are, for English 1 s. the quarter; for writing 1 s. 2 d.; for arithmetic 1 s. 6 d. He is not qualified to teach Latin.—The number of pensioners at present on the poors roll amounts to 12; they live in their own houses, and generally receive 8 s. or 9 s. the quarter; some less, as this allow-  
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ance varies according to circumstances. This small allowance is granted only as an help to their industry, not as an encouragement to sloth and idleness. There is not one beggar within the limits of these parishes\*.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 774. At present (1793) it is 730; of whom, males 349, females 381. Though no manufactures are carried on in these parishes, yet the number of tradesmen is considerable, including a few apprentices; there are 12 wrights, 9 masons, 7 smiths, 8 weavers,

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\* Besides the pensioners on the roll, occasional supplies are granted to other families, who by sickness and misfortunes are reduced to necessitous circumstances. A considerable number of house-rents are allowed, both to the pensioners upon the roll, and for necessitous persons who are not, and who do not receive any other supply. When a widow is left with 3 or 4 children, who can do nothing for themselves, she is allowed 15 s. or 16 s. the quarter. When one or two of these children arrive at the age of maturity, and can support themselves, her pension is proportionally curtailed. When all of them arrive at this age, if the widow can support herself by her own labour, her name is struck from the roll. The money annually expended on the poor of these parishes amounts to L. 20 and upwards. This sum is raised from the interest of a small fund, from weekly collections at the church-door, mortcloths, marriages, &c. No assessment hath been made for the poor of these parishes during the last 18 years, the period of the present incumbent's admission. In 1782, indeed, when the prices of all kinds of provisions were so exorbitantly high, that many of the industrious poor were reduced to great straits, the heritors voluntarily assessed themselves in a small sum, and purchased oat-meal to supply this useful set of men at the rate of 1 s. the peck. This necessary supply was intrusted to the management of the kirk-session. No funds in the island are more frugally or conscientiously managed than the poor's funds in Scotland. The Constitution of England hath justly been held up as the admiration and envy of surrounding nations; but in respect to the provision for the poor, it may be asserted, that the Nobility and Gentry in Scotland neither admire nor envy their rich neighbours in the South, as their poor's rates are enormous.

5 tailors, 2 shoemakers, 2 millers, 1 cooper, and 1 dyer. In the village of Garvald there is also a baker and brewer. In 1775, the period of the present incumbent's admission, the number of souls was about 900. This alteration hath been produced by various causes, such as the conjunction of farms, the ploughing with two horses without a driver, the increased quantity of grass-grounds, and the great decrease in the number of cottages. The conjunction of farms greatly tends to depopulate the country, and to increase the number of poor in towns and villages.

Abstract of the births, marriages, and deaths in the parishes of Garvald and Baro, for 4 years preceding January 1792, extracted from the records :

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
1789,	17	4	10
1790,	15	4	7
1791,	19	4	9
1792,	17	3	8

*Antiquities.*—Adjoining the Lammer-moor Hills are situated the ruins of Whitecastle, in the eastern boundary of the parish. In the ages of violence and hostility this fortification was of considerable importance, as it guarded a pass from the Merse and from England. About a mile to the N. on the farm of Garvald, there is a large fortification or encampment, situated on a rising ground; it is of a circular form, and is in circumference about 1500 feet. A little to the westward, on the farm of Carfrac, there was till lately an encampment nearly of the same form and dimensions\*. Upon a peninsula formed by the water of

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Hopes

\* A few years ago the stones of the encampment were dug up to enclose the farm. One of the workmen, in digging up these stones, found the

Hopes on the E. and a large rivulet on the W. stands the ancient castle of Yester. Sir David Dalrymple, in his *Annals*, relates, that "Hugh Gifford de Yester died in 1267; that in his castle there was a capacious cavern formed by magical art, and called in the country Bobhall, *i. e.* "Hobgoblin Hall." A stair of 24 steps led down to this apartment, which is a large and spacious hall, with an arched roof; and though it hath stood for so many centuries, and been exposed to the external air for a period of 50 or 60 years, it is still as firm and entire as if it had only stood a few years. From the floor of this hall, another stair of 36 steps leads down to a pit which hath a communication with Hopes-water. A great part of the walls of this large and ancient castle are still standing. There is a tradition that the castle of Yester was the last fortification in this country that surrendered to General Gray, sent into Scotland by Protector Somerset. About a mile below this majestic ruin, and on the same water, is situated Yester House \*, a large, elegant and magnificent structure, built of hewn stone of a fine reddish colour, brought from the lands of Dalgety in Fife, which formerly belonged to this Noble

the brass handle of a sword, which probably had been concealed there for several centuries. About 2 miles to the W. on the farm of Newlands, there are 2 large artificial tumuli thrown up in the middle of a plain, called by the country people the Black Castles and Green Castles. The Marquis of Tweeddale planted them with Scotch firs, and some gray wood many years ago. Antiquaries are of opinion that these tumuli, from their etymology, were formerly Roman stations. To the W. of these tumuli there are other two encampments, one on the farm of Park, and the other on the estate of Hopes.

\* Yester House is not within the limits of these parishes; but as it was scarcely mentioned in the Statistical Account of its own parish, the writer of this paper thought proper to give this short account of it.

Noble family. Both this elegant mansion and its pleasure-ground have been greatly improved by the present Marquis of Tweeddale, a nobleman of a most amiable character, and of a fine taste. The enclosures and pleasure-ground of Yester are about 10 miles in circumference, in which are woods and plantations to a great extent. A considerable part of the wood with which the castle of Yester is almost surrounded, is within the limits of the parish of Garvald.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4133 Scots; the real rent cannot be easily ascertained. Farms are rented for the course of a 19 years lease at from 10 s. to L. 1, 5 s. the acre. A great many farms are let by the lump, particularly those in which part of the Lammermoor Hills are included. There are three threshing machines in the parish. The original cost of each is about L. 60 or L. 70 Sterling; they are drawn by 4 horses, and require 6 or 7 people to attend the operation; they thresh at the rate of 5 or 6 bolls in an hour. Coals are generally used for fuel in this parish, and a few peats. Fourteen stone of coals (or what is here called a load) now cost 7 d. which 10 or 12 years ago cost only 5 d. They are mostly brought from Penstone and Fencaitland, at the distance of 6 or 7 miles.—A few years ago a society of a charitable complexion was established in this parish. The design of this society is to afford relief to the sick, the infirm, and the aged. Every member at his entrance pays 1 s. and as long as he continues a member, the same sum quarterly. This Society hath already afforded relief to several persons in distress, who otherwise must have come upon the poors funds. On which account they merit the attention and encouragement of the public.

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## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF CARMICHAEL,

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr,  
PRESBYTERY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT INGLIS.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.*

**M**ICHAEL appears to have been the tutelary faint of this parish, there being in it a well and bog that go by his name. Hence Carmichael, the castle or dwelling of Michael. The same is the name of the principal family in the parish, created Earls of Hyndford, beginning of this century, and who, till of late, have long resided here. The parish is 5 miles in length; and from 3 to 4 in breadth. The surface of this parish is very unequal; in it are several hills of considerable height, covered for the most part with short heath. On the S. and S. E. stands Tinto, said to signify the "hill of fire," the name given to a range of hills, stretching above 2 miles from E. to S. W. Near the east end of this range, there rises greatly above the rest, a mountain, something of a circular form, upon

upon the top of which is a large cairn, or heap of stones, how collected, or for what purpose, it is impossible to say. Upon the south side, and at no great distance from the summit, is a spring of good water\*. The soil is very various; towards the Clyde, it is in general thin, sandy, and dry. The S. W. and southern parts, where arable, are clayey and wet. Situated so high, and in the immediate neighbourhood of so many hills, the climate is cold and wet. It is, however, not unhealthy, few epidemical distempers prevail here, and some persons have lived in this parish to a great age. There are in it at present, several above 80, and 2 in their 92d year, one of whom, an heritor, retains the entire use of his faculties, is cheerful and contented, walks about, and amuses himself in his garden.

*Earl of Hyndford, his Plantations, &c.*—In this parish was born John, third Earl of Hyndford, who, in the years 1739 and 1740, was Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In 1741, upon the King of Prussia's invading Silesia, he was sent as Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to that Prince, and the year after accommodated the differences which had occasioned the war. Upon the conclusion of the treaty of Breslaw, he was created a Knight of the Thistle, and as a testimony of

\* The highest point of the cairn is above the Clyde about a mile N. E. from the bottom of the mountain, 1740 feet; above the Clyde, at the bridge of Lanark, 2050 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet; and at the old bridge of Glasgow, 2351 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. So that from opposite to the N. E. part of Tinto to Glasgow, a distance of little more than 30 miles, the Clyde falls 611 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. About half a mile from the west end of this range, of hills, there is a passage through it, which has much the appearance of being, although not wholly formed, yet greatly assisted by art. For a considerable way, the passage is little more than 7 feet wide, the mountain rising steep on each side; and at the north end there are little hills, which seem, as if carried from the middle, to make the passage easier.



of the satisfaction of the contending powers, he received from the King of Prussia a grant, for adding to his coat of arms, the Eagle of Silesia, with this motto, *Ex bene merito*, which was ratified by the Queen of Hungary. In 1744, he went Ambassador to the Court of Russia, where he continued till the end of 1749, and was very instrumental in accelerating the peace of Aix la Chapelle. On his return to Britain, he was appointed one of the Lords of the Bed-chamber, and of the Privy Council. While he thus served his country in a public capacity, he was highly useful to the place of his nativity, by employing, for many years, a great number of workmen in the buildings, and extensive plantations, carried on at Carmichael, and at Westraw, in the neighbouring parish of Pettinain. Upon these, the whole rent of the estate, and sometimes more was expended. There are at Carmichael 1200 acres enclosed and subdivided by him. The enclosing and planting was begun about the year 1738, and mostly completed in the 1762. The stone and earthen fences at Carmichael alone, are said to measure 35 miles. The enclosures are of different sizes, containing from 20 to 30 acres, and upwards, surrounded by belts of plantation of various breadths, from 40 to above 100 feet. The quantity of ground occupied by the plantations has not been ascertained, but the weedings here, and at Westraw, yield near L. 200 annually. The present Earl is adding to the plantations, having planted this last season about 10,000 trees. In the plantations here, is a great variety of pines. The *larix* grows fast in every soil, at the same time yielding a close pored tough wood. There was a *larix* tree cut here, when 24 years old, the root cut of which 8 feet long, was squared into planks of the mean breadth of 17 inches. The Scotch fir thrives well in dry ground, as does the silver fir in several soils, where it rises to a great height, making a beautiful and striking appearance. The

Weymouth, or New England pine, seems much more delicate, and does not attain to any great size. The spruce fir, when young, grows fast, from its conical figure, makes an excellent nurse to hard wood trees, but appears short lived, as here, even in the most favourable situations, when about 40 years old, it begins to die at top, and quickly decays. In planting the larix, which is now so justly valued, there generally prevails what appears an error. It is commonly planted out from a foot to 18 inches, or more in height, with seedling, Scotch, or spruce firs as nurseries, growing much faster than either, its tender shoots are always exposed to the violence of the storm, and much waved by the wind. It might perhaps succeed as well to plant the nurseries 3, 4, or even 5 years before, by which time, having attained some size, they would be a better shelter to the larix; there seems no danger of this being smothered by the others, as no tree grows better in the shade, and by consequence it answers well for filling up wants in plantations. The enclosures here are generally let from year to year in pasture, and in that way yield perhaps an higher rent than they would do in tillage. There are in the parish a few enclosures, and some plantations belonging to Mr Carmichael of Eastend. Lord Douglas has also enclosed a hill, containing near 300 acres, to be planted next season, which, when grown, will be an ornament to the country, being seen in several directions at a great distance.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture is for the most part carried on in the old manner. The division into croft and outfield is generally retained. Formerly the croft was kept constantly in crop, by which, particularly in wet seasons, the crops, though bulky, being much filled with weeds, yielded little good grain. Convinced of the impropriety of this management,

management, many of the tenants are now laying part of their croft under pasture, and cleaning other parts with potatoes, and some with turnips. The general crops are oats, bear or bigg, and a few peas; the lateness of our harvests are unfavourable to the last species of grain. The seasons of sowing are generally, for oats and peas, from the middle of March till towards the end of April; for bear, from the beginning to the end of May; for turnip, from the 1st of June to the end of the month. There are as yet but few of these, and little grass sown. They are however fairly introduced; and as the farmers begin to see the advantage of them, they are likely to be more generally sown. The seasons of reaping are various. Bigg is generally cut from the 1st to the 20th of September, and oats from that to the beginning of November. The greatest improvement that has been made in any branch of husbandry in this parish, is in the management of the dairy. Farms which 50 years ago made little butter for sale, and not as much cheese as was sufficient for the consumption of the farmer's family, now depend upon those articles for the payment of some, the half, and others the greatest part of their rent. If the produce of their cows and bear crop will not pay the rent, it is reckoned too high. The causes which formerly retarded improvements in agriculture in this parish were its distance from markets for its produce, bad roads, and the lateness of its climate and soil. The two first of these are in a great measure removed. The establishment of cotton-works at Lanark and Douglas has brought ready markets for butter, cheese, and grain, within a few miles, whereas formerly the principal market for the two first of these was Edinburgh, and for the last Glasgow, the one above, the other near 30 miles distant, and the roads to both so bad, that during the winter and spring months, the general mode of carriage was upon horses backs.

backs. By the exertions of the proprietors in the neighbourhood, an handsome and commodious bridge of five arches has been built over the Clyde, one end of which stands in this parish, and the roads are so much improved that carts pass at all seasons. The statute labour is partly exacted in kind, and partly commuted. There are two turnpikes within the parish. The climate and soil continue great discouragements to the exertions of the farmer. For after much expense and toil, by one night's frost, or a continuance of rainy weather in harvest, his hopes are often disappointed, and he seldom knows what it is completely to have a fully ripened crop. The oats generally sown are what are here called the Tweeddale or Blainlie, and the moorland Ayr seed. The last is about a week or ten days earlier than the first. Earlier kinds of oats have been tried, but they are so apt to shake if not cut before fully ripe, and on poor land yield so little fodder, (a circumstance much attended to, where so much depends upon rearing and keeping cattle), that in the present state of the grounds, they are not thought to be profitable. They might succeed better were the fields more sheltered, and the soil made richer; as in some small rich and sheltered spots, they yield abundant crops. The kind that is most likely to answer, is what is called the small barley corn, or the red oats. They appear much the same; but even these answer only upon the richest of our grounds\*. Arable farms here contain from

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\* The circumstances that have been mentioned point out grass as the great object of the farmer's attention in this parish, and that tillage ought to be employed only for the purpose of meliorating the pasture, or preserving it in proper order. Grain, with the disadvantages of late harvests, and the present high wages of servants, will not pay a rent, and defray the expense of labouring. Convinced of this, some of the tenants have dismissed their labouring servants and horses, and laid their farms under pasture. This would be done with more advantage, were their  
grounds

go to 180 acres, and rent from something above 5 s. to 10 s. the acre. They are generally laboured by the tenants and their sons and daughters, or by hired servants who live in the family. The employing these, and not cottagers, has the effect of making servants scarcer. Ploughmen receive from 6 to 8 and 9 guineas a-year, with board and washing, which is nearly double of what they got 20 years ago. Women receive from L. 3 to L. 4, valuing what are called bountiths. Labourers wages are from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. without victuals, or 8 d. to 10 d. with them in summer. Carts with two wheels are universally used, as is the Scotch plough, thought best adapted to stiff and foul ground. There are a few sheep-farms, which are rented by the number of sheep they are supposed to maintain, and differ according to the quality of the pasture, being from something above 2 s. to near 3 s. the head. The sheep kept are the black faced and black legged kind, supposed the hardiest and best adapted to this high situation. No fair trial has been made of any other kind. Smearing, or laying with tar and butter, is generally practised, and thought to defend the animal from vermin and being hurt by wetness. A few kept within the enclosures, where they are more sheltered, have for some years gone without smearing, and done very well, only the wool has become a very little coarser. When fed as the high grounds upon which they are reared will admit, the carcase weighs from 30 lb. to 40 lb. Dutch weight. It takes from 6 to 8 fleeces to make the

grounds enclosed, and sheltered with belts of plantation. Quickset hedges are indeed difficult to rear in this high situation, and poor this soil. But by forming a proper bed for them before planting, getting thorns of sufficient strength, and paying attention to them for the few first years, they may be raised, and make both a fence and shelter. In many places of the parish, there is both moor and free stone to be had at a moderate expense.

the stone of wool, which had been sold within the last ten years, from 2 s. to 6 s. the stone, 22 pounds to the stone.

*Minerals.*—There is one coal-mine situated in the S. W. side of this parish, adjoining to that of Douglas, which belongs to the Earl of Hyndford. Three several seams, from three to six feet in height, and of a very good quality, are at present working. They decline S. W. about one in four. Till of late no coal had been wrought in this parish by machinery. Levels had been at different periods communicated from the low grounds, and so much of the coal wrought as these drained. The whole coal to be got by such levels being wrought out, a steam-engine is now used for draining it more to the dip. The coals are carried to the bank by the colliers and their children, or others employed for the purpose. Coals are sold upon the hill at 6 d. the load, of 12 pecks Linlithgow measure, which is near about 3 d. the cwt. They have been raised about a third within the last 20 years, and were for some time last winter with difficulty to be got. There is, as in the case of all other labourers, a great rise in the wages of colliers; a man, with two children of 10 and 12 years of age, it is said, can earn from 3 s. to 4 s. a-day. It is believed that in this, and the neighbouring parish of Douglas, there is a certainty of coal to answer the highest demand that can be expected for some centuries. The quantity of coal sold from this parish at present is said to be 70,000 loads and upwards annually. The demand has increased greatly since the cotton manufactures were established at Lanark and Douglas, and is still increasing. There is one limework also in the S. W. side of the parish, belonging to the Earl of Hyndford, which is wrought by an open quarry, and drained by a level. There is nothing remarkable in the stone;  
it

it yields good lime. Shells are sold at 15 d. and slacked lime at 7 d. the boll, Linlithgow measure.

*Manufactures.*—There is a tanwork in the parish, begun 9 years ago, by two young men, natives of the place, who now manufacture 700 cattle hides, and 900 calves skins annually. There are 18 weavers, the great part of whom are employed in working coarse linen and woollen cloths for the people in the neighbourhood. Two or three are occasionally employed in the cotton business from Glasgow of Lanark.

*Heritors, School, Poor, &c.*—The Earl of Hyndford is patron of the parish, and proprietor of near the one half of it. There are two other heritors, Lord Douglas, and Mr Carmichael of Eastend. The last only resides.—There is a parish-school, at which there are generally from 30 to 40 scholars. The schoolmaster is precentor, session-clerk, and kirk-treasurer; the income arising from the whole seldom exceeds, and is sometimes below L. 15 a-year, with a house and small garden\*.—The poor in this parish are maintained or assisted in their own houses; none of them are allowed to go without the bounds of the parish; none of them, indeed, go from house to house in it. There are generally 10 or 12 upon the roll, who receive a supply once in 4 weeks, more or less, according to their circumstances, besides a few, who receive a small occasional aid. There is expended from

L. 28

\* Besides this, there is another school, above three miles from the parish one, and in the neighbourhood of the coal-work. At this there are generally from 20 to 30 scholars. The master is paid by the scholars, excepting one guinea given yearly by each of the great proprietors. His income is from L. 6 to L. 9 a-year, with a small house and garden. The ground was given by the two neighbouring heritors. The house was built, and is kept in repair by the inhabitants in the neighbourhood.

L. 28 to L. 30, or a little above L. 30 a-year. This arises from the interest of a small capital, part of it a mortification by one of the family of Hyndford; the rest accumulated from former savings, from collections made at church, and private marriages and baptisms. The heritors do not regularly contribute any thing; there being no assessment; but at any time when asked, have done it liberally\*.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1795 was 899. The population of the parish at present is 981; of these, above 10 years old, 590; under 10, 191; males, 367; females, 414; families, 180; of which 11 consist of single persons. The average number of births for 11 years past is 22; the marriages near to 5; the deaths, so near as can be ascertained, 14, but of these no register is kept †.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* This was experienced after the bad harvest of 1782; they that year purchased meal, which was sold through the whole season, not to those upon the public charity only, but to many others whose circumstances required it, at the reduced price of 1s. the peck. There were no good seed oats in the parish that season; some few, the growth of the parish, were sown; none of them did well; but it was remarked, that such as were green at the time the frost happened, and not cut till some time after, did better than such as were nearly ripe. Though almost the whole of the seed sown the following spring was brought from a distance, yet the crop did not afford meal sufficient for the support of the inhabitants; they were supplied with grain, particularly white peas, from Leith.

† The population appears to be nearly the same as at the end of last and beginning of this century. The average number of births for 11 years from the 1694, is within a small fraction of 22. Although several houses were taken down when the lands at Carmichael were enclosed, yet the number of inhabitants has been kept up, by the planting and building that were at that time carrying on, and since, by the increase of the coal-works, in the neighbourhood of which, several new houses have been lately



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Except those employed in the coal-work, the great body of the people in this parish are farmers and labourers. They are in general sober economical, and industrious, enjoy the necessaries of life, and seem contented with their situation. There are few dissenters from the Established Church; 2 Burghers, and 10 or 12 Macmillanites, all quiet inoffensive people. There are kept in the parish 2500 sheep, 156 labouring horses, 54 colts; the number of these last is very variable, depending upon the encouragement there is for rearing horses. The horse colts are commonly sold at 12 or 15 months old, and bring from L. 6 to L. 15 price. There are 470 milch cows; 250 queys. The above is exclusive of what are pastured in summer in part of the enclosures of Carmichael, which are possessed by dealers, who keep no fixed stock upon them.

lately built. If the cotton manufactures at Lanark and Douglas succeed, the population of this parish is likely to decrease. The grounds being mostly in the possession of two great proprietors, who grant no fees, is unfavourable to the raising of a manufacturing village, which might otherwise happen. A proprietor, on the opposite of the Clyde, in the parish of Lanark, has lately seued several small pieces of ground, upon which houses are built, and some building.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXVI.

## PARISH OF ALVIE,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF MURRAY, PRESBY-  
TERY OF ABERNETHY.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN GORDON.

*Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**A**LVIE, in some old charters called Alloway, is probably derived from the Gaelic Alleibh, *i. e.* "Cold Island," the place being formed into a peninsula by a lake; within the neck is the kirk, manse, and nearly all the glebe, a delightful situation in summer, but extremely cold in winter, within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the high road. All the names of places here are Gaelic, and descriptive of their local situation. The parish lies in the district of Inverness-shire called Badenoch (bushy), from its being interspersed with bushes of wood. Its form is irregular. The principal inhabited division lies along the river Spey, on the N. side, between N. E. and S. W. 10 miles long, and from 1 to 2 miles broad, through which runs the great road leading from Inverness, Fort George, &c. to Edinburgh.

Near

Near the centre of the parish the river Fessie falls into the Spey from the S. direct along which lies the second division of the parish, extending southward 5 miles, from 2 to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in breadth; but including the hills, the parish extends from N. to S. upwards of 20 miles. The hills in general are extremely barren, covered with heath, frequently rocky; those to the S. of the Spey (the Grampians) are much higher than those to the N. probably as high as any in Scotland from the level of the sea, on whose tops there is not the smallest vegetation; the interjacent valleys afford a plentiful and rich pasture in summer, but are for the most part inaccessible in winter. The hills did abound in moorfowl, ptarmigan, and mountain hares, with some deer and roe, which are exceedingly diminished of late years, owing more to the inclemency of the weather during the hatching season, than the havock of the sportsman. The lower, or arable part of the parish, intersected by the Spey for the space of 2 miles, consists of a light, dry soil, much incumbered with stones, lying on sandy gravel, producing heavy crops of corn in a wet season, but exceedingly parched in dry weather.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The crops consist of oats, rye, barley, and potatoes. In general there is a sufficiency for the subsistence of the inhabitants; the rent (all money) is paid from the increase of the cattle. There is only one farm stocked wholly with sheep. The late or early frosts seldom fail to hurt the potatoes in some degree, which is a great bar to the culture of that most useful root. Seldom any more than the third of the crop of peas is saved; it is only sown by those who lime; the mildews frequently affect the oats and bear; turnip is rarely sown beyond the garden. There is not so much flax raised as is sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants, owing to the bad services in the neighbouring

bouring mill, together with the difficulty of procuring seed in this inland situation. There are a few farms having extensive meadows along the Spey, which are extremely productive of grass, but liable to frequent overflows; to remedy which one of the most extensive meadows has been lately surrounded with an earthen bank by the proprietor, which rescues it completely from the summer and harvest floods, so that rich crops of corn can be now with safety raised, where the grass was formerly precarious. The gentlemen of the parish have begun of late to lime their lands, which has answered extremely well, producing luxuriant crops of corn and grass; but the inferior tenants cannot be prevailed on to adopt this mode of farming, though very sensible of its benefit, alleging as a cause their poverty and shortness of their leases, from 5 to 9 years. It might be for their benefit that the proprietor would article in their leases, that so much must be limed annually. The parish abounds with fir, birch, alder, and a few oaks; one proprietor only has an exclusive right to the woods on his own estate, who has lately let a lot of it to a Company, which will probably bring him L. 2000 before the expiration of the lease; the other woods are subjected to a servitude, (*i. e.* all the feuars have an equal privilege), which is a great loss to the proprietors, and, upon the whole, a disadvantage to the tenants, as on this account no melioration is allowed for houses, and now all the principal wood is mangled and destroyed by this libertine mode of cutting, so that they can hardly be supplied from them with the necessary timber.—The old Scots plough is generally used; the gentlemen use the English plough, from which they find a great benefit. All the farm-work is carried on with horses, of which they must have a great number on account of their fuel, which is at a great distance, and difficult of access for those on the N.

of the Spey, where horses can bring only back-loads ; the southern division of the parish is plentifully and easily supplied with peats and burnwood.

*Manufactures.*—The natives are remarkable for the quantity and quality of white plaiding they bring to market, all manufacturing what wool their own exigencies will permit in that manner. Their blankets and clothing have very few dyes, and are extremely coarse ; their plaiding sells at about 10 d. the ell (39 inches.)

*Morals, &c.*—It is very uncommon to have any recourse to the Sheriff, much less to the Justiciary Court ; any difference arising is settled by the Justices of the Peace for the district. Only one suicide has been heard of. They are much addicted to drinking of whisky ; whence, at their public meetings (such as burials, &c.) squabbles are frequent ; their fondness for spirits is owing to the easy access to it, there being no less than 13 houses in the parish, where drams are sold without a county or excise licence, to the very great prejudice of the purse, constitution, and morals of the natives. Such a nuisance to society is overlooked by the proper officer, on account of the trouble and distance from the county town, the proprietors also residing at a distance.

*Professions.*—There is no surgeon, public writer, officer of excise, messenger, mason, carpenter, baker, or butcher in the parish, and no jail. There is one Justice of Peace, 2 shopkeepers, 2 smiths, 6 weavers, 4 tailors, and 2 brog-makers ; these handicraftsmen are fit only for the coarsest work. If measures could be adopted for the encouragement of proper tradesmen, it would benefit the country greatly.

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The non-residence of the proprietors is exceedingly against its improvement in many respects.

*Miscellaneous Observations.* — The inferior tenants are very poor, owing to their small holdings, and their habitations wretched; they pay from L. 2 to L. 6 rent, which may be from 5 s. to 10 s. the acre arable, affording a scanty subsistence to a family, which affects their morals, so that their veracity or honesty is not always to be depended on. They have no idea of trade or manufactures, and consequently no desire to leave their native land; they prefer living on the smallest pendicle of land as tenants to the best service, and are extremely averse to the military. They procure their little necessaries from the market-towns, by the sale of small parcels of wood they bring thither (distant 40 miles). They are very ignorant of the principles of religion, as but few of them can read. There is no Dissenter of any description in the parish. There is but one place of worship, and that in the extremity of the parish. The incumbent frequently preaches in the kirk of Inch, as being more contiguous to the greater part of the parishioners than the parish-church. The climate is dry and healthy, and there is less of storm than what is at a few miles distance on either hand, probably owing to its being equidistant from the E. and W. seas. The natives live to a good old age; there are severals at present beyond 80 years. The last minister died at 101, and preached till within six months of his death. The principal diseases are fevers, rheumatisms, and consumptions. The prejudice against inoculation is happily removed, so that very few die now of that nauseous disorder, the small-pox.

*Rent, Population, &c.* — The valued rent of the parish is L. 1394 Scots, the real rent about L. 800 Sterling, besides the

the wood, which perhaps may return L. 100 Sterling more annually. There are four heritors.—According to Dr Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 1021. The number of souls in 1792, is 1011; of whom 378 are householders, 552 children living with their parents, 81 in service. There are 1104 black cattle, 510 horses, 7000 sheep, 101 ploughs. Births and marriages are entered in the parochial register as below for the last 5 years\*.

*Stipend, Poor, Schools.*—The church is in a very ruinous state; repaired about 30 years ago; not known when built. The manse was built in 1730, and is now condemned; it has always been very damp, though on an eminence, being surrounded with water. The stipend is L. 70 Sterling. The arable glebe is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres; the grass not sufficient for one

	* Baptisms.	Marriages.
1788,	18	4
1789,	18	9
1790,	18	5
1791,	32	9
1792,	25	8

Twins thrice during said period.

Died between 1st February 1792 and 1st February 1793.

Diseases.		Age.	
Of Fevers,	- - 6	Under 1,	- - 2
Consumption,	- 3	Between 1 and 10,	- 1
Suddenly,	- 2	10 and 20,	- 2
Chincough,	- 1	20 and 30,	- 0
Inward Inflammation,	1	30 and 40,	- 1
Age,	- - 1	40 and 50,	- 3
Hives,	- - 1	50 and 60,	- 1
Scurvy,	- - 1	60 and 70,	- 2
	—	70 and 80,	- 2
	16	80 and 90,	- 2
			—
			16

Diseases are stated as the friends represent, as a surgeon is not always called upon.

one cow; there is L. 15 Sterling allowed annually by the heritors in lieu of a manse. The Duke of Gordon is patron.—The number of poor on the parochial roll is 25, who have no other fund than the public collections, which seldom exceed L. 3 a-year.—There is a parochial school, with L. 10 Sterling of a salary, where about 30 scholars are taught, paying of school-dues 1 s. a-quarter, for reading, 2 s. ditto, for Latin or arithmetic; the schoolmaster, as session-clerk, gets 6 d. each baptism, and 1 s. each marriage. There is also a Society schoolmaster, with L. 5 of a salary, as catechist, from a mortification in the parish, and L. 9 from the Society as schoolmaster, by whom 30 scholars are taught.

*Rivers, &c.*—The river Spey intersecting the parish for 2 miles, abounds with salmon, trout, and pike; a number of salmon are killed with the rod, but more with the spear. The Fessie, a small river which runs along the southern division of the parish, (as mentioned above), affords trout, and sometimes salmon to the industrious fisher. The only loch in the parish is that which surrounds the glebe, a mile long, and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile broad, having white and red trout, generally about 1 lb. weight, though some are found 4 lb. or 5 lb. It has a communication with the Spey, but it is not supposed that its trout visit Spey; they are a much better fish than those of that river; pike are also found there from 1 lb. to 7 lb. weight; they are taken with nets.

*Prices, &c.*—The price of meal has been from 18 s. to L. 1 the boll (9 stone when weighed), for several years; the measure, which is more generally used, is equal to 10 stone;  $\frac{1}{2}$  more is given for the same price of barley-meal; potatoes



toes 6 d. the peck, the peck holds 6 pints and a gill, the brimful of which is half the potato peck \*.

*Vegetables, &c.*—In the vegetable productions, there is nothing remarkable or peculiar, but that whins will not grow, though broom does; small or bush-fruit answers well, and is abundant, but tree-fruit does not, as the late frosts generally destroy the blossom. There are some mineral springs, but of no repute.

*Birds.*—Of the feathered tribe, the linnet and goldfinch seldom appear here, though numerous along the coast. The swan, a variety of fishing-ducks or duckers, and the woodcock live here in winter, but retire in summer. The sky and sandy larks, sea-magpie, lapwing, stonechatter, swallow, cuckoo, bat, and night-hawk remain here during the warm months, but disappear in winter; the 5 last are believed to be sleepers. In winter 1791, a bird appeared, of the size and make of a linnet, entirely white; one of the same kind was seen at Fort William in 1782, with a flock of linnets.

*Curiosities.*—The only curiosity is an artificial cave upon the estate of Raits, 2 miles from Pitmain, and within

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\* A farm servant has from L. 5 to L. 6 a-year of wages; a maid-servant from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2. When hired by the day, the man-servant gets 1 s. without victuals, or 6 d. with victuals; a woman 6 d. without victuals. The price of wool washed is about 12 s. unwashed, 8 s. tarred, 5 s. the stone (24 lb. English). The country sheep are of the whitefaced kind, weighing about 8 lb. the quarter, and sell at 7 s. or 8 s.; by the introduction of the blackfaced tups, the breed is greatly meliorated of late years, but the wool is much coarser. Most part of the inferior tenants still house them for the benefit of their manure, whence they suffer severely in spring. They wean their lambs early, and milk the sheep, to the great prejudice of both.

a few yards of the high-road ; it is 60 feet long, 9 broad, and 7 high, the sides built with stones ; it is covered with large flags or flat stones, over which has been built an house ; the entry to the cave, is said to have been in the centre of the house, by raising a flag. There is a number of tumuli on each side the high-road, nearly opposite to the manse ; curiosity prompted some of the neighbouring gentlemen to open the most conspicuous one, where were found the bones of a human body entire, and in order, with two large hart-horns across.

*Disadvantages.*—The greatest bar to the improvement of the country is the smallness of the holdings, the shortness of the leases, and not having melioration for their houses, or other improvements ; at present, the inferior tenants consider their meliorating their houses or lands, as the sure means of having an overbidder next lease.

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## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF CHANNELKIRK,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIODALE, PRESBYTERY OF LAUDER.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS MURRAY.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, Climate, &c.*

**T**HIS parish does not furnish much room for statistical investigation, and the observations which occur respecting it, may be comprehended within narrow bounds. The present name of the parish is evidently modern, and is happily descriptive of the nature of the soil, which is in general a light thin earth, on a deep bed of sandy gravel. In our records, which are preserved as far back as 1650, the name of the parish is spelled *Cbingelkirk*. *Cbingle*, I presume, is the old Scotch word, synonymous to the modern term Channel\*. The extent of this parish is considerable,

\* Dr FORD, in his account of the parish of Lauder, has given an etymology different from this. He says, that the ancient name of the parish was *Children's kirk*, because dedicated to the children of Bethlehem, or the Holy Innocents. As the Doctor, however, has given us no authority in support

derable, being full 6 miles in length, and nearly  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. Its figure is nearly circular. The surface of the country is in general hilly, particularly to the W, and N, where the parish is bounded by a high ridge of hills, which divides the counties of East and Mid Lothian from Berwickshire. The hills are covered with heath, and all pastured with the old Scotch breed of black-faced sheep. The parish is well watered by a variety of streamlets, which fall from our mountains, the union of which forms the river *Leader*, or *Lauder*. From the height of the situation, and the light dry nature of the soil, the climate is remarkably healthy. Epidemic and chronic diseases are unknown. As a proof of the salubrity of the climate, the last incumbent held the benefice 42 years, and his predecessor for no less a period than 52. The climate, for 6 months of the year, is however extremely cold, subject to severe frosts, and great falls of snow.

*Soil, Cultivation, Produce, &c.*—There are in the parish from 1500 to 2000 acres of land in tillage. The soil, as I have already said, is in general a light dry earth, on a deep bed of sandy gravel. It is well adapted to the culture of turnip, potatoes and clover. The following is the usual rotation of crops on the best land: 1. oats; 2. turnips; 3. barley or oats; 4. clover, &c. Agriculture has made a wonderful progress within these last 20 years in this parish. This, like most other improvements in society, has been chiefly owing to the skill and attention of an individual. The gentleman to whom I allude, is Mr Robert Hogarth,

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tenant

support of this opinion, and as I find no such thing is mentioned in Spottiswood's appendix to Hope's *Minor Practicks*, I am disposed to consider it as a mere conjecture, and am of opinion that the obvious etymology first mentioned is the best.

tenant in Carfrae\*. It is about 25 years since he came to this part of the country, from the eastern boundary of Berwickshire. At that period, our farmers were total strangers to the culture of turnip, and very little acquainted with the modern and new approved method of meliorating land by lime and sown grasses, &c. He introduced the culture of turnip and clover; and by the success which attended his exertions, the neighbouring farmers were soon convinced of the superiority of this new method of managing land, to the old fashioned practice of exhausting and ruining the soil, by a multiplicity of white crops in succession. The culture of turnip and clover is now accordingly become very general, and in no place of Berwickshire is that useful plant produced in greater quantity, or of better quality, on the same extent of land. Mr Hogarth has also lately introduced the white faced long woolled sheep, from Northumberland; and notwithstanding the coldness of the climate, they promise, from the trials already made, to answer extremely well. It must, however, be observed, that they are not pastured on the heath-covered hills, where, from experiments in similar latitudes, they are not found to thrive. In summer, they are fed within enclosures, where the soil has been highly improved; and in winter, are prepared by turnip, for the market. The introduction of the potatoes was still later than that of turnips. I am assured, it is not above 14 years since they were planted in the fields. They are found to suit the nature of our soil remarkably well; no where are they produced of better quality, and in seasons, when the corn is high priced, constitute fully the half of the food of our cottagers. There are about 30 farmers in the parish. The farms are in general small, excepting those

\* This belongs to the Marquis of Tweeddale.

those belonging to the Marquis of Tweeddale, which are pretty extensive. This Nobleman is by much the greatest proprietor in the parish; his property being equal to one-fourth of the whole. The number of ploughs in the parish is about 50. They are all of the English construction, or what are known by the name of *Small's* ploughs\*.

*Number of Black Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—The number of young cattle annually reared, I have not been able to ascertain, but I am well informed, that not fewer than 100 bullocks and cows are yearly fed on turnip for the butcher. Of the black-faced sheep, which pasture on heath, there may be from 6000 to 7000. The number of black cattle is from 400 to 500.

#### *Population.*

\* With respect to the agriculture of the parish, it may be in general observed, that the quantity of grain produced, in good years, is considerably more than sufficient to support the inhabitants; but in cold and wet seasons, our oats and barley do not ripen properly, and are often very ill got. In harvests 1782 and 1783, the situation of the farmers, and inhabitants in general, was truly deplorable. It was the end of December before the harvest was finished, after the greatest part of the crop had been destroyed by frost and snow. Without a supply from other quarters, a real famine would have taken place; our farmers were obliged to buy the whole of their seed-corn for crop 1783, from the east parts of the county, and from the Lothians. Some Dutch oats were also brought from Leith, at an exorbitant price. The *red oats*, so called, I presume, from their colour, prevail very much in the parish at present. They are found to suit the soil and climate, better than any early species that has hitherto been tried. They ripen as soon as the Dutch and Polish; are more luxuriant on the ground; and not so apt to fall by the wind. The principal crops in this parish are oats and rough bear; pease grow very readily on our light soil, but from the coldness of the climate, very seldom attain complete maturity; oats are sown as early in March as the frost will allow; bear from the middle of April to the end of May. The time of harvest is very uncertain; it is very seldom general, however, before the end of September.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls, in 1755, was 531. The population, as appears from the records of the parish, is much the same that it has been for 100 years past, and amounts to about 600 souls. The annual number of births, for 50 years past, is 18; of deaths, 13; of marriages, 6. We have no instances on record of remarkable longevity. Many, however, have reached their 90th year, and there are some persons now living, of that age.

The tradesmen and mechanicks are,

Weaver,	-	1	Wright,	-	-	1
Tailors,	-	6	Masons,	-	-	3
Shoemakers,	-	2	Millers,	-	-	3
Smiths,	-	2	Gardener,	-	-	1

*Rent, Heritors, &c.*—The land-rent of the parish is at present about L. 2000 a-year; but as the most extensive farms are at present low rented, it might easily rise to L. 3000 a-year. There are 12 heritors, 3 of whom only are resident; George Somerville, Esq; of Airhouse, Henry Torran of Kirktonhill, James Justice of Justicehall.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Peat and turf, of which there is plenty in the parish, was formerly the only fuel used by the inhabitants. But since the public roads were made, and kept in good repair, coal, although brought from a distance of 12 miles, is found by our proprietors and farmers, to be on the whole the cheapest fuel. This change is to be attributed to the advanced price of labour, which makes the expense of procuring peat and turf, when every thing is considered, greater than that of coal\*.

*Stipend,*

\* The wages of household servants, employed in husbandry, are from L. 7 to L. 8 Sterling annually, besides victuals; female servants receive from

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The Earl of Marchmont is patron of the parish. The living consists of L. 600 Scots, and 3 chalders of victual, half oats, half barley. The glebe consists of nearly 9 English acres of land, but the one half lying detached almost a mile from the other, and the whole being unenclosed, it is of very inconsiderable value to the minister. The living, glebe included, is not worth more than L. 84 Sterling a-year; as the incumbent intends to raise a process for an augmentation of stipend, he wishes these facts to be generally known. The church is built in the old Popish form of a cross. When it was erected is uncertain. It underwent a thorough repair in the year 1702. The manse and offices were rebuilt 7 years ago, and are at present in good repair.—The number of poor on the parish roll is at present 12. The annual expense of supporting them amounts to L. 30 a-year, which sum is raised by collections in the church, and by assessments on the heritors.

### *Manners*

from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4 yearly. Day-labourers get from 9d. to 10d. a-day, with victuals; carpenters, 1s.; masons, 1s. 2d.; tailors, 8d. Dalkeith is the market-town to which our farmers carry their grain; it is distant about 14 miles. Their carts return loaded with coal or lime. We have butcher meat of all kinds from Dalkeith; and in some seasons of the year, are tolerably well served from Lauder, which is not above 6 miles distant from us. The prices vary at different seasons, according as the markets are supplied. Beef, was last Christmas as high as 6d. the lb. Mutton, 4½d. Lamb has not been below 4d. the lb. all this season. The want of sea and river fish is much felt in this part of the country. The streamlets which fall from our mountains, indeed, abound with very fine trout; but the infamous practices of taking them with nets, and destroying them with lime, which have for some years past been very prevalent, have greatly diminished the different species of this excellent fish.



*Manners and Morals of the People.*—The present incumbent having been but a few months resident in the parish, has not yet had time to be individually acquainted with all his hearers; but from the general acquaintance he has obtained of them, he has no hesitation to pronounce them a frugal, industrious, and happy set of people. They live harmoniously with each other, and support their families decently on the fruits of honest industry. One feature in their character, which, in an age of levity and irreligion like the present, deserves to be particularly remarked, is the regular attendance of all ranks on public worship, and their decent behaviour when thus employed. Will the writer of this paper be suspected of enthusiasm, when he assigns this as one cause of the industry and comfort which prevail among the people at large?

*Antiquities.*—It is probable that Channelkirk, when Popery was the Established Religion of the country, was a place of considerable note. The memorials, however, are few; a perennial spring of excellent soft water, about a quarter of a mile W. from the kirk, is called the well of the Holy Water Cleugh, a name which ancient superstition had conferred. The Girthgate, that is, the road which the monks kept in their way from Melrose Abbey to Edinburgh, passes through the western boundary of the parish. It is a broad green path, on which the surrounding heath never grows. On this road, a few miles due W. of the church, are to be seen the ruins of an old building, commonly known by the name of the Resh Law, or Restlaw Haw. Tradition tells us, that this was the place where the monks and pilgrims stopped, or rested for refreshment, it being about halfway between Melrose and Edinburgh. A great many Pictish and Scottish encampments are to be seen in this parish and the neighbourhood; they are all of

a round or oval figure, and are called rings by the common people. The Roman encampments were square or rectangular, but there is none of them in this part of the country.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The chief advantage of this situation is a contiguity to the public road, which leads from Edinburgh to London. It is kept in excellent repair by the money collected at the toll-bars, and by the statute-labour commuted into money, according to the number of servants and horses kept by the farmers; without this, improvement of every kind would have been impracticable. The disadvantages of our situation are, the coldness of our climate, and consequently our frequent cold and wet harvests. Were the practice of enclosing land and planting more general, the climate would be considerably improved. Clumps of fir and white wood, judiciously disposed on the heights, would shelter our flocks from the storms of winter, and defend our habitations from the N. and N. W. winds, to which they are at present much exposed. Our landed gentlemen are beginning to see the advantages of enclosing and planting; about 500 acres are already enclosed, and I doubt not but this improvement will advance with considerable rapidity. This part of the county of Berwick, from the number of sheep which it supports, and its vicinity to the public road, seems well calculated for the establishment of an woollen manufacture; and from the present flourishing state of that which was established many years ago at Galashiels, the Noblemen and gentlemen of Lauderdale might promise themselves the highest advantages from a similar erection in the neighbourhood of Lauder.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXVIII.

## PARISH OF RATHVEN,

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRES-  
BYTERY OF FORDYCE),

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE DONALDSON.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**R**ATHVEN is said, by those conversant in the Gaelic language, to be derived from two original words, the one signifying brake, or fern, and the other, rock, eminence, or hillock. In support of this derivation, it may be observed, that there is a spot in the neighbourhood of the church, called Brakenhaugh; and a farm named Rannachie, *i. e.* the Brakenfield. This parish is situated in that district of Banffshire, named Enzie. It is 10 miles long from E. to W.; and from 3 to 5 miles broad from N. to S. On the N. it is bounded by the Moray Frith. Cullen is the nearest post-town to the eastern end of the parish; and Fochabers to the western, from which it is scarce 4 miles distant. The church and manse are on the N. side of the post-road, and at the distance

distance of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles from Callen. The whole of the parish has never been surveyed; and therefore the number of acres cannot be precisely ascertained. Partly, however, from plans, and partly from computation, it may be stated at 27,000 acres Scotch measure, and in the following proportions nearly:

Arable,	-	-	-	4700
Meadow and pasture,	-	-	-	1600
Hills, moors, and moffes,	-	-	-	16,200
Plantations,	-	-	-	4500

*Soil, Surface, and Climate.*—In a parish of such extent there is generally a great variety of soil; and this parish affords no exception to the general rule. In one corner the soil is a light loam, extremely rich, on a bottom of clay; in another it is thin, but abundantly fertile, on a red mud. Some places are very sandy, and others clayey; and, in general, with the exception of what is sandy, an amazing number of small roundish stones cover the ground. The surface is variegated with hills and eminences, streams of water, and fertile plains. The Binhill, in the S. E. end of the parish, is mostly planted with trees. It is covered with heath, and of so considerable an altitude as to serve as a landmark to the fishers, being perceived by them, according to their way of reckoning, at full 15 leagues distance. The hills of Maud and Adie, also covered with heath to the top, are contiguous to it, but of less elevation, and proceed in a westerly direction to the confines of the parish. The greatest part of the parish has a N. W. exposure, and suffers from the storms which blow from that point; but this inconvenience is greatly over-balanced by a sea-coast, including its windings, of 12 miles. The vicinity of the sea, independent of all its other advantages, serves in some measure to mitigate the heats in summer, and to lessen, both in point

of severity and duration, the cold in winter. The parishioners, being subject to no epidemical diseases, are in general healthy, and many attain to old age. In proof of the salubrity of the air, and goodness of their constitutions, it may be remarked, that notwithstanding the populousness of the parish, no man bred to physic or surgery has ever thought it worth his while to settle in it.

*Number of Proprietors.*—These are 8: The Duke of Gordon, the Earl of Findlater, Mr Baron Gordon, Mr Gordon of Lettescourie, Mr Gordon of Cairnfield, Mr Dunbar of Nether Buckie, Mr Stuart of Tanachy, and Mr Stuart of Oxhill. Only 2 of them, the proprietors of Lettescourie and Cairnfield, reside in the parish. The former of these gentlemen has laid out a part of his fortune in embellishing his paternal property, and in building elegant houses on his different estates; and the latter directs his attention to the improvement of his estate, and the cultivation of his farm.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—The climate is early, and the soil in general good, and susceptible of the highest cultivation. Some of the heritors have availed themselves of all the modern improvements in agriculture; and of late the tenants have begun to improve their system of farming. In their seasons, one sees fields properly cleaned, ridges straighted, small stones removed, and luxuriant crops of grain and of grass growing. By means of planting, nuisances are converting into beauties, and the country is gradually assuming a pleasanter appearance. In short, as a spirit of industry and of imitation is becoming prevalent among the tenants, with a proper degree of encouragement, the face of the country would, in a short time, be mightily improved. Wheat, barley, oats, and pease are the grains usually

usually cultivated. A summer fallow is the ordinary preparation for wheat; and after the field is thoroughly cleaned, and well manured with dung from the fisher-towns, if it can be procured, the crop is laid down in October. Barley is sown without manure, after oats from a ley-furrow, and with manure after pease or turnip. The turnip field is generally ploughed once, and the pease twice, before laying on the dung for the seed-furrow. Oats are sown on ley ploughed in February, and frequently after barley. When the oats after barley are reaped, the field gets a ploughing in autumn, and remains in that state till spring, when it receives the seed furrow, and is sown with pease. On the S. side of the post-road, towards the hills, the acre sows from from 12 to 14 pecks; on the N. side, towards the coast; from 16 to 18; of gray pease the same quantity is allowed; but of the late kind, which is seldom used, as they do not ripen in season, and so prove unproductive, 13 or 14 suffice. About a peck less of barley, than of the above kinds of grain; is allowed to the acre, and of wheat the usual allowance is a boll. Of wheat the average produce is 10 returns; barley 7; oats 4; and pease 3. On many places pease do not thrive; and oats, on a field that has been manured with dung from the fisher-towns, generally fails, and on that account they are seldom a lucrative crop, except after ley. As a common tenant does not often lay down his best ground with grass-seeds, many excellent fields have been under a regular course of cropping time immemorial. A small spot of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre, in Mr Baron Gordon's estate, has produced barley-crops for 47 years, without any loss of fertility. It is situated near the beach at Buckie; has been uniformly twice ploughed, and gotten some loads of sea-weed, or other manure annually. It sows 10 pecks, and has produced from 4 to 5 bolls. Turnips and potatoes are cultivated for home-consumption; and flax is pretty  
successfully

successfully raised for family purposes only. The distinction between infield and outfield is scarcely known here. Ground lately improved out of moors, or such like, which will not bear the same rotation of crops as the farm, is called outfield. Land near the hills gives from 8 s. to 15 s. and on the coast from 15 s. to L. 1, 10 s. an acre. In general the farms are small, and cottagers almost unknown. Two tenants pay from L. 80 to L. 100; a few from L. 40 to L. 60; and all the rest from L. 10, or even lower, to L. 40\*.

*Manures.*—Different tenants employ different manures. Some are satisfied with what their cattle produce. Those on the coast are exceedingly attentive to procure sea-weed. In summer they spread it on ley to the extent of 300 single cart-loads an acre; of 160 after the crop is cut down, and during winter; and of 100 in April and May, when it is strongest. This process is renewed every second year. The weed is loosed from the rocks by a north-easterly storm, and driven ashore in great quantities. In a small bay, called the holl of Gollachie, 10,000 cart-loads have been accumulated by the tide in the course of a week. Sea shells purchased at any of the fisher-towns for 2 d. the cart-load, are spread on the fields as a manure, and like sea-weed left to the influence of the weather. It would be a better plan to burn them, as it is done at a small expense, and they produce

\* *Implements of Husbandry.*—The ploughs are well adapted to the state of the country; as the soil is light, they are of a slender but neat make. A few of them are drawn by 2 horses, many by 4, and still more by 2 small horses and 4 black cattle, either oxen or cows. Carts are in universal use; some of them are neatly and substantially made; but far the greater number are of so bad materials, so unartificially put together, and of so diminutive a size, as hardly to deserve the name.

produce a moderate quantity of excellent lime. A species of limestone, called by some stone-marl, is dug out of a quarry at Cuttlebræ, in the Duke of Gordon's lands, spread on the field, and left to the operation of the seasons to pulverize it. This is reckoned an expensive, but valuable manure. As most people have access to one or other of the above manures, recourse is seldom had to lime, though it can be procured in sufficient quantity for the purposes of agriculture.

*Seed Time and Harvest.*—As the soil is early, seed time for pease seldom commences before the middle of March; for oats it begins about the 26th, and continues to the end of April or middle of May; and for barley thence to the middle or end of June. Harvest begins about the middle or end of August, and is finished in October \*.

*Crops, Produce, and Rent.*—It is no easy matter to state with any kind of precision, what proportion of the farm is allotted to each kind of grain. Here no uniformity can be expected, because the least alteration in circumstances may introduce deviations from established rules. The following however, is the most satisfactory state of the general practice that I have been able to obtain. One fourth of the farm is laid down with pease and barley; scarce one fourth in grass; and the other two fourths in oats, fallow, flax, turnips, and potatoes. Wheat is seldom sown by the tenants,

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\* In 1782, recorded in Scotland for the failure of the crop, this parish had the good fortune to escape the general calamity. Scarcely had they ever a better crop, or more to spare. The great demand for meal and seed, and the high prices which they brought, bettered their circumstances. Seed-oats and meal sold at L. 1, and barley at L. 1, 5 s. the boll.



as they do not reckon it a lucrative crop; and besides the want of winter-herding discourages them from any attempts to raise it. Some of them begin to make hay, as there is a ready market for it at 6 d. the stone. 200 stone, at 20 lb. Amsterdam, is accounted a good crop, and 160 a medium one, the acre. Of the different kinds of grain the produce has already been stated. The parish serves itself with grain, and exports 2000 bolls yearly. The valued rent is L. 6395 Scots, and the real rent may be from L. 4000 to L. 5000 Sterling; but, like most parishes in Scotland, where the rent is paid in money and victual, it must vary with the price of grain \*.

### Commerce.

\* *Prices of Grain and Provisions.*—The grain of crop 1792, during the winter season was very moderate. Since April meal has risen to 15 s. and barley to 18 s. the boll. Beef and mutton 3½ d. the lb. a duck 10 d. a hen 8 d. a chicken 3 d. eggs 2½ d. the dozen, butter 8 d. the lb. at 24 oz. English; cheese 5 s. the stone, at 24 lb. English.

*Wages and Price of Labour.*—Men servants employed in husbandry get from L. 6 to L. 8; women from L. 2 to L. 3; herds from L. 1 to L. 2; a tailor 8 d. and his meat; a day-labourer from 10 d. to 1 s.; carpenters 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 6 d.; and slaters 2 s. without meat.

*Services and Customs.*—The services, though not in general abolished, are, according to my information, exacted with such moderation, as not to be esteemed a grievance by the tenants. Custom fowls to a certain extent are payable when required. Restriction to mills prevail. Leet-peats, as they are called, (measuring 8 feet in length, 12 broad, and 12 high), must be paid in kind when demanded. Long carriages, as they are termed, that is, carriages to a specified distance from the proprietor's house, are sometimes exacted: And in seed-time and harvest, as well as at hay-making, certain services are required. For all these the tenants are liable, and they are paid without murmuring, because never exacted to the extent mentioned in their lease. Still, however, the very name implies bondage, because services, being in some measure arbitrary, must ever be reckoned grievous.

*Commerce.*—Five and forty years ago there was not a single shop, nor any imported article for sale in the parish. About the year 1750, the first shop was opened in Buckie, at that time known as a fishing station only; at present there are 8 merchants or shop keepers in it who trade to the extent of L. 5000, exclusive of grain, annually. Originally unbred to business, and possessed of a small stock, they began their merchandise on a very narrow scale; as their stock increased, they extended their views, and launched out into new branches. They import coals, salt, iron, and other necessaries; and export fish and grain. About 500 bolls of salt are imported annually; and this summer (1793) 2500 bolls of wheat, barley, oats, and meal have been exported from Buckie.

*Manufactures.*—Two or three weavers manufacture linen to the amount of L. 200 yearly; and some months ago a small manufacture in hemp was established at Buckie. A man from Dundee is employed to dress the hemp, and it is afterward converted into lines, canvas, and nets. We have no flax-dresser in the parish, and yet the spinning of flax into yarn is an important article. In 1750, a manufacturer\* in Cullen introduced this branch here; and in 1759, a weaver, still alive, was the first residing agent employed in this new line; since the above period, considerable progress has been made in it. The flax, mostly Dutch, is sent dressed from Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Banff, Portsoy, Cullen, Huntley, Keith, and Fochabers, to different agents,

to

grievous. Sound policy requires their total abolition; and it is to be hoped, that the time is fast approaching, when every vestige of the pristine servitude will disappear for ever; and mutual stipulations, on equal terms, properly defined and clearly expressed, will ascertain what man has a right to exact from man.

\* Mr Mungo Rannig.

to the amount of 38,900 cwt. which is given out to the spinners at the average price of 1 s. the lb. and brings in annually L. 1945. A few tons of kelp are manufactured on that part of the coast belonging to the proprietor of Buckie.

*Fisher-towns and Fisheries.*—There are 4 fisher-towns in the parish: Buckie, Port-casy, Findochtie, and Port-nockie. The first belongs to two proprietors, and the 3 last to Lord Findlater.

1. Buckie, the most westerly of the fisher-towns, is situated at the mouth of the rivulet or burn of Buckie. Mr Baron Gordon is proprietor of the lands and houses on the E. side of the burn, and Mr Dunbar on the W. On the W. side there are 102 houses, and 400 inhabitants; of whom 175 are males, and 225 females: And on the E. side, 63 houses, and 303 inhabitants; of whom 136 are males, and 167 females. The W. side has been a fishing station for 150 years, and is, according to my information, the oldest in the parish. The date of the other side as a fishing station, I have not been able to ascertain. In 1723, a fishing-boat and crew belonging to the Duke of Gordon, removed from Gollachie, which lies a mile westward, to Buckie, as being a safer and more commodious station. At that period the proprietor of Nether Buckie, who held his lands in feu from the Duke, had only one boat; and as he was out of the kingdom, and in arrear to his Grace, the desired accommodation was the more easily obtained. At present, there are 14 boats and 1 yawl\* employed in the fisheries. The boats are about 9 tons, and the yawl 4. Of these, 3 boats and 1 yawl belong to his Grace, 3 to Mr Dunbar, and 8 to Mr Baron Gordon. The merchants, and others of Buckie, are proprietors

\* The yawl's crews are old men, who fish near the shore, if possible,

prietors of 4 floops of 18, 25, 30 and 36 tons, and 2 of 60 tons burden, navigated by 24 seamen.

2. Porteaify is situated at the distance of scarce 2 miles from Buckie. It became a fishing station in 1727, when 5 houses were built by the proprietor of Rannes for the accommodation of the original fishers from Findhorn. This information was obtained from a man aged 90, still alive, and a native of this parish, who helped to man the first boat. At present this fisher-town contains 44 houses, and 178 inhabitants; and of these 84 are males, and 94 females: They have 5 large and 7 small boats. At the commencement of this station, Buckie had 5 boats, Findochtie 3, and Portnockie 5.

3. Findochtie lies at the distance of 2 miles from the former station, and has 45 houses, and 162 inhabitants; 74 males and 88 females. It was settled in 1716 by fishers from Frasersburgh, according to the information of a woman aged 91, who was married to one of the original fishers in 1721. Portnockie, of which she is a native, at the time of her removal, had 3 boats. There are at present 4 large, and 6 small boats in Findochtie.

4. Portnockie is at the distance of 2 miles from Findochtie. The following anecdote ascertains its origin as a fishing station: About 20 years ago died Kattie Slater, aged 96. Like many old people she was unable to tell her age precisely; but she recollected that she was as old as the house of Farskane, as her father had often told her that he built the first house in Portnockie the same year in which the house of Farskane was built, and that she was brought from Cullen to it, and rocked in a fisher's scull instead of a cradle. Now by the date on the house of Farskane, it appears to have been built in 1677. Thus the origin of Portnockie is fixed with sufficient accuracy. At present

it consists of 80 houses, and 243 inhabitants; and there are 7 large, and 9 small boats in it\*.

*Herring*

\* The large boats in the three towns last mentioned are about 10 tons, and the small ones 4. The original cost of one of the former, including sail, mast, oars, and lines, is about L. 24; and of the latter, half that sum. In consideration of receiving a specified rent annually, the proprietor allows L. 11 to every crew to purchase a new boat, which is understood to last 7 years, called here the long run. Then a mutual contract is entered into between the proprietor and the crew, wherein he engages to secure them in the property of the boat; and they bind themselves to serve in it, and pay their rent during the term of 7 years. If the boat is judged unfit for sea before the end of the lease, and application is made for a new one, a deduction is made for every deficient year of the boat's run to the extent of L. 1, 15 s. which goes in part of the L. 11 for another boat. In the different towns the rent is different. The average rent of each boat is L. 5 : 3 : 3, and 6 dried cod or ling. The small boats are the property of the fishers, and pay no rent. As they have no small boats at Buckie, the large ones are used at all seasons. In the other towns, the large ones are used from the end of February to the end of July; and the small ones at all other times.

Every large boat has a crew of 6 men and a boy. Each man has a line containing from 100 to 120 hooks, at the distance of 7 fathoms from one another. The boy's line is half the length of a man's. From the end of February, when the season for great fish begins, till the end of April, they seldom go above 16 leagues from the shore in quest of cod and ling. From the beginning of May they launch out to the distance of 23 leagues in search of skate. They are found in greatest number in a particular place of Caithness, called the Skate-hole. Cod, ling, skate, halibut, and a few tusk, are the only great fish caught in the Moray frith. Cod, ling, and tusk are salted in pits on the beach, as they are caught and dried on the rocks for sale. Skate is dried without salt, and the halibut is used fresh. Of these, ling and skate are the most valuable to the fishers, because their livers yield much oil. Cod, ling, and tusk are in season from May to February; skate is good through the whole year, and halibut in highest state of perfection about July. About the end of June, the dry fish is stowed in boats, navigated by 4 or 5 men, and carried to market in the towns along the coast of Fife and the frith of Forth. The large boat will carry

*Herring-Fishery.*—The boat's crew, after disposing of their great fish, generally engage in the herring-fishery on the Caithness coast for 6 weeks, from the 24th July. The small boats, having 4 men a-piece, are used. Every man has at least 2 nets, which cost him L. 4. The boats either enter on the bounty, or engage for 10 s. the barrel, and a bottle of whisky a-day, in lieu of all demands. It is customary to give the crew 2 s. at the time of engaging, and as much at the end of the fishery. Those, again, who prefer the bounty, receive L. 8 certain, with the usual quantity of whisky, 5 s. arrival-money, as they call it, 2 s. weekly for their Saturday's pint, and 5 s. at the time of their departure. When the fishery fails, this is the preferable plan, but when it answers tolerably well, the former is most lucrative. In a good season, a boat may take 40 barrels in a night; however, from 50 to 100 barrels is the usual rate of fishing in favourable seasons. The general

carry from L. 60 to L. 70 worth. The great fish generally bring from L. 8 to L. 12 a man, and half that sum for the boy.

The crew of a small boat consists of 5 men and a boy. In the same fishing station, every man's line is of equal length; but in the different stations they are of different lengths. It contains from 600 to 900 hooks, at the distance of one fathom from one another; and a boy's half as many. The small boats are used for catching haddocks, whittings, flounders, &c. Besides these, a good many great fish are caught with the small lines, and pickled for the London market. Haddocks are in prime from August to February; whittings are worst in August; the gray flounder is best in harvest; and the spotted, which is inferior to the gray, is best in spring. Mackerels are caught from the beginning of July to the end of August, by a line sunk with lead. Herrings are sometimes plentiful on the coast, and their season is the same with that of mackerel. Haddocks, 10 years ago, were caught within half a mile of the shore; for several years none have been found nearer than from 7 to 10 leagues off land, till of late, that they have again made their appearance hard by the shore. The income of the small fish is estimated by the fishers to be at least equal to that of the great.

ral course of their fishing has been at Staxigo, and in the head of the Moray frith; and their engagements with the owners of vessels cleared out on the bounty. The herrings on this coast are generally better than those caught farther south, and bring a higher price by 2 s. the barrel at least for home use. Montrose, Dundee, the towns on the frith of Forth, and Newcastle, are the best markets for large herrings; and Jamaica, and the West India islands, for the middle sized and small herrings. They are exported from London, Newcastle, Greenock, and a few from Leith. The herring-fishery is fluctuating and precarious. When the fishing is small, the adventurer loses; when a full cargo is caught, or nearly so, the profit may amount to about 4 s. the barrel\*.

*Cod-Fishery.*—This is susceptible of considerable improvement. From 1st October to the middle of February, a great many cod are caught on the small lines, which, if they are not lost, are sold for a trifle, as they cannot be dried. From 300 to 400 barrels of cod, and from 100 to 200 of codlings, a smaller cod, might be cured annually, during the period specified above, in the 4 fisher-towns belonging to the parish. Two attempts have been made in this

\* In July 1786 a number of very large herrings was discovered, chiefly by some country people, in the Bay of Buckie, and along the coast. In 1787, Messrs Falls employed several boats on the coast with great success. Some of the boats caught in a night 27 salmon crans, *i. e.* 27,000 herrings. These gentlemen dropped this fishery after one trial; and it remained neglected, except by the country people, who, in fine nights, were very successful, till 1791 and 1792, when some boats were employed by Mr J. Geddes and son; and they sometimes caught from 12 to 19 crans the boat in a night. But it was soon discovered, that the want of a harbour rendered Buckie unfit for a herring-fishing station, as no vessel could repair to it with materials.

this line; but the want of a harbour to ship the fish regularly to market, and the high price of salt, rendered them unsuccessful. Were a proper quay built, and salt free from duty allowed for curing cod, the above being the best season, a large supply of excellent cod might be sent regularly to market. The cod caught at this season, after lying as long as necessary in the salt, are generally dried for a few days, and even the winter season, after salting, will dry them sufficiently. The best markets in Scotland for salt cod, are Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leith, Borrowstounness, and all the coast-towns on the frith of Forth. The principal market for pickled or barrelled cod is London.

*Lobster-Fishery.*—In 1792, all the fishers on the coast entered into a contract for 5 years with Messrs. Selby and Company of London, or with the Northumberland Fishery Society, to fish for lobsters, when they did not find it prudent to go in search of other fish. The skiff and tackling for this fishery cost about L. 5, 5 s. The Companies furnish the skiffs, and are reimbursed by instalments. They take all their lobsters at 2½ d. a-piece, provided they measure 6 inches from the point of the nose to the end of the body, and when under that size, two are esteemed equivalent to one. Lobsters are in season from 1st February to the end of June, and from 1st November to Christmas. Last year lobsters to a considerable value were caught on this coast; but less attention has been paid to them this year, owing partly to the great success of the white fishery, and partly to the amazing quantity of lobsters caught on the coast of Caithness, which the Companies have at a cheaper rate, *viz.* at 1½ d. for the largest size. I am unable to state the product of this fishery for the last year in all the 4 towns, by reason of the removal of some of the Companies agents.

The



The agent at Portnockie has furnished me with the following note :

To 7913 lobsters received at Portnockie, for the Northumberland Fishery Society, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. - L. 82 8 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

To cash paid for cork, cords, twine, crill bottoms, iron rims, and other necessary expenses for behoof of the Society, - 125 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Now, allowing the other 3 towns in this parish to have had similar activity and success in this fishery in 1792, the total product is, - - - - - 365 9 6

And the total cash paid out by the Company's agents for cork, &c. - - - - - 554 1 5

To the above let us add an average state of the 31 boats, exclusive of the herring-fishery, reckoning every man's annual income from the great and small fish at L. 20, and the boys at L. 10, and every boat to have 6 men and a boy, the total product is L. 4030 0 0

*N B.* The average product of the herring-fishery is not stated, as it was begun only 5 years ago, and all the fishers do not engage in it.

I have only farther to observe on the subject of the fisheries, that a few salmon are caught in the parish at the mouths of the rivulets or burns of Gollachie and Tynet. They are commonly called stall fisheries. Of these there are 2 at Tynet, belonging to Mr Stuart at Tanachie, and 2 at Gollachy, belonging to Mr Baron Gordon and Mr Dunbar. The 4 might produce about L. 24 annually to the proprietors.

*Roads.*—The roads in the parish were originally made, and are kept in repair by the statute-labour. The post-road

road passes through the parish in a westerly direction for upwards of 8 miles. The first 5 from Cullen to the burn of Buckie, are almost equally good in all seasons, and easily kept in excellent repair. The other 3 miles not having so good a bottom, are apt to become deep in rainy weather; it is in contemplation to change the direction of this road in part; and it will require great attention to prevent the public from suffering by the alteration, when carried to the intended extent. On entering the parish, the beautiful arch of the bridge over the rivulet at Cullen, house, strikes the eye of the beholder on the left hand. After passing the bridge in the line of the public road, which is too narrow and wants parapets, fine fields, and thriving plantations adorn the scenery for the first 3 miles, and cheer the weary traveller, in spite of a moor on the left, which forces itself on his observation, and accompanies him for more than 2 miles. A bleak and dreary prospect succeeds for 2 miles through the moor of Rannachy\*.

*Harbours.*—Nature has formed the only harbours at the fishing stations. But to render them safe and commodious, quays

\* To the right, on this moor, at the distance of 100 paces from the road, is an eminence evidently artificial, called Tarrielerack, and supposed by some to be a burial-place. The view is confined, as before, by hills and moors, covered with heath. Hardly does any pleasant object appear to break the barren uniformity, and relieve the mind. At length a peep of the Moray frith, and of the Caithness hills, at the distance of 90 miles, dissolves the gloom, and awakens the attention to a fertile country, finely variegated with little hills and fertile plains, in a high state of cultivation. The burn of Tynet, which separates this parish from Belly, stands in need of a bridge. Though its course be but short, and quantity of water trifling in dry weather; yet in rainy seasons, it is frequently swelled into a torrent, which the traveller cannot pass without fear and danger.

quays would be necessary. In their present state, the united exertions of the men and women are employed in dragging the boats up the beach, to secure them from being broken by the waves, and similar efforts must be made in launching. These daily operations are very hurtful to the boats, and sometimes fatal to the men. At Buckie and Findochtie only can piers, or quays, be constructed. Their advantages are many and important, and the want of them is severely felt by people of all descriptions. The land-carriage of heavy goods from Aberdeen, Banff or Portfroy, adds considerably to their price, and operates as a tax on the consumer. Coals, salt and iron are sometimes unloaded in the summer season at Buckie, but at the risk of losing the vessel. With the laudable view of obviating these inconveniencies, the proprietor of Buckie, not many years ago, caused a survey of the harbour, and plan of a pier to be made on the east side of the burn; and sanguine hopes were entertained by the public, of the advantages that would accrue from the execution of a plan which promised safety, and 14 feet of water at neap tides. But this useful and meritorious undertaking has not hitherto been executed. It is, however, I would fain hope, only suspended, not abandoned. A pier at Buckie would be a standing monument of the Baron's generosity, and serve to hand him down to future ages as the father of his people, and friend of mariners\*. Findochtie, though at present neglected,

\* In the mean time, another plan has been adopted on a smaller scale, and less eligible situation, at the mouth of the burn, on the west side, belonging to Mr Dunbar. Active steps have been taken by the Buckie merchants and fishers to effectuate it. To render this undertaking safer and more extensively useful, it was judged proper to have a small pier or bulwark on the east side of the burn, which could not be done without permission from Mr Baron Gordon. A petition was therefore made out, and presented in 1792, craving leave to build, at their own expense,

glected, claims<sup>n</sup> the public attention in an eminent degree. It is susceptible of being improved into one of the best and safest harbours in Scotland, equal, in every respect, to Cromarty, except in extent. It seems to have been moulded by the hand of nature, for a safe and easy retreat in tempestuous weather to vessels in the Moray frith, that are unable to make Cromarty on the opposite shore. The distance between them is 60 miles due east and west. It is said that Government once ordered a survey of Findochtie to be made, but from what motive I never heard. I employed one of the fishers to take the breadth of the entrance into this beautiful basin, at a rock called the Beacon, on the west, and low-water soundings at a neap tide, in the central point, where the water is most shallow; and from an exact mensuration, the entrance was found to be 90 yards wide, and the water 21 feet deep. Hence, it is capable of receiving a ship of the line, and capacious enough to contain all the vessels belonging to the Moray frith. Language can hardly paint it in a more advantageous light than it deserves. It attracts the observation, and arrests the attention of every beholder. I am well assured that it might be made a most complete harbour, for

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the

expense, on a rock, part of his property, a bulwark, which they conceived could not hurt his interest. This petition was unfortunately presented at a time, when the Baron, by reason of a circumstance in which he was deeply interested, took little or no concern in business of any kind. It has therefore, in all probability, escaped his notice, or it is most likely, that he would have granted a request that could not possibly be hurtful to him, and might be beneficial to his own people. It is imagined, that L. 300 would build a tolerably commodious harbour at the burn mouth; L. 200 would make it a good creek at all seasons; and even L. 100 would make it safe for small craft in summer only. Buckie is advantageously situated on a central part of the coast, near Keith and Fochabers, and has frequent communication with the parishes of Mortlach, Boharm, Botriphnie, Glat, Glenlivet and Cabrach.

the moderate sum of L. 3000 \*. A more industrious, intrepid, adventurous race of mariners than those in this parish, is nowhere to be found in his Majesty's dominions. They are exposed to continual danger in open boats from an inconstant climate and a stormy sea. In clear nights, by the aid of a compass, the observation of certain stars, and a few land-marks, they reckon their lives in perfect safety. But when the clouds begin to gather, the winds to rise, the waves to heave, and all nature to wear a lowering countenance, they are perplexed whither to direct their course; to attempt the shore is certain death; and to live at sea scarcely possible. In such dreadful alternatives, the love of life most frequently suggests the propriety of steering a middle course; yet this dangerous navigation often terminates in death. Such dire disasters have given rise to reiterated proposals for building a smack of about 30 tons, and with proper accommodations, to be employed in the white fishery. It is the opinion of the most skilful and experienced fishers, that in such a vessel the fishery might be carried on with greater safety, and more benefit to the undertakers, and with advantage to the country. But the want of a safe harbour has always occasioned schemes of this nature to prove abortive. A regard therefore for the preservation of men's lives and the good of society should induce all ranks to join in forwarding such plans of public utility.

The

\* Lord Findlater could not bestow a part of his princely fortune to better purpose, than in constructing a harbour that would promote his own interest, prove a benefit to thousands, and transmit his name with honour to posterity. But as his Lordship's views are at present directed to other useful objects, there is no immediate prospect of his executing such an undertaking. Still, however, a harbour is much wanted at Findochtie, and would be attended with many advantages to the country; and consequently is one of those public works which merits the attention of Government.

The following state of the loss sustained by the fishermen in this parish, will show this matter in a stronger light.

1. In Buckie, since 1723, 8 boats, with their crews and passengers, have perished, amounting in all to - 60 men and boys.

Of that number, 50 have been lost within these 40 years; and it is well attested that so many have not died a natural death in the same period.

2. Portesay has lost since it became a fishing station, - 4 men.

3. Findochtie, about 38 years ago, lost 1 boat, and - 7 men.

4. Portknockie, within these 26 years, has lost 5 boats and their crews, with a yawl and 6 boys, in all, - 41 men and boys.

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Total, 112 men and boys.  
And 14 boats, 1 yawl\*.

*State of the Church.*—As the heritors have entered into a contract with an undertaker to build a new church, on an approved plan, to contain 1000 persons, it is not necessary to say much respecting the present one. It may, however, be mentioned, that part of it, according to the tradition

\* The above contains a powerful claim on the feelings of humanity, and on the aid of Government for the protection and preservation of human lives. In the estimation of those who are best acquainted with the Moray frith, and most skilful in naval affairs, a harbour at Findochtie would save the lives of mariners, and prove extremely beneficial to the country. In its present state, it is of easy access, and the boats when overtaken by a north westerly storm, generally direct their course to it, as to a place of safety.

tradition of the parish, is as old as the castle of Edinburgh; and that the couples, which are of oak, grew on the estate of Rannes. It is of considerable length, and has a roof of different altitudes. Viewed from the public road, or at a distance, it has a venerable appearance. Next year it is to be taken down, and the materials employed in building the new church.

*Bede-House.*—Its origin is mentioned by Spottiswood, in his account of religious houses in Scotland, and is as follows: “Rothsan, John Bisset gives to God, and the church of St Peter’s of Rothsan, for sustaining seven leprous persons; the patronage of the kirk of Kyltalargy, to pray for the souls of William and Alexander, kings of Scotland, and the souls of his ancestors and successors, about the year 1226; Chartulary of Moray, f. v. 27. He grants another donation to the same purpose, in the said year, f. 126.” There is a bede-house still in being, though in bad repair; and six bede-men on the establishment, but none of them live in the house. The nomination to a vacancy is in the gift of Lord Findlater, as proprietor of Rannes; and their yearly income is as follows: From the lands of Rannes, every bede-man has half an acre of land during life, and 1 boll of oat-meal annually; from the lands of Findochtie, 8 s. 1½ d.; and from Mr Baron Gordon, as proprietor of Freuchnie, formerly a part of the lands of Rannes, 1 s. 4½ d. making in all 9 s. 6 d. yearly; one of the bede-men lately dead, let his half acre, during his life, at L. 1, 1 s. of yearly rent.

*Stipend, Mansfe, Glebe, Patron, &c.*—The stipend is 9 shalders of victual, half meal, half bear; L. 16; 13:4 of money,

money, and L. 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  for communion-elements\*. The manse and kitchen received a substantial repair in 1792; and additional offices were built, to render the accommodation more comfortable and commodious. The glebe, including garden and grass, is about 7 acres. Colonel Hay of Rannes is patron †.

*State*

\* The following curious paper, with several other articles of intelligence, was furnished by B——p Geddes, at the intercession of Mr Matthison, who has been very friendly in procuring me information. “The rental of ye parsonage of Rathven, wt. ye annexis yrof, wt. in ye diocesis of Aberdein and Murray respective, shiresdoms of Banff and Murray respective.”

In the first; ye tiend silver of ye parochin of Rathven, seven score and six pounds.

Ye malles of ye baronie of Rathven, thirty-one merks.

Ye fermes of ye Loynhead, akkers and mill-multure, extendis to five score bolls of beir.

Item, ye kirke of Dundurcus, sett for forty pounds.

Item, ye kirke of Kintallertie, twenty-four pounds.

Item, ye landis of Mulben, lying in the parochin of Dundurcus, sixteen merks.

Hereof deducht of ordinar charges to fix bed-men, 42 merks.

Item, to their habits, 7 pounds four shillings.

Item, to the staller in Aberdein.

Item, given forth of Dundurcus to the abbey of Kinlofs, six pounds.

Sic subscribitur.

G. Hay X, my hand.

The above rental is copied from an original book of assumptions of the year 1563, which belonged to the late Mr James Cummyng, secretary to the Society of Scotch Antiquaries, and which is now probably in the Register Office at Edinburgh. This is attested by me,

(Signed) John Geddes.

† There is an itinerancy, called Enzie Chapel, situated in the west end of the parish, at the distance of 4 miles from the church, for the accommodation of that corner, and part of the parish of Belly. The missionary is subsisted partly from the Royal Bounty, and partly from a fund belonging to the mission. This fund arose from two collections through



*State of the Schools.*—The parochial school-house is at present a bad one. But after the church is finished, there is little doubt of its being rebuilt on a plan equally comfortable and convenient for master and scholars. The schoolmaster's salary is inadequate to the importance of his station. It is bolls 9; 3:3:2½ lippies of meal, and L. 2, 1 s. 9½ d. of money. His other emoluments are L. 2, for officiating as precentor and session-clerk; for publishing banns of marriage, 1 s.; for registering a baptism, 6 d.; writing a certificate, 6 d.; teaching Latin, 2 s.; arithmetic, 2 s.; and English and writing, 1 s. 6 d. quarterly. As the number of scholars of late has not been great, his income may be from L. 15 to L. 20\*.

*Poor,*

through the church, with a view to build a chapel, and procure accommodations to the missionary. With part of it, a chapel has been built, and some acres of ground purchased for a glebe. And it is to be hoped, that the Royal Bounty will be continued, till the fund, which is under the management of a committee appointed by the General Assembly, accumulate to a sum fully adequate to the comfortable support of a clergyman, who has, in the district of the parish most contiguous to the chapel, exclusive of the most adjacent part of Belly, 300 Presbyterians, 72 Episcopalians, and 630 Roman Catholics.

There are ether two clergymen in the parish, Mr Reid and Mr Shand. Mr Reid resides at Presbhome, where he has lately built a neat and well finished chapel, for the accommodation of the Roman Catholics in the parish. Mr Shand lives at Arradoul, and has one chapel in his neighbourhood for the Episcopalians of this parish, and another at Fochabers, where he officiates once a fortnight in summer, and once in 3 weeks during the winter season. Both these gentlemen conduct themselves with the greatest propriety. As they are much respected by their hearers and acquaintance, they are comfortably lodged, and decently supported. Each of them has a small farm, which, by skillful management, yields pleasure and convenience.

\* The present schoolmaster has been upwards of 40 years a teacher; and from age and infirmities, must soon be reduced to a state that will incapacitate him for teaching. It is a pity that no scheme has hitherto been

*Poor, and State of their Funds.*—The poor subsist by begging, and occasional supplies from the parochial fund. Notwithstanding the extent of the parish, it does not at present amount to above L. 50, of which L. 40 is out at interest. The above has been saved from the weekly collections, the use of a pall or mortcloth, and fines from delinquents. The weekly collections, and other contingencies for the year 1792, amounted in whole to L. 14, 12 s. The management of it, and of the whole funds, is, as in most parts of Scotland, intrusted to the church-session. After paying L. 2 to the session-clerk, and L. 1, 1 s. to the officer, the remainder is divided quarterly among the most necessitous of all descriptions. Last year, 30 poor persons received benefit from this small fund. In addition to the above, Lord Findlater orders an annual distribution of meal

been devised, nor any measures adopted to prevent men, who have had an University education, and spent their time and talents in teaching our children the elements of literature, and principles of religion, from feeling the accumulated evils of frailty and poverty in their old age.

The Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, has 2 schools in the parish; one at Buckie, with a salary of L. 14 to the master; and one at Coussarrach, near the Kozie Chapel, with a salary of L. 10 to the master, and L. 5 to his wife. In the course of the year, there are about 100 scholars at each of these schools. Their numbers show the propriety of planting and continuing schools in these stations, and their importance to the public. The latter school is only of 2 years standing; and the master is in possession of the accommodations required by the Society's regulations. He owes his present comfortable situation to the bounty of his Grace the Duke of Gordon. And I am proud to add, that above L. 300 of the Society's money are annually paid to their schoolmasters on the Duke's different estates, all accommodated by his munificence. Such disinterested liberality does honour to his feelings as a man, and is a substantial proof of the interest he takes in promoting the good of society, and the cause of religion.

It is believed, that the Society has not, in Scotland, a more important station than Buckie. It contains upwards of 700 inhabitants, who have

meal and money among the poor on his own lands; and that the same beneficent custom may obtain in other corners of the parish, I have no reason to doubt.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the number of souls, in 1755, was 2898. By a minute of a visitation in the presbytery records, dated at the kirk of Rathven, 30th August 1720, the population is stated at 1700 catechisable persons; and 600 Papists, by a modest computation of those above 10-years of age, by Mr Robert Gordon, the minister, in presence of the heritors, and in answer to the queries, How many catechisable persons in the parish? Whereof, How many Papists? Before stating the population, it may be observed that part of the east end of the parish is annexed to Cullen *quoad sacra*. The date of the annexation I have enquired after in vain.

130 children under 10 years of age. And by including a mile round the town, their number is increased to 190. The Society's school was removed from another station in the parish to Buckie in 1750; and has ever been on a bad footing, the schoolmaster having never been possessed of accommodation to the same extent with his brethren on that establishment. And this inconveniency has occasioned loss to the master, and a considerable advance out of the poor's fund. At present the school is held on so precarious a tenure, as to endanger its being entirely lost, to the great prejudice of the place. It is true, that Dr Kemp, whose spirited exertions, as secretary to the Honourable Society have done so much credit to himself, and good to the cause of virtue and religion, has explained the situation of this school to a gentleman of fortune, and of polite literature, in an eminent station, who has a natural interest in the place. And, as it is pretty generally understood, that a promise of accommodation had been granted; those who patronised the former school, have withdrawn their support, and seem resolved not to renew it. Hence, the cause of its present precarious state. At Findochtie, a schoolmistress receives a guinea annually from Lord Findlater, as an encouragement to teach the reading of English, knitting and sewing. She is a decent woman, bestows her time on her scholars, and gives satisfaction to the town and neighbourhood.

vain. Exclusive of the annexed part, there were found, on an accurate investigation, finished about 3 months ago,

	<i>Persons.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Presb.</i>	<i>Episc.</i>	<i>R. Cath.</i>	<i>Fam.</i>
In the Parish,	3019	1408	1611	1766	303	950	720
Annexed Part,	505	271	234	498	2	5	—
<b>Total,</b>	<b>3524</b>	<b>1679</b>	<b>1845</b>	<b>2264</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>720</b>

Of whom there are in the Parish,

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 10 years of age,	333	345	678
Between 10 & 20,	322	291	613
— 20 & 50,	470	672	1142
— 50 & 70,	227	248	475
— 70 & 80,	43	39	82
— 80 & 90,	12	13	25
— 90 & 100,	1	3	4
<b>Total,</b>	<b>1408</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>3019</b>
In the annexation to Cullen, under 7 years,	57	45	102

The different ages in the whole annexed part could not be conveniently obtained. To account satisfactorily for so great a disproportion between the males and females is not an easy matter. Owing to the difference in our religious tenets, no regular register of baptisms can be kept. Consequently there is no means of ascertaining the proportion between the males and females born in the parish. The great disproportion observable from the above state, may be attributed to losses sustained at sea, no numbers engaging in our fleets and armies; and to an influx of poor women from the Highlands, for the convenience of living more comfortably.

Among the inhabitants enumerated above, there are 14 merchants or shopkeepers, 6 millers, 12 masons, 19 tailors,

19 shoemakers, 70 weavers, 12 smiths, 21 carpenters, 6 shipmasters, 2 tidelmen, 1 dyer, 1 tobacconist, 2 butchers, 1 baker, 4 gardeners, 6 male domestick servants. Female domestick servants, as well as the farm servants of both sexes, are extremely fluctuating, except in gentlemen's families. The common farmers are not opulent enough to afford wages to annual servants, whose termly demands are in a state of progression beyond all precedent. They must make their children, to the great prejudice of their education, and at too early a period in life, answer instead of servants.

## S T O C K.

	<i>Horses.</i>	<i>Bl. Cattle.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Ploughs.</i>	<i>Carts.</i>	<i>Wains.</i>	<i>Chaise.</i>
In the Parish,	550	1706	2500	187	215	3	1
Annexed Part,	76	166	200	16	47	1	0
Total,	626	1872	2700	203	262	4	1

The cattle are remarkable neither for beauty nor size; and therefore, at present, horses might give from L. 3 to L. 12 or L. 15; cows and oxen, from L. 2 to L. 5 or L. 6; wethers, and ewes and lambs, from 3s. to 6s. As the soil is good, and answers well with sown grasses, a larger and handsomer breed of cattle might be introduced. No attention is paid to raising swine, except at the 5 meal mills in the parish, where from 30 to 40 may be sold annually, at from L. 1 to L. 3.

*Pigeon-Houses.*—Of these, there are 8 in the parish, stocked, at an average, with 150 pairs each. As they live on the crop, in spring and harvest, not under 6 months yearly, we may fairly calculate their annual consumption of grain, from 24 to 30 bolls at least, for every pigeon-house.

**house.** In stormy weather, during the winter-season, they must have besides, at the lowest calculation, one peck of grain a-day, to preserve their lives, and keep them at home. They begin, and continue to lay and hatch from the middle of March to the middle or end of June; and from Lammas to the 1st of November. The annual produce of each may be reckoned at 150 pairs, at 2 d. a-pair, and 16s. for the dung. There is a well attested instance of 160 pairs being taken from the pigeon-house of Nether Buckie, at one harrying; the usual run is about 30 pairs. Numbers of pigeons come from the inland country in the beginning of August to the dovecots in this parish, and remain in them till November, when they retire to their original place of residence. Jays are the greatest enemies to the pigeon-houses. In times of scarcity, they enter them and destroy the young; the old ones are not unfrequently a prey to hawks, and other ravenous birds.

*Plantations.*—These have been already mentioned, as lying chiefly in the east end of the parish. Lord Findlater has paid great attention to planting. His plantations are of considerable extent, and in a thriving state. At first they were mostly planted with Scotch firs; but have since been filled up with oaks, elms, ashes, beeches, birches, larches, &c. They beautify and enliven the landscape; and the annual thinnings soon reimburse his Lordship, and are serviceable in building cottages, and for fuel. His different plantations amount to

different plantations amount to	-	4300 acres.
Mr Gordon's of Lettersfourie,	-	100
Mr Gordon of Cairnfield, and Mr Stuart of Tachy, 50 each,	-                    -	100
		<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/>
Total,		4500

*Minerals and Mineral Springs.*—There are quarries of limestone at Cuttlebrae and Upper Clochin; of stones for building at Tarwathie; of slate at Tarriemout and Upper Aldyloth, belonging to the Duke of Gordon; and of slate on the estate of Letterfourie. Near Litchiefton, there is a beautiful whitish sand in great quantity, and, in point of fineness, almost equal to any Dutch sand\*.

*Fuel.*—Peat or turf from the hill of Oldmore, and the other moorlands, is the fuel in common use. As the moorlands are at a considerable distance, fuel is extremely dear, and in winter often very scarce. The small cart-load of peats and turfs, sold last winter in Buckie at 1 s. 2 d. and sometimes higher. To give a clearer idea of the expense of fuel, it may be observed, that when the load is sold at 1 s. the consumer pays at the rate of a halfpenny for 4 peats and 1 turf. Under such circumstances, as the few only are able to afford this heavy expense, it is evident, that Mr Dundas has done an essential service to the many, in procuring a repeal of the duty on coals, and merits well of his country, in general, for contributing to the comfort and happiness of a numerous and an useful class of people, by redressing a real grievance.

*Salt.*—This necessary article, according to my information, which I have reason to believe authentic, is purchased

\* A well at Burn of Oxhill is much frequented by the country people with their children in the chincough; but as nothing is said of the benefit reaped from it, it is presumed, that its vogue is owing more to custom than to its medicinal qualities. There are two chalybeate springs on Mr Baron Gordon's lands; one at Gollachie, and another at New Buckie, frequented occasionally in the summer-season. At Findochtie, a spring of a purgative nature, issuing out of a rock, far within flood-mark, is occasionally applied to by the neighbourhood.

chafed from the merchants at the pit, at 6 s. 4 d. the boll, containing 4 English bushels, and weighing 200 lb. English. The duty the boll is 5 s. 6 d.; the freight, and other dues, about 1 s. 1 d.; salt therefore stands the importer at the rate of 12 s. 11 d. the boll. To the consumer it is sold out by the merchants at 1 s. the peck, of 14 lb. English, which is the lowest price, and frequently at 1 d. the pound. This high price of salt is extremely hurtful to the fisheries, and felt as a serious grievance by the poor. If therefore Mr Dundas, Sir John Sinclair, or any other gentleman distinguished for Patriotism and Parliamentary interest, would procure a revision of the salt-laws, the abolition of the duty on salt, and the extension of an adequate duty to boats, as well as buffes; he would endear himself to the present generation, and transmit his name to the future, as the friend and benefactor of his country. And were an act of Parliament procured, to enable proprietors in general, and others, who expend their money in making commodious harbours, to impose a wharfage or tax on the trade, proportioned to the sum expended, or the advantages secured; and the fostering hand of Government stretched out to aid the public to construct harbours, build piers, and form quays or wharfs, for lading and unloading vessels, little more would remain to be done in favour of the manufactures and fisheries.

*Antiquities*—Druidical temples are common. On the heights of Corridown, there was a remarkable one called the Core Stanes; the stones of which were employed in building the new house of Letterfourie. Mr Gordon has searched 3 of them to the bottom, and found only charcoal, and a whitish soft substance, resembling the ashes of wood or of bones. The low grounds in the vicinity of his house, he imagines, must have formerly abounded in  
wood,



wood, as he has dug out of the hollows, now under culture, and producing cabbages, and other articles for kitchen use, large pieces of oak and fir\*.

*Character of the People.*—To delineate, in few words, the leading feature in the character of a people, different in their religious tenets, and consisting of natives and strangers, landmen and seamen, is no easy matter. In general, however, as far as my observation and experience go, they are sober, frugal and industrious; peaceable and friendly to neighbours and acquaintances; decent and exemplary in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. A taste for comfortable houses, both in the fisher-towns and in the country, is become prevalent; and a more fashionable manner of dress is making rapid progress. On the whole then, being well clothed, well fed, and decently lodged, they have, in a comparative degree, a reasonable share of the comforts

\* There is a large heap of stones on an eminence in one of Lord Findlater's enclosures, near Woodside, southward of the public road, commonly called the King's Cairn. And tradition says, that it is the grave of Indulphus, the 77th King of Scotland, who, after obtaining a complete victory over the Danes, was unfortunately killed near this spot. According to Abercromby, this victory was gained A. D. 961: according to Buchanan, in 967. In this parish, the above event is distinguished by the name of the Battle of the Bauds, then an extensive moor, now a plantation belonging to Lord Findlater: and it is believed, erroneously indeed, that by it the Danes were finally expelled from Scotland. Buchanan places their final expulsion in the reign of Duncan I. and 84th King of Scotland A. D. 1043; when, after receiving a great overthrow in Fife, and reflecting on their many unfortunate expeditions to Scotland, they bound themselves by a solemn oath to return to it no more as enemies. On the moor between Findochtie and the plantation of the Bauds, a great number of small cairns are distinguishable, and supposed to be the burial places of the Danes, who were slain in the engagement with Indulphus. About 30 years ago, a country man discovered, in a tumulus or cairn, on the lands of Rannes, which he was removing, a stone coffin, containing

comforts and conveniencies of life. Examples of natural sagacity, and a talent for information and enterprize, is by no means uncommon among those of every description. They have penetration enough to discover the road which bids fairest to lead to the accomplishment of their views, and steadiness to pursue it. The intercourse of the fishertowns with the country is frequent and easy; nevertheless the difference in language and in manners is striking. Here we see men judging and acting for themselves. Every one adopts those plans which best suit his circumstances and situation in life. The fishers indeed, as individuals, are placed more on a footing of equality; and their pursuits are uniformly similar. Of course their language and transactions, are the language and transactions of the community, rather than of individuals. All adopt the same measures, and pursue similar plans in executing them. The voice of one almost always puts all in motion; and

containing human bones of a large size. Having obtained permission to ransack this grave, I found it covered with a large stone, 4 feet long 3 broad, and about 14 inches in depth. On removing this, we found 4 other stones, set on their edges, which served as a coffin to part of a skull, and jaw-bone, with several teeth, and some fragments of a thigh bone. The dimensions of this coffin were 3 feet 1 inch in length, 2 feet wide, and 12 inches deep. There was no stone in the bottom. The bones were removed into a similar chest, a few feet northward of this one, in the same tumulus; this last one was discovered 4 or 5 years ago, by a man in the neighbourhood, who was removing a few more of the stones for building a house. It is of smaller dimensions than the other one, and was originally covered with two stones, one of which was carried off. No bones were found in it. There are many other cairns near this one, but none of them have been searched. They are at no great distance from the house of Rannes, on a farm, lately improved out of moor, called Wester-side. The ruins of an old chapel, near the house of Farlane, of the house of Findochtie, and of some buildings on the tops of two hills, on the east and west side of the harbour of Portnockie, the former called the Green castle, and the latter the Tronach castle, are still to be seen.

and the example of one is frequently followed by all ; and yet, what is singular, no one seems to possess a character decisive enough to take the lead, and to rise to superiority by the strength of genius, or the arts of address. No moral duty is seldomer violated by them than chastity. They go to sea as boys, at 14 years of age, become men at 18, and marry soon after ; for it is a maxim with them, apparently founded in truth, that no man can be a fisher, and want a wife. They generally marry before 24 years at farthest ; and always the daughters of fishers from 18 to 22 at most. The fisher-wives lead a most laborious life. They assist in dragging the boats on the beach, and in launching them. They sometimes, in frosty weather, and at unseasonable hours, carry their husbands on board, and ashore again, to keep them dry. They receive the fish from the boats, carry them fresh, or, after salting, to their customers, and to market, at the distance, sometimes, of many miles, through bad roads, and in a stormy season. When northerly winds, or a high sea, prevent the boats from going a-fishing, the men are employed in repairing their sails, mending their lines, or making new ones. It is the province of the women to bait the lines ; collect furze, heath, or the gleanings of the mosses, which, in surprising quantity, they carry home in their creels for fuel, to make the scanty stock of peats and turfs prepared in summer, last till the returning season. The men and women are in general remarkably stout and well shaped. Many of the former are above the common stature ; and of the latter, many are pretty, and dress to advantage on holidays. The fishers of Findochtie are distinguished for decency and decorum, and for curing their fish, great and small, superlatively well. In the other towns, the greater number are decent and irreproachable ; and according to the testimony of those who have known them long, a sensible

tible improvement in manners and in morals, begins to take place among them.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish possesses all the advantages that local situation can give. And its greatest disadvantages have already in part been mentioned. Many melancholy examples of the fatal consequences arising from the want of harbours have been produced; and extreme inconveniency and frequent dangers are experienced, from having no custom-house nearer than Inverness, which is 50 miles distant. The failure of the plan in agitation, for obtaining a custom-house at Banff, must prove a great loss to the fisheries and manufactures in this corner. Short leases, and what is here termed run rigging, are hurtful to the farmer. It has already been observed, that a great part of the parish is exposed to the north-westerly winds, which are often hurtful to the crop. And even this inconveniency is susceptible, in some measure, of being remedied. For proper encouragement, to enclose, and plant hedges, on a judicious plan, would contribute to counteract the ill effects of these winds, by sheltering the fields from their influence.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a lint-mill at Gollachie, built by a manufacturer in Fochabers, for beating flax; which is sufficient to beat 6 mats a-day. He imports 300 mats yearly from Rotterdam, of which the prime cost is about

L. 1000	0	0
To converting the above into yarn,	1000	0 0
To making part of the yarn into cloth,	400	0 0

The remainder of the yarn is sent to market at Glasgow. A mat, on an average, yields 50 lb. of dressed flax, fit for spinning into 4 hanks of yarn the lb. A hank of

yarn is in general the daily labour of the spinner, for which she receives only 3 d.—*Tarwatbie* was, in former times, the watch-word for convening the Enzie-men in times of danger; or at markets, and other places of public resort, when any of them happened to be engaged in a fray. There are 2 annual fairs in the parish, the one in July for cattle, sheep, and merchant goods, and the other in September, for butter and cheese. Both are named Peter-Fair; only the latter has the epithet *little* prefixed by way of distinction.

The house of Buckie was burnt in the civil wars. Since the beginning of this century, the fluctuation of property in land has been very considerable. Lord Findlater has purchased, at different times, Castlefield from the Dunbars; Farskane from the Gordons; Findochtie from the Ords; Muldavat and Rannes from the Hays. Mr Baron Gordon is proprietor of Freuchnie, Buckie and Gollachie; the first purchased from the Hays; the second from the Gordons; and the last obtained from the Duke of Gordon, in exchange for other lands. Mr Gordon of Letterfourie has bought Corrydown from the Rosses; and Walkerdales from the Gordons of Aberlour. Mr Dunbar's estate of Nether Buckie was lately the property of the Gordons. Mr Gordon of Cairnfield has acquired Thornybank from the Hays; Arradoul from the Andersons; Easter-Bogs from the Stuarts; and Birkenbush from the Gordons. The Duke of Gordon has purchased Couffarrach; Reston hill-lock, Litchiestown and Glastirum from the Gordons; Hamie from the Paterfons; and Middle Bogs from the Reids. Oxhill is, of late, in possession of the son-in-law of the former proprietor\*.

\* It is evident, from what has already been observed, that the parsons of Rathven were patrons of Dundurcus and Kintallertie, in the presbytery

tery of Inverness; but I have been able to discover neither the time nor the manner in which these patronages were lost. At present they are both in the gift of the Crown.

I ought in justice to acknowledge the obligations I am under to the gentlemen, and others who furnished me with information for this paper.

Since writing the above, I have discovered, that there are many caves on that part of the coast, belonging to Lord Findlater. The most noted are, 1st, Farikane's Cave, so called, from the proprietor of Farikane having, in 1715, retired into it along with two other gentlemen, to avoid trouble during the Earl of Mar's rebellion. In it they lived very snugly and comfortably for 5 or 6 weeks; and returned to their own houses, when all apprehension of danger was over. 2. Janet Corstair's cave, so named, from a mad woman who took up her residence in it. And 3. The Cross Cave, so denominated, from its taking a direction to the east and west, at some distance from its entrance. The extent of none of them is known.

There is a well of fresh water on the north side of a green hill, surrounded by the tide, called Priest's Crag-well, between Findochtie and Portknockie.

The fishers employ all kinds of small fish as bait for catching the great fish. And muscles are purchased at Tain for 15 s. 4 d.; Little Ferry, at 23 s.; and at Findhorn, from 10 s. to 25 s. the boat load, as bait for the small fish, in the winter-season, and limpets, crabs, and other shell fish, worms dug out of the sand, called by the fishers lugs; and sandals, a species of fish found in the sand, are employed in June, July and August.

Respecting the birds, migratory and indigenous, it may be proper just to add, that of the former kind, we have plovers; cuckoos, rails, snipes, &c. and of the latter, such as are common over all the north of Scotland.

N U M-

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF DUNFERMLINE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE,)

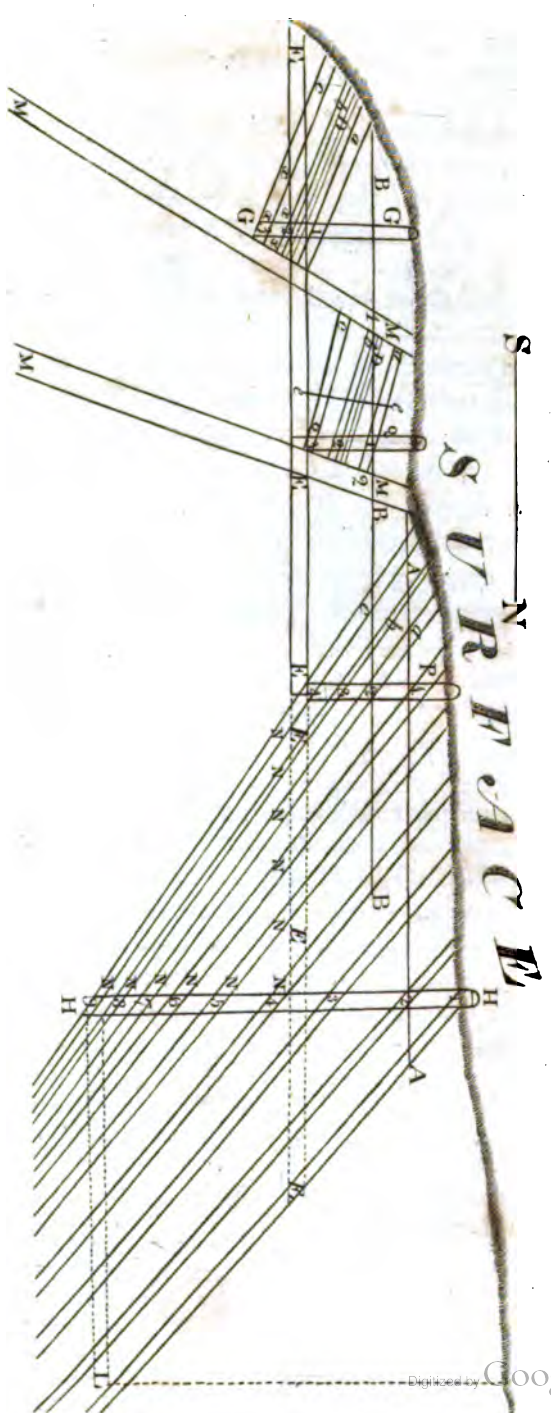
By the Rev. Mr ALLAN MACLEAN, and the Rev. Mr JOHN FERNIE.

*Name, Extent, Situation, &c.*

**D**UNFERMLINE is said to derive its name from the Gaelic, and to signify in that language "The hill of the crooked pool or water\*." According to this etymology, the name is sufficiently descriptive of the present situation of the town, which still, for the most part, stands on a hill, bounded on the west by a winding rivulet, running

\* Dunferlin, from *Dun*, a hill, *Fiar*, crooked, and *Linn*, a pool or water; if we suppose the name to be Dunfermlin, the signification will vary a little; *Dun*, a hill, and *Foirm*, a murmuring noise, *i. e.* "The hill of the noisy pool or water."

*SKETCH of the situation of the seams of COAL and DYCES in the Parish of DUNFERMLINE.*



*Engraved for SIR JOHN SINCLAIR'S Statistical Account of SCOTLAND.*





ning through a deep and narrow glen\*. The parish is extensive; of an irregular form; at an average it may be reckoned 8 miles in length from S. to N. and 5 in breadth from E. to W: It is bounded by the parishes of Beath, Dalgety, and Inverkeithing on the E.; of Carnock and Torryburn on the W; of Clieith and Saline on the N.; and on the S. by the frith of Forth. The air in general is dry and salubrious, but there is a very perceptible difference as to climate in the parish, being much milder in the southern part, which slopes gently to the sea, than towards the N. where the ground continues to rise, and is more hilly and exposed. The parish contains a variety of soils: In general towards the S. of the town, called the laigh land, the soil is fertile, mostly in tillage, and in many places in a state of high cultivation; towards the N. the soil is greatly inferior in quality, in many places covered with heath, and containing mosses of considerable extent, though many spots are well cultivated, yet the land in general is chiefly adapted to pasturage.

*Borough, Prospect, Constitution, &c.*—Dunfermline is a Royal Borough, the seat of the Presbytery, and one of the most considerable manufacturing towns in Fife. It is 3 miles from the sea, and about 190 feet above its level; the greater part of the town is situated on a hill or rising ground, having a pretty bold declivity towards the S.; the ground, however, soon flattens, so that what is called the Nether town

\* The situation must have accorded still more exactly with the name, if we suppose, as seems highly probable, that Dunfermline owes its appellation to a little peninsulated hill situated in the glen; from this hill the borough has borrowed its arms; it is of small circumference, but of considerable height, very rugged and steep towards the N., and appears to have been anciently a place of strength; a tower built upon it was the residence of Malcolm Canmore.

town stands on a plain. The town is most pleasantly situated, and the prospect it commands remarkably various, beautiful, and extensive. There is an excellent view of Edinburgh, the Castle, Arthur-seat, and the elevated grounds in the vicinity of the metropolis; in clear weather different spires of the city can be counted with the naked eye; immediately in view are the opposite and fertile banks of the Forth, comprehending a part of Mid and West Lothians, Binnylaw, the pleasure-grounds northward of Hopetoun, and the borough of Queensferry. The frith is a most pleasant object, and in its course from near the North Ferry up towards Culross, sometimes concealed by an elevated shore, but here and there breaking forth in varied openings, greatly enlivens and diversifies the beauty of the scene. From the church-steeple there is a grand, a variety, and extent of prospect; of which it is believed few towns in Scotland can boast. Here is seen a part of 14 different counties; the most distant and remarkable places are Soutra-hill in the shire of Berwick, Tintock in Lothian, Benlomon in Dunbarton, Benlady in Perth, Lammermoor in Haddington, Campsie and Logie-hills in Stirling, and the Pentland-hills in Mid-Lothian; Hopetoun-house, the Castle of Blackneth, Port of Borrowstouness, the borough of Culross, and the beautiful windings of the Forth from Leith near to Stirling Castle. The borough, it appears, held of the monastery for near two centuries. It became Royal by a charter from James VI. dated 24th May 1588. In this charter, called a charter of confirmation, the King ratifies sundry charters, donations, and indentures by John and Robert, Abbots of Dunfermline; and particularly, an indenture made at Dunfermline, 10th October 1395, between John, Abbot of the Monastery, and the Eldermen and Community of the Borough; by this deed the Abbot and Convent renounce, in favour of the Eldermen and Community,

namely, the whole income of the borough belonging to their revenue, with the small customs, profits of court, &c. reserving, however, the yearly pensions payable to the monastery from the lands of the borough, and the correction of the bailies, as often as they, or any of them, should be guilty of injustice in the exercise of their office \*. By the act of constitution, the government of the borough is lodged in a council of 22; consisting of 12 guildry or merchant-councillors, 8 deacons of incorporations †, and 2 trades-councillors; the magistrates are, a provost, 2 bailies, and dean of guild. The town-council are annually elected after the following manner. On the Thursday preceding Michaelmas each incorporation elects a leet, or list of four of their members. These leets are presented to the council on Friday, who elect two out of each leet of four, and send down this leet of two to each incorporation, with orders to elect one of them as their deacon. The new deacons are presented to the council on Saturday, when the old deacons and other members of council elect two new guild, and two new trades-councillors; the old deacons are then removed out of council, and upon Monday, the eight deacons, and four new councillors, and other members, elect a provost, two bailies, dean of guild, and other office-bearers in council; then two of the guildry, and the two old trades-councillors, who now are supernumeraries, are removed from the ordinary council, but continue to act as extraordinary councillors

\* *Sapientia dictis dominis Abbati et Conventui, tunc in dicto burgo, &c. ac correctione huiusmodi quocumque contigerit eis aut eorum qualibet in iure, seu in iudicio scienda seu exigenda delinquere.*

† *Sapientia*. wrights, weavers, tailors, shoemakers, masons, bakers, and shoers.

councillors till the next election.—The armorial-bearing of the borough is a tower, or fort, supported by two lions. enclosed in circles; round the exterior circle is written, *Sigillum Civitatis Fermeloduni*; and round the interior one, *Esto Rupes Inaccessa*; on the reverse, is a female figure with a sceptre in her hand, and on each side an inverted sword, point upwards, and round *Margaretta Regina Scotorum*. The annual revenue of the borough is considerably above L. 500 Sterling. Eight public fairs are held through the year\*, and two days in the week, Wednesday and Friday, are appointed for markets; the market on Wednesday has for some time fallen into disuse.

*Manufactures.*—This town has long been distinguished for the manufacture of diaper or table linen: For many years past, no other cloth has been woven in the parish to any considerable extent. In the infancy of the trade, it was the custom to weave diaper only during the summer, the winter being employed in weaving ticks and checks. This practice continued till about the year 1749, when the manufacture of ticks and checks was in a great measure relinquished †. Since the above period the diaper trade has been gradually increasing; in 1788 there were about 900, and last year (1792) no less than 1200 looms employed in the trade; of this number, above 800 belonged to the parish. The value of goods annually manufactured has for some

\* January, 3d Wednesday O. S.; March, 2d Wednesday; April, 4th Wednesday; July, 1st Wednesday; August, 1st Tuesday; September, 4th Friday; October, last Thursday; November, 4th Wednesday.

† About 7 or 8 years ago when the diaper trade was low, some of the manufacturers had recourse to the making ticks and checks; but the tradesmen being unaccustomed to the work, engaged in it with dislike, and it was given up as soon as the diaper trade revived.

some time past been from L. 50,000 to L. 60,000 Sterling, and the trade was on the increase. Astonishing improvements have been made within less than half a century in the art of weaving, and in the manufacture of table-linen: By the introduction of machinery labour has been greatly abridged. Formerly, in weaving diaper, two, and sometimes three persons, were requisite for one web; now, by means of the fly-shuttle, and what is called a frame for raising the figure, a single weaver can work a web  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards broad without the least assistance. Many of the tradesmen in this place discover considerable genius in drawing figures for the diaper, and several of them have obtained premiums for their draughts. Table-cloths can be furnished of any desired breadth, length, and fineness; and noblemen and gentlemen may have their coats of arms and mottos wrought into any table-linen they choose to commission. In the chest of the incorporation there is preserved a very curious specimen of the weaving art: It is a man's shirt wrought in the loom about 100 years ago, by a weaver of this place of the name of Ingles. The shirt is without seam, and was finished by the ingenious artisan without the least assistance from the needle; the only necessary part he could not accomplish was a button for the neck\*.

*Town-Improvements.*—In speaking of these, it would be injustice to pass over in silence the name of Mr George Chalmers, late of Pittencrieff. To the enlightened and spirited exertions of this gentleman, in order to promote the feuing out of his lands, Dunfermline is indebted for one of its

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\* Mr Stark has lately erected at Brucefield, near Dunfermline, a mill for spinning yarn from flax, hemp, tow, and wool. The yarn spun from flax has given great satisfaction.

greatest improvements; we mean the bridge built by him over the glen, by which an easy and healthful communication has been opened up to the town on the W. immediately opposite to the principal street. Formerly, the only road from the W. was by the bridge at Malcolm's Tower, running eastward, close by the Queen's House, and then N. to the town by a confined narrow lane. The bridge was a work of great labour and expense\*. Within these 30 years the trade and population of this place have rapidly increased. On the S. the Abbey Park has been fenced, and several streets built upon it, and immediately on the W. additions are daily making to the extensive fens on the lands of Pittencrieff: The population on this estate at present exceeds 1200 souls. It is but justice to observe, that the police of the borough has within these few years been much improved: A laudable attention has been paid to the paving of the streets, and furnishing them with additional lamps; and much greater care has of late been taken to keep the streets clean, a practice highly worthy of imitation. Nothing is more necessary to the health of the inhabitants than cleanliness, especially where the streets of a town are narrow, which is the case with most of our Scotch boroughs: This consideration, and the high price which  
 may

\* The bridge is of a peculiar structure. An arch 197 feet long, 13 broad, and 15 feet 5 inches high, was thrown over the burn, in the bottom of the glen, and the remaining hollow filled up by a mound of earth 68 feet 6 inches thick at the centre, having a gradual slope on both sides to the extremities of the stone arch below. On the top is the road now almost completely enclosed on both sides by houses forming a very neat street. On the sides or slopes of the mound, and at the back of the houses, are very convenient hanging gardens. The whole was finished by Mr Chalmers at his own expense, the town only allowing a small piece of ground necessary for carrying on the undertaking. Mr Chalmers subjected 12 acres of his estate to the payment of cess to the town, and they burdened 3 of their acres with the payment of 1 d. to Pittencrieff.

may be easily got for street-dung, must render the conduct of magistrates inexcusable when they do not attend to this most necessary branch of police \*. As another very commendable improvement, we may mention the removal of the butchers (formerly scattered through different parts of the town) into one public flesh-market, and the obliging them to kill their cattle in a slaughter-house built for the purpose, at some distance from the market, and entirely removed out of the town. An officer has lately been appointed, whose constant employment is to oversee the police of the borough: He superintends the cleaning of the streets, attends the fish and butter markets, and examines the weights, seizing on what he finds deficient; thus an immediate and constant check is given to impositions on the public: He likewise dismisses all vagrants found begging in the town. Formerly the inhabitants were very much harassed with stranger poor, but are now effectually delivered from that burden. The officer of police has L. 25 a-year; and from his care and diligence he well deserves it.

*Advantages and Disadvantages of the Town.*—The great abundance of coals in the parish, the short carriage, and comparatively easy rate at which they can be purchased, render Dunfermline highly favourable for carrying on extensive manufactures. Coals may be had at half a mile's distance †. Plenty of good water is not usually to be got in

\* It was formerly the practice here for the magistrates to let the street-dung, and the tackman engaged to clean the streets: As long as this practice continued, the streets were shamefully dirty, and not above L. 10 was got for the dung. The magistrates now employ street-rakers, &c. and sell the dung when collected, and gain from L. 40 to L. 50 a-year, exclusive of all necessary expenses.

† The inhabitants have the privilege of being served with coals at a hill belonging to the town at a cheaper rate, than they are sold to the country at



in the neighbourhood of coals, and the inhabitants of this place have but a scanty supply, especially in summer. Water is brought in pipes from about a mile's distance, but the fountain is not sufficiently abundant. The greatest disadvantage felt by the manufacturers and shop-keepers is their distance from the sea; the land-carriage they are obliged to employ being expensive. A canal from the Nether-town to run S. W. about two miles, and join the sea near Lord Elgin's lime-works at Charlestown is said to be easily practicable, and that only a few locks would be necessary. Should such a canal be formed, many advantages might accrue to Dunfermline as a place of trade, and much expense be saved in the conveyance of coals for exportation: Foreign wood likewise might be brought at an easy rate to Dunfermline, and the neighbouring parishes supplied with that commodity at considerably less expense.

*Population 1791-2.*

Families,	-	-	-	2131
Souls,	-	-	-	9550*
Males,	-	-	-	4740
Females,	-	-	-	4810
Under 10 years of age,	-	-	-	2481
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	-	2920
— 20 and 50,	-	-	-	3951
— 50 and 70,	-	-	-	914
— 70 and 100,	-	-	-	184

In

at large; at present they may have 400½ cwt. of coal on the hill for 7 d. or laid down at their doors for 1 s. the carriage being 5 d. But it is to be regretted that the road to this coal is bad, and that it is worked in such a way that carts are often obliged to wait long on the hill before they are served.

\* The North Ferry is legally in this parish, but its population is not included. The population of the estates of Urquhart and Logie, near Dunfermline, but which are legally in the parish of Inverkeithing, is included.

In the town and suburbs, and neighbouring feus, &c. of Pittencrieff,	-	-	5192
In the village of Limekilns,	-	-	658
In the village of Charlestown,	-	-	487

In the presbytery records 1713, when it was proposed to have a 3d minister, the parishioners are stated to be 5000. According to the return to Dr Webster 1755, the population was 8552. There are several people in the parish above 80, and a considerable number above 70 years of age. In the town there died lately a woman above 90, who was the youngest of 21 children of the same parents; and there is now living another woman, also above 90 years of age, who is the youngest of 25 children, all of the same marriage; she has been almost blind these six years, and partly supports herself by spinning on the rock.

*Abstract of the Baptisms and Marriages for the last ten years.*

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1783,	280	63
1784,	267	73
1785,	292	74
1786,	282	68
1787,	244	57
1788,	284	74
1789,	305	70
1790,	283	71
1791,	278	82
1792,	292	92

No register of burials has been kept for a considerable period back till within these four years.

*Account of Burials for the last three years.*

Years.	Males.	Females.	Under 12 years.	Total.
1790,	47	55	141	243
1791,	38	53	93	184
1792,	50	61	108	209
				From

From the preceding table the number of burials cannot be exactly ascertained, as many of the inhabitants in the S. part of the parish bury in a church-yard in the parish of Inverkeithing.

•

*Division of the Inhabitants.*

Heritors and feuars liable in	Mafons,	-	-	37
stipend, - - 78	Bakers,	-	-	29
Clergy connected with	Flethers,	-	-	13
the Establishment, 3	Gardeners,	-	-	11
Clergy Seceders, - 5	Sailors,	-	-	109
Physicians, - - 2	Colliers,	-	-	184
Surgeons, - - 4	Ale Sellers,	-	-	101
Merchants, - - 15	Belonging to the Relief,			
Writers, - - 7	children included, about	600		
Manufacturers, - 21	Belonging to the Burgher			
Shop-keepers, - 43	Seceders, - -	4223		
Brewers, - - 10	Belonging to the Anti-			
Distiller, - - 1	burghers, about	-	320	
Officers of Excise, - 7	Episcopalians,	-	44	
Messengers, - - 2	Independents,	-	7	
Smiths, - - 40	Baptists,	-	6	
Wrights, - - 96	Cameronians about		12	
Weavers, - - 862	Berean,	-	1	
Tailors, - - 93	Roman Catholic,	-	1	
Shoemakers, - 54				

*Ale-Houses.*—Of these there are 101 in the parish, including a very commodious inn, and two or three of an inferior kind. There is also a number of shops where spirits are sold in small quantities. It is not 25 years ago, when almost nothing but the ale brewed in the town was drunk by the trades people; not only at home, but even in the public-house, they sought no better cheer: but this

1

formerly!

formerly healthy and invigorating liquor, from additional duty, and other causes, is now sadly degenerated, and become so weak and insipid a beverage, that whisky is too often substituted in its place. The general use of whisky is arrived at an alarming height among many in the lower ranks of life. This is a growing evil, and loudly demands the serious and speedy attention of the Legislature\*.

*Poor*.—There is no legal assessment for the support of the poor. Few beg in the parish, but the indigent who receive charity from different funds are numerous. No vagrants have been permitted for some time past to ask alms in the borough. The poor belonging to the sectaries are not admitted on the parish funds; the money collected at some of their meetings is not, it is said, wholly given to their poor, but converted to the support of their ministers. The number of poor on the roll of the kirk-session is variable, but for  
some

\* To furnish the people with good and cheap malt liquor by a reduction of the duty, seems to be the most effectual method of preventing the general and pernicious practice of using spirits. It is unquestionably criminal, and a direct breach of morality, to defraud the revenue; but many seem to think that there is nothing very sinful in the practice. If the inclination to evade taxes be too common, surely the opportunities and temptations to smuggle ought to be as few as possible. Were the duty taken entirely off the ale, and laid wholly on the malt, this would not only prevent the brewer from defrauding the revenue, but meliorate the quality of the ale. In discussing this subject, "The only people," says an intelligent writer, "likely to suffer by the change of system here proposed, are those who brew for their own private use. But the exemption which this superior rank of people at present enjoy, from very heavy taxes, which are paid by the poor labourer and artificer, is surely most unjust and unequal, and ought to be taken away, even though this change was never to take place. It has probably been the interest of this superior order of people, however, which has hitherto prevented a change of system that could not well fail to increase the revenue, and to relieve the people." *DR SMITH'S Wealth of Nations*, III. 370.

some time past has very much increased. In December 1792 the number was 49; at present there are 45 on the roll. The funds for their support are, collections at the Church and Chapel of Ease, money paid for burying grounds, &c. and the interest of a capital arising from donations\*, and former savings. From the increased number of poor, the kirk-session have been obliged to encroach on their capital.—The following is a state of their funds from 7th April 1792, to 7th May 1793:

To interest of money,	-	-	L. 15	5	8
To collections, money for burying-grounds, &c.			51	0	0
			<hr/>		
			L. 66	5	8
Disbursements, session-clerk's salary, &c. included, about L. 30 of principal being uplifted,	-	-	-	-	-
			L. 96	5	8

There is no scheme respecting the poor to which objections may not be stated. It is, however, a primary object, and of great importance, to discourage vagrants, and to confine beggars to their respective parishes, who ought to support their own poor; thus the worthless and sturdy beggar will be discovered, and the public no longer imposed upon by pretended objects of charity. With regard to the best mode of supporting the poor, there is a variety of opinions. It is no doubt unreasonable that the burden should fall chiefly on those who are least able to bear it, and that non-residing heritors, though they draw considerable rents from a parish, should contribute little or nothing towards the support of its poor; on the other hand, poor rates are found

\* The Rev. Mr James Thomson, minister of this parish, left to the poor of the Established Church L. 100 Sterling, the interest thereof to be distributed yearly on the 31st December, by the kirk-session, to the poor on the weekly roll.

found from experience to be most hostile to industry among the lower ranks, and to have the most pernicious influence on their morals. One thing however is certain, that whatever may be for the public good, it must be for the interest of heritors to contribute voluntarily, in order to prevent kirk-sessions from being obliged to exhaust the funds in their hands, and recourse being had to assessments. Where there are no poors rates established, non-residing heritors may easily perceive, that it is but reasonable that they should contribute voluntarily, in proportion to the value of their estates. Kirk-sessions, it is well known, have a good deal of trouble, but derive no pecuniary advantage from the poors funds entrusted to their management\*.

#### *Schools.*

\* *Charitable Institutions.*—The most ancient of these is St Leonard's Hospital. It is not certainly known who was the original founder. The account-books respecting the management of the hospital from 1594 to the present time, are still extant. The object of the institution is the maintenance of 8 widows. Each widow is entitled to 4 bolls of meal, 4 bolls of malt, 8 loads of coal, 14 loads of turf, 8 lippies of fine wheat, 8 lippies of groats yearly, and a chamber in the hospital, with a small garden; and to some of them 2s. silver yearly for pin-money. The above provision for 8 widows, is payable out of 64 acres of land, lying near Dunfermline, and immediately adjacent to the place where the hospital once stood; the houses in the vicinity are called the Spittal. The patronage of this hospital has long been exercised by the Marquis of Tweeddale.

*Pitreavie's Hospital.*—In the year 1676, Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, "for implement and fulfilling of several vows, promises and engagements made by him before God, after great mercies received, and for certain other good causes, motives and considerations," instituted an hospital at Mastertown in favour of 4 widows, "women of honest fame, wives of honest men who live in the ground of Pitreavie, or other land belonging to him and his successors," who are declared to be patrons; failing widows of the above description, such other honest women as the patron

*Schools.*—There is no parochial school. The original foundation of the grammar-school here is not certainly known

patron chooses, are to be preferred. Each widow is to have a chamber or house, and 6 bolls of meal yearly; or 3 bolls of oats, and 3 bolls of bear at the option of the patron\*.

*Graham's Mortification.*—In the year 1710, 600 merks Scots, (being the money found in the poors-box at the death of the Reverend Mr Graham, last Episcopal minister of Dunfermline), was by the Justices of the Peace, heritors, and town-council, mortified in the hands of the town for the use of the poor. By the bond, the council are obliged to pay the interest of the above sum yearly; the one half to the poor of the borough, conform to a list, to be yearly subscribed by the Magistrates and Town-council, and the other half to the poor of the landward part of the parish, conform to a list to be yearly subscribed by the Justices of Peace, and heritors, or a quorum of them.

*Reid's Mortification.*—John Reid, a shopkeeper in Dunfermline, who, from small beginnings, had acquired a considerable property, mortified the whole (a few legacies excepted) to the poor of this parish, especially to poor householders, and persons who have once been in better circumstances. He committed the management to the Provost, two Bailies, and Dean of Guild of the burgh, the ministers, and two elders of the Established Church, the minister, and three elders of the Relief, and the minister, and three elders of the Burgher Congregation. By the deed of mortification, the managers are accountable to the heritors of the parish; and it is provided, that in the event of a Poor's House or Orphan's House being built in the parish, the whole of the estate mortified shall be applied to the support of said Poor's or Orphan's House. The revenue arising

\* In the year 1764, the Presbytery, in consequence of an application from the heritors, ministers, kirk-session, and Magistrates of Dunfermline, inquired into the management of Pitreavie Hospital. The patron disputed the jurisdiction of the Presbytery. The cause came at last before the Court of Session; and that Court, (notwithstanding in the deed of mortification, all judges or ministers, civil or ecclesiastic, are discharged from meddling therewith in any sort), found, that the patron was accountable to the Presbytery for the management of the mortification, and ordained him to account for 40 years backward.

known \*; it appears, however, that Queen Anne of Denmark mortified L. 2000 Scots in the hands of the town, chiefly for settling an yearly salary to the schoolmaster of the borough. The rector, on the recommendation of the Town-council, is presented by the Marquis of Tweeddale, as heritable bailie of regality. His salary, arising from the Queen's mortification, and what is paid him by the town, (part of which is voluntary), amounts to L. 17, 7s. 6d.

arising from said mortification amounts to L. 70 Sterling a-year. The number of poor at last distribution was 151. Besides the poor's funds belonging to the several incorporations; to the Society of Gardeners, and to the Guildry, who have considerable property, there are 12 Friendly Societies in the parish. These have different designations, but their rules respecting the admission of members, entry-money, quarterly payments, &c. are on the whole pretty similar. The object of all them, is most laudable, to afford relief and assistance to the members, when by sickness or accident, disabled from pursuing their ordinary occupations; a certain allowance when death happens in their families, and a weekly pension, when unable to work, through infirmities or old age. Upon the death of any of the members, their widows, and also their children below 12 years of age, have a certain allowance. All these societies have been instituted within these 11 years, except that of the Weaver Lads †, which began about the year 1739 or 1740.

\* *The entry-money to this society is 2 s. 6 d. with 6 d. to the clerk, and the quarterly payment 1 s. When disabled from working, each member is entitled to 2 s. 6 d. weekly. If through old age or infirmities, unable to follow his employment as formerly, 1 s. 6 d.; and if through old age or infirmities, totally unfit for his business, 2 s. 6 d. a-week. On the death of his wife, 30 s. and of a child under 12 years, 10 s. His widow to have 20 s. a-year, and if in distress, 1 s. a-week, and 1 s. 3 d. for every child below 9 years. Children, when their parents are both dead, to have 6 d. weekly, till they are 12 years of age; 30 s. allowed for the funeral charges of members.*

† The present school and school-house are said to be a donation by a Mr Ged, a Romish clergyman, to the masters of the grammar-school, and by which donation they were obliged to put up prayers for an easy passage through purgatory to their benefactor.



6d. Sterling. The doctor, or usher to the grammar-school, is elected by the town-council and kirk-session, and has a salary of L. 12 : 7 : 6 Sterling. The master of the Song, (an office instituted by Queen Anne), is presented by the Marquis of Tweeddale, on the recommendation of the town-council. He officiates as precentor in the church, receives the dues for baptisms and marriages, and keeps a school for music, English, and arithmetic. His salary is L. 5 Sterling. There are a number of private schools in the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—In this parish, there are 8 clergymen, two on the Establishment, one who officiates in a Chapel of Ease, one of the Relief, three of the Burgher, and one of the Antiburgher persuasion. The Chapel of Ease being in the town, does not contribute in the smallest degree to the accommodation of the parishioners at a distance from the church. The minister is ordained, but has no particular district of the parish assigned him. He is chosen by popular election, and has a bond for L. 50 Sterling of stipend. Upon the death of Mr Gillespie, (who, after his deposition in 1752, set up a Relief meeting in Dunfermline), his congregation split into two parties; the party most numerous were for continuing in connexion with the Relief, the other, though few in number, but to whom the greatest share of the property of the meeting-house belonged, applied by petition to the presbytery for having their house converted into a Chapel of Ease. This was opposed by the ministers of the parish; the chapel however, after 5 years' litigation, was at last granted by the General Assembly in 1779. The congregation is not numerous, it consists of some who were Mr Gillespie's hearers, and people who formerly attended the parish church; several likewise from neighbouring parishes have seats, and

and attend worship in the chapel. There are two Burgher meeting-houses, one in the town, and the other in the village of Limekilns. The meeting house in the town was built in 1740, for Mr Ralph Erskine, and is one of the largest in Scotland, and has for a considerable time been a collegiate charge. Their senior minister's stipend is L. 80, with a house and garden, and that of his colleague, L. 70 Sterling. The present Relief meeting house was built in 1775. Their minister has L. 60, and L. 5 for a house. The Antiburgher house was erected in 1790. Their minister's stipend is said to be L. 45 or L. 50 Sterling. The present established ministers are two in number. The first minister's stipend consists of 8 chalders of victual, half meal and half bear, and L. 50 Sterling. He has also by decret, L. 3 : 6 : 8 for manse-rent, L. 1 : 13 : 4 for foggage, and L. 10 Sterling for communion-elements. His glebe is arable, and consists of 4 acres, which are let at present for L. 14 Sterling a-year. The second minister has at present a process of augmentation of stipend before the Court of Teinds. He has neither manse nor glebe \*.

*Antiquities.*

\* The Presbyterian ministers of this parish, since the Revolution, were Messrs Kemp, Buchanan, Erskine, Wardlaw, Thomson and Fernie. The last incumbents, Messrs Thomson and Fernie, were colleagues for very near 44 years. Mr Fernie died 5th April 1788, in the 74th year of his age, and 44th of his ministry. He published a volume of sermons in 1786. Mr Thomson died 19th October 1790, in the 92d year of his age, and 52d of his ministry. Before his settlement in this parish, he had been 14 years a minister in the army. Within 3 years of his death, he preached regularly in his turn, and in his 90th year, administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, preaching an action sermon of 2 hours. There is preserved in the Advocates Library, " *Ane Sermon Preichit befor the Regent and Nobilitie, upon a part of the third chapter of the Prophet Malachi, in the Kirk of Leith, at the tyme of the Generall Assemblie on Sonday the 13. of Januarie. Anno Do. 1571. Be David Fergusson, ne, minister of the Evangell at Dunfermline.* In this discourse, Mr Fergusson loudly

*Antiquities.*—Dunfermline became at an early period a royal residence. Malcolm III. surnamed Canmore or Great Head, usually resided in a tower or castle, erected on

loudly complains of the misapplication of the tithes, the scanty provision made for the Presbyterian clergy, the neglect of the poor, and the little attention paid to schools and churches. In the dedication to the Earl of Marr Regent, Mr Fergusson mentions his reasons for publishing this sermon, and his having laid it before the General Assembly, who by a Committee approved of the same." *Albeit*, (says he), my mynd nor purpos was not (richt Nobill and worthie Lord), to have published this sermō at ony time, sit becaus it did not fructifise as I supposit it fuld have done, being, (as sayis Ezechiell), lyke a tone or pleasant sang to the heirers for a season, thair hartis in the meane time still going efter their covetousnes, provokit also be the malicious toungeis of sū, and eirnestly requeisfit be utheris. At length I was compellit, (for farther instructioun of the negligent heirers, the stopping of the mouthis of evill speikeris, and the satisfactioun of the incessant requeisfitis of gude and godlie men), to bestow and spend sum time and travel, to put it in that same forme and ordour, that it was spokin and preichit in befoir zour Grace. Qubilk quhē I had faithfully performit, (as all tha that heard it, quhen they fall reid it agane I trow will testife), distrusting myne awin judgement, I presentit it to the kirk now lastly assemblit in Perth, the sext of August, that they qha (for the maist part) wer heireris of it nicht judge awfeil of the foundnes of the doctrine contenit into it, as of my sinceritie in the wryting thairof, and sa nicht allow, or difallow it, as it meritit, unto the quhilk befines the kirk appointit Johne Erskin of Dun, superintendent of Angus, M. Johne Dowglas, Bischop of Sanctandros, M. Johne Winram, superintendent of Stratherne, M. Knox, minister of Edinburgh, and Williame Christison, minister of Dundie, qha diligently red and approvit the same, subscribing it with thair handis, in the name of the hall kirk, as a sermon consonant and aggreabill to Goddis word" . . . . . Zour humanitie and gentilnes, qhair of not only I, bot almost all uther men, have experience, muiss me to be sa hamely as to offer and dedicate sa small a wark unto zour Grace, &c. From Dunfermyne, the 20th day of August, Anno 1572. Be zour Grace's humbill subject and daylie Orator David Fergusone, Minister of Christis Evangell."—A short specimen of the sermon itself will not it is presumed be unacceptable.—  
"Brethren, for my part I wald ze had Angelis to zour ministeris, gif ze wer worthy of thame, or that it wer the will of God, bot seeing that  
3  
God's

on the peninsulated hill in the glen \*. A palace was afterward built a little S. E. of the tower in a most romantick

God's will is not so, bot that ze sal be zervit be the ministerie of men, jt behouvis zow to tak thame as thay ar, with all thingis yt. of necessitie belangis unto thame, or lawfully dependis on thame, sic as are wyfes, childrē and familiē, quhilk not only must be honestly reulit, and the children haldin under obedience with all honestie, (as Paul teachis), bot also must be provydit for hospitalitie, quhilk all men knawis requyris baith foirsicht and expensis . . . . For this day Christ is spulseit amang us, quhil yt. quhilk sucht to mantene the ministerie of the kirk and the pure, is gevin to prophane men, flattereris in Court, Ruffianes and Hyrelingis. The pure in the meane tyme opprestit with hounger, the kirkis and tempilis decaying for lack of ministeris and uphalding, and the schuillis utterlie neglectit and oversene . . . . And as for the ministers of the word, they ar utterly neglectit and cū in manifest cōtempt amang zow, ze raill upon thame at zour pleasure, of thair doctrine, (gif ſt ſerve not zour turne, and aggre not with zour appetytis), ze ar becum impatient, and to be schort, we ar now made zour tabill talk quhom ze mock in zour miseries, and threaten in zour anger. I am compellit to speik this, thocht I be as plane as pleasant, and appeir to zow as the greitest fule of ye rest to stand up heir to utter that quhilk uther men thinkis, weil, let me be couēd a fule for speiking the treath. Langer at this present, seeing that the tyme faillis me, I will not hald zow, bot beseikis zow all, and principallie zow maist nobill and worthie personages, to prēt thir thingis in zour myndis to zour profite, to suffer the wordis of exhortation patiently, and tak in gude worth yt. quhilk is spokin, albeit it have bene sumquhat rudely and schairply utterit, considdering that it procedit from the hart of him that luifis and favouris baith zow and zowr caus, remembering the saying of Salomon, Oppin rebuke is better then secreit lufe, and the woundis of a luser mair faithfull then the kissis of ane enemy thocht they be plefēt. . . . —The following note is added to the sermon : “ This sermon was presentit to the kirk, red and approvit be the personis underwrittin, appointit thairunto be ye Assēblie halden at Perth 6. Augusti. Anno 1572. *J. Sanctandrois. Jhone Erskyn. M. Jhone Wynram. William Crysfone, M. of Dundie. John Knox with my dead hand, but glaid heart, praising God that of his mercy he levis suche light to his kirk in this desolationn.*”

\* A small fragment of Malcolm's tower is still to be seen.

tick situation, close on the verge of the glen, but at what particular period is not now known. The S. W. wall of the palace still remains a monument of the magnificent fabric, of which it is a part, and tradition continues to point out the chimney of the apartment where that unfortunate monarch Charles I. was born. The palace is said to have been rebuilt \* by Queen Anne of Denmark, but of this there is no tradition in this place, nor as far as we know any authentic proof whatever. It appears to be a mistake, arising from the words of an inscription found on a house built for Queen Anne of Denmark, and adjoining to the palace. The Queen's house continued in good repair long after the palace was in ruins. About 40 years ago, it was occupied as an academy by a Mr Moir, now a teacher in Edinburgh. Within these 15 years, part of it was inhabited, but no attention being paid to keep it in repair, it gradually became ruinous, and was lately sold, and made a quarry for stones, and is to be entirely removed †. Within these 30 years, there was to be seen in the bed-chamber of an inn at Dunfermline, the nuptial bed of Queen Anne, which she is said to have brought along with her from Denmark. For this piece of royal furniture, the innkeeper, Mrs Walker, a zealous Jacobite, entertained a very high veneration. Bishop Pocock of Ireland, happening to be in her house, and having seen the bed, offered her 50 guineas for it, which she refused, telling him, "that she still retained so great reverence for the two royal personages  
" whose

\* Grose's Antiquities.

† On the front of this house was the following inscription—"Propylæum et superstructas, ædes vetustate et injuriis temporum collapsas, dirutaque a fundamentis in hanc ampliorem formam, restituit et instauravit Anna Regina Frederici Danorum Regis Augustissimi Filia, Anno Salutis, 1600."

“ whose property it was, and who slept in it when they  
 “ resided here, and to their posterity, all the gold and sil-  
 “ ver in Ireland was not fit to buy it.” Some time before  
 her death, Mrs Walker made a present of the Queen’s bed  
 to the Earl of Elgin, an heritor in this parish. The bed  
 is of walnut-tree, of curious workmanship, and ornamented  
 with several very antique figures neatly carved. Another  
 piece of furniture which belonged to Queen Anne is at  
 present in the possession of a private family of this place.  
 It is a kind of cabinet, what the people used to call the  
 Queen’s *ambrie*, of very curious workmanship, finely po-  
 lished and ornamented with a variety of figures, some of  
 which indicate a very strange fancy. One figure has the  
 head and neck of a man, the wings of an eagle, and the  
 body of a lion ; from the profusion of ornament, it must  
 have cost the artist much time and labour. This cabinet,  
 like the bed, is of the walnut-tree, and is said likewise to  
 have been brought by the Queen from Denmark. It is  
 still perfectly entire, excepting only the original feet on  
 which it stood, which have been lost.

The *Monastery* was one of the most ancient in Scotland,  
 founded by Malcolm Canmore for the Monks of the order  
 of St Benedict ; the building being left unfinished by Mal-  
 colm, was completed by his son Alexander I. The mo-  
 nastery and its church were dedicated to the Holy Trinity,  
 and St Margaret, Malcolm’s Queen. In some old manu-  
 scripts, it is called *Monasterium de monte infirmorum* ;  
 hence some have conjectured, that it was originally intend-  
 ed for an hospital or firmary. It continued to be go-  
 verned by a prior till the reign of David I. who raised it  
 to the dignity of an abbey, and in 1124 translated thither  
 13 monks from Canterbury ; before the dissolution, however

the fraternity had increased to 26 \*. Some of the grants to the abbey were of a singular nature, and on that account may not be unworthy of particular notice. David I. † grants to the abbey, *omnem decimam de auro quod mihi eveniet de Fif et Fothrif, i. e.* the tenth part of all the gold he should derive from Fife and Fothrif ‡. By a charter

\* The abbey was richly endowed, and derived part of its extensive revenue from places at a considerable distance. Kirkaldy, Kinghorn, and Burntisland, called of old Wester Kinghorn; likewise Musselburgh and Inveresk belonged to this abbey. According to a rental given up at the time of the Reformation by Allan Coups, in name of George Durie Abbot, the yearly revenue was as follows.—Money, L. 2513 : 10 : 8 Scots; wheat, 28 c. 11 b. 1 f.—bear, 102 c. 15 b. 1 f. 3 p.—meal, 15 c.—oats, 61 c. 6 b. 2 f.—horse-corn, 29 c. 1 b. 1 f. 2½ p.—butter, 34 ft.—lime, 19 c. 15 b.—salt, 11 c. 8 b.—According to another rental by the same person:—Money, L. 2404, 4 s.—wheat, 27 c. 4 b. 3 f.—bear, 83 c. 11 b. 2 f. 2 p.—oats, 158 c. 5 b. 2 f. whereof 84 c. white oats.—lime, 20 c.—salt, 11 c. 8 b.—capons, 374.—poultry 746.

† James I. is reported to have said of David. “He was an fair Sanct for the Crown.” Had James I. (says Lord Hailes), been possessed of the revenues which his predecessors bestowed on the clergy, he would have employed them in augmenting the influence of the Crown, and to speak in the dialect of Bellendin, *have kythed an fair King for the Lordis.* Hailes’s Ann.

‡ *Fothrif* is called *Forthrick*, in *Chart. Cambuskenneth*. Sir Robert Sibbald, *History of Fife*, c. 2. says, that Mr Robert Maule, the antiquary, derived *Forthrick* from *Veachric*, *i. e.* “the painted kingdom,” or “the kingdom of the Picts.” Lord Hailes says, that *Fathrick* is compounded of *Forth* and *rick*, *i. e.* the kingdom or territory at the Forth; and supposes that it means that country on the northern bank of the Forth, from the neighbourhood of Stirling to where the river is lost in the salt water. Hailes’s Ann. In Hay’s *Scotia Sacra*, the monastery of Dunfermline is said to be in *Fothrick moor*, and on the north side of this parish there is a moor which still retains the name of *Fathrick moor*. Lord Hailes’s derivation of the word *Forthrick* appears extremely natural; but it should seem that the country so denominated, extended farther east than he supposes.

charter of confirmation, the same monarch grants to the abbey the seventh, (after the tithe,) of all the seals caught at Kinghorn \*. Bastards, it would appear, were in general excluded from monasteries; Pope Innocent †, at the request of the abbot of Dunfermline, grants him permission to admit one bastard into the number of his monks with this exception, "dummodo non sit de adulterio, vel incestuoso coitu procreatus." The first abbot of this monastery was Gosfridus, formerly prior of Canterbury, ordained in the year 1128. The last abbot was George Durie, commendator and arch-dean of St Andrew's. The abbey was a magnificent and very extensive building, but fell an early sacrifice to the barbarous policy of the English, being almost entirely burnt down by them, in the beginning of the 14th century. Edward I. of England wintered at Dunfermline in 1303. "In that place there was an abbey of the Benedictine order, a building so spacious, that according to an English historian, three sovereign princes, with all their retinue, might have been lodged conveniently

\* Malc. Im IV. grants to the abbot and monks the heads, (the tongues excepted), of certain fishes, supposed to be a small kind of whales caught in some particular district of the Forth, near the abbey church. The words of the grant are, "Pro salute animæ predecessoris mei Davidis Regis, capita piscium qui dicuntur crespeis præter linguam, qui in meo Dominio ex illa parte Scottwater applicuerint, in qua parte illorum Ecclesia sita est." Malcolm IV. likewise gave them a grant of the half of the blubber (dimidium sagiminis) of the crespeis, or small whales, which should be taken between the Tay and Forth for the use of the church, "ad luminaria coram altaribus prenominatæ Ecclesiæ"—Several indulgences granted by different pontiffs are recorded in the chartulary of this abbey. As oil of olives could not be procured within the diocese of St Andrew's, Pope Nicholas, by bull in 1459, grants a free indulgence to make use of butter, (et aliis lacticiniis) during Lent, and on all other days when animal food was forbidden.

† It does not appear which of the pontiffs of that name.



conveniently within its precincts. Here the Scottish Nobles sometimes held their assemblies. The English soldiers utterly destroyed this magnificent fabrick. M. Westminster justifies this brutal extravagance. The Scots, (says he,) had converted the House of the Lord into a den of thieves, by holding their rebellious parliaments *there*. The church, however, and a few mansions *fit for monks*, were graciously spared by the English reformers \*." The cells belonging to the abbey, which were spared by the English, and likewise, it is probable, the principal part of the church, were demolished at the Reformation in 1560 †. The ruins of the abbey are now but inconsiderable. There still remains a window which belonged to the Frater-hall, remarkable for its size and beauty ‡. At the general dissolution of monasteries in 1560, Mr Robert Pitcairn was appointed commendator of Dunfermline. The abbey was erected into a temporal Lordship in 1593, and bestowed on Queen Anne of Denmark, James VI's Queen. This Lordship included all the lands which belonged to the monastery on this side the Forth, except the barony of Burntisland and New Birnie, in which Sir Robert Melvil of Murdocamy, and Andrew Wood of Largo were infeft. Muffelburgh, which also belonged to this monastery, was  
erected

\* Hailes's Annals.

† Robert Lindsay, in his History of Scotland, says, that the abbey of Dunfermline was destroyed by the Reformers on the 28th March 1560.

‡ In the Maygate, immediately adjacent to the monastery, is a house which belonged to the last commendator, and which tradition says was inhabited by his mistress. Over the street door of this house is the following curious inscription.

*Sen Vord is Thrall and That is Fre  
Keep Veill Thy Tonge I coinfeil The.*

erected into a temporal Lordship, and given to Lord Chancellor Thirlestone. In 1641, Charles I. granted a lease of the Lordship for three 19 years, to Charles Seton, Earl of Dunfermline. To this lease the Marquis of Tweeddale obtained a right in payment of a debt due to him by the Earl of Dunfermline, and afterward got the lease renewed in his own name. The last grant to the Tweeddale family having expired in 1780, the Countess of Rothes, Lord Elgin, and others, obtained a tack of the teinds of the Lordship, for behoof of the heritors of the parish, for payment of L. 100 Sterling yearly\*.

In the middle of the church-yard, there was, till within these 3 years, a most venerable thorn, said to have been 400 years old; at the foot of this tree, in Popish times, the people are said to have held a market on Sabbath, before assembling for public worship †.

*Church and Tombs.*—The church is of great antiquity, being a part of that large and magnificent edifice built by  
Malcolm

\* There is to be seen in the Advocate's Library at Edinburgh, a very elegant copy of St Jerom's Latin Bible in MS. beautifully illuminated. This Bible, (according to a note annexed), is said to have been used in the great church at Dunfermline in the reign of David I.; and at the time of the Reformation, to have been carried over to France, (along with many other things belonging to the church and abbacy), where it became the property of the famous Monf. Foucault, as appears from his coat of arms affixed, at the sale of whose books, it was purchased by a Scotch gentleman, by whom it was brought back to this country.

† On a piece of level ground, a little south of the monastery, is a hillock about 15 feet high, and 300 in circumference, which, according to tradition, was formed of sand, brought by people on their backs from the sea, as a penance enjoined by the church in the days of Popery. The name of the hillock, *Pardicus, i. e. Par Dieu*, seems to favour the story of its origin, at least to prove its being somehow connected with religion. On *Craigluscar-hill*, in this parish, there are the remains of an ancient fortification, said to be Pictish.

Malcolm Canmore. In its structure it is said to resemble the cathedral at Durham. It is very capacious, and fit for containing so numerous an auditory, as few ordinary voices can reach, so as to be distinctly heard; susceptible of much improvement, and of being made, if not a neat and comfortable, at least a dignified looking place of worship. It is much to be regretted, that far from any attempts being made to beautify so venerable a structure, very little attention has been paid to have it seated, and fitted up with becoming decency; the whole is cold and dirty, and wears rather a gloomy appearance. A stranger may well be surprised, to find the church of a town so populous and thriving, and which externally has so grand an appearance, so miserably fitted up within. This may be accounted for, from the church having never been legally divided among the heritors, the non-residence of some of the most considerable property, and several of them being of the Secession principles; from the inattention of the town-council, and from the disposition very prevalent among heritors, to be at as little expense as possible, in what regards either churches, or those who officiate in them. To these causes may be added the want of the interference of some spirited and generous individual, from whose exertions, improvements in general are often found to originate.

After the famous Iona or Icolmkill, in the Hebrides, the church of Dunfermline became the common cemetery of the kings of Scotland. Here Malcolm Canmore, and his Queen St Margaret, and other 7 of our Scottish kings were interred\*. The reader, fond of antiquities, might naturally

\* According to Sir Robert Sibbald, in his History of Fife, there were interred at Dunfermline, Malcolm III. with St Margaret his Queen, and King Edgar their son. Alexander I. with Sibilla his Queen. David I.

naturally expect, that the royal tombs would furnish us with something worthy of his attention ; but it is little in our power to gratify the antiquary ; were it not that the page of history assures us, that with us are the sepulchres of kings, it could not now be otherwise discovered. The principal part of the church appears to have been demolished at the time of the Reformation, and to have buried the royal monuments in its ruins. The area of this part of the church is covered with rubbish to the depth of 3 or 4 feet ; it has long been used as burying ground, and on that account cannot now be explored. In digging a grave lately, there was discovered a stone-coffin 6 feet in length, containing human bones ; at the same time were found several fragments of a marble monument, which had been finely carved and gilt. Here is shown what is said to have been the tomb-stone of St Margaret, and 6 flat stones, each 9 feet in length, where as many kings are said to lie \*.

*Eminent*

with his two wives. Malcolm IV. Alexander III. and his Queen Margaret. Robert I. and Isobel his Queen. Edmond II. son to King Malcolm III. and his brother Etheldrade, Earl of Fife. Macdoff, Earl of Fife. Constantine, Earl of Fife. William Ramsay, Earl of Fife. Thomas Randel, Earl of Murray, Governor of Scotland.

\* In this church-yard, a handsome monument has been erected to the memory of the late Earl of Elgin, a Nobleman whose memory is dear to those who had the happiness of being known to him. Seldom has a person in any rank of life been more generally beloved, seldom has high rank been distinguished for so many virtues, such amiable and condescending manners. Respected and beloved in life, his death was the cause of sincere and general sorrow and regret in this parish. We shall transcribe the following elegant tribute to his memory.

• Sacred

Sacred to the memory of  
 Charles Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,  
 who died the 14th of May 1771, aged 39 years.  
 By the goodness of his heart, and the virtues of his life,  
 He adorn'd the high rank which he possess'd ;  
 In his manners amiable and gentle,  
 In his affections warm and glowing ;  
 In his temper, modest, candid and chearful,  
 In his conduct, manly, and truly honourable,  
 In his character of husband, father, friend and master,  
 As far as human imperfection admits,  
 Unblemish'd.  
 Pious without superstition,  
 Charitable without ostentation.  
 While he lived,  
 The blessing of them that were ready to perish came upon him.  
 Now  
 Their tears embalm his memory.  
 Reader,  
 Beholding here laid in dust  
 The remains,  
 Which once so much virtue animated,  
 Think of the vanity of life,  
 Look forward to its end,  
 And prepare as he did for eternity.

In the present church are the tombs of Mr Robert Pitcairn, Commenda-  
 dator of Dunfermline, and of Mr William Shaw, Architect to King  
 James VI. King Robert the Bruce is said to lie here, His interment  
 at Dunfermline is thus described by one of our ancient Scottish Bards :

They have him had to Dumfermline,  
 And him solemnly erved syne,  
 In a fair tomb into the Quire.  
 Bishops and Prelate that there were,  
 Affoilzied him, when the service  
 Was done, as they best could devise.  
 And syne, upon the other day,  
 Sorry and wo they went their way,  
 And he debowelled was cleanly,  
 And als balmed syne full richly.

And

And the worthy Lord of Dowglas  
 His heart, as it forefpooken was,  
 Received has in great daintie,  
 With great and fair folemnitie\*.

In the porch of the church, is a neat Monument, erected to the memory of Mr Rolland, late of Gask, father of Adam Rolland, Esq; Advocate, with the following excellent character of him, written in elegant Latin.

M. S.  
 Adami Rolland de Gask,  
 Viri non uno nomine celebrandi,  
 Utpote non paucis virtutibus ornati,  
 Ob pietatem erga Deum,  
 Amorem in patriam,  
 Benevolentiam in genus humanum,  
 Amabilis ;  
 Ob vitæ integritatem,  
 Morum comitatem,  
 Affectuum temperantiam,  
 Spectabilis ;  
 Quisvos paterno, probos quosvis fraterno  
 Omnes benigno animo amplexus ;  
 In publicis, privatisque officiis  
 Prudens, fidus, diligens ;  
 Mente et manu munificus,  
 Futurorum providus,  
 Fortunæ semper securus :  
 Ita volente  
 D. O. M.  
 XII. Calend. August M.DCC.XLIII.  
 Ætat. LVII.  
 Animam Creatori, exuvias terræ,  
 Reddidit ;  
 Triste sui desiderium, amicis relinquens.

\* Life and Acts of Robert Bruce by John Barbour.

*Eminent Persons.*—Dunfermline was the birth place of the Princess Elizabeth from whom his present Majesty is descended. As Dunfermline was the usual residence of Malcolm Canmore and his illustrious Queen, some short notice of these personages will not, it is presumed, be improper. Malcolm Canmore was the eldest son of Duncan, King of Scotland, who was assassinated by Macbeth. Upon the usurpation of Macbeth, Malcolm fled into England, and during his exile in that country, resided a considerable time at the court of Edward the Confessor; through the exertions of Macduff, Thane of Fife, and Siward, Earl of Northumberland, the usurper was slain, and Malcolm ascended the throne of his father in 1057. About 1070 Malcolm espoused the celebrated Margaret \*. Malcolm, (says Lord Hailes), “was a prince utterly illiterate, of intrepid courage, but of no distinguished abilities.” With respect to the internal polity of his kingdom, he appears to have been guided by Queen Margaret. An incident is related of Malcolm, which is highly descriptive of his character. Having received intelligence that one of his nobles

\* Margaret was the daughter of Edward, son of Edmund Ironside, King of England. Upon William the Conqueror ascending the English throne, Edgar, son of Edward, with his mother Agatha, and two sisters, Margaret and Christian, retired into Scotland. Some authors say that being on a voyage to Hungary, they were accidentally driven thither by a storm. The place in the Frith where the ship anchored is a small bay, about a mile N. W. of the N. Queensferry, near the present toll-bar. This bay is called St Margaret’s Hope. On a stair-case in the house of Pennycuik, in Mid Lothian, there is a painting which represents the landing of Margaret at the Hope, the procession from thence to Dunfermline, and the King and Queen, the day after their marriage, entertaining a number of mendicants. The procession is said to have been on foot. On the side of the present road, near Pitreavie, about two miles from Dunfermline, is a large stone called St Margaret’s stone. Here she is said to have rested, leaning on this stone. N. and S. Queensferry derive their name from St Margaret.

nobles had formed a design against his life, he sought an opportunity of meeting the traitor in a solitary place. "Now, said he, unsheathing his sword, we are all alone, and armed alike, you seek my life, take it." The penitent threw himself at the King's feet, implored forgiveness, and obtained it. At the earnest request of Margaret, Malcolm is said to have abolished an abominable law of King Evenus or Eugenius. "*Uxoris etiam precibus dedisse fertur, ut primam novæ nuptæ noctem, quæ proceribus per gradus quosdam lege Regis Eugenii debebatur; sponfus dimidiata argenti marca redimeri posset: quam pensionem adhuc Marchetas mulierum vocant.*" Buch. lib. 7. 21.

Malcolm was slain at the siege of Alnwick in Northumberland 13th September 1093, his body was deposited at Tinmouth, and afterward brought to Dunfermline.

The character of Queen Margaret is fully and elegantly delineated by Lord Hailes in his Annals. "She restored (says he) the religious observance of Sunday, an institution no less admirable in a political than in a religious light. In the administration of her household, she so blended severity of manners with complacency, that she was equally revered and loved by all who approached her. She entertained many ladies about her person, employed their leisure hours in the amusements of the needle, and gave strict attention to the decency of their conduct. In her presence, says Turgot, nothing unseemly was ever done or uttered. On the education of her children, she bestowed the most conscientious care. She enjoined their preceptors to chastise them as oft as they needed chastisement. On them she bestowed her tenderest thoughts in her dying moments. Turgot pathetically describes his last interview with this affectionate mother. After long discourse on her spiritual state, she thus addressed him, "Farewell, my life  
draws



draws to a close, but you may survive me long. To you I commit the charge of my children, teach them above all things to love and fear God; and whenever you see any of them attain to the height of earthly grandeur, Oh! then, in an especial manner be to them as a father and a guide. Admonish, and if need be, reprove them, lest they be swelled with the pride of momentary glory, through avarice offend God, or by reason of the prosperity of this world, become careless of eternal life. This in the presence of *Him*, who is now our only witness, I beseech you to promise and to perform \*."

*Springs,*

\* By a tedious and painful indisposition, endured with exemplary patience, she was brought very low. During a short interval of ease, she devoutly received the communion; soon after her anguish of body returned with redoubled violence, she stretched herself on her couch, and calmly waited for the moment of her dissolution. Cold, and in the agonies of death, she ceased not to put up her supplications to heaven. These were some of her words: "Have mercy upon me, O God; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my iniquities, make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me, restore unto me the joy of thy salvation. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite spirit, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good, in thy good pleasure, unto Zion, build the walls of Jerusalem." At that moment, her son Edgar, returning from the army, approached her couch. "How fares it with the King and my Edward?" The youth stood silent, "I know all," cried she, I know all: By this holy cross, by your filial affection, I adjure you, tell me the truth. "He answered, your husband and your son are both slain." Lifting her eyes and hands towards heaven, she said, "Praise and blessing be to thee, Almighty God, that thou hast been pleased to make me endure so bitter anguish in the hour of my departure, thereby, as I trust to purify me in some measure from the corruption of my sins; and thou Lord Jesus Christ, who, through the will of the Father, hast enlivened the

*Springs, Lakes, Coasts, &c.*—Some springs are mineral, and supposed to be medicinal. The springs from which the water is conveyed to the town, in lead pipes, are rather inferior to some others, and insufficient for supplying the inhabitants; but it is believed, that endeavours will soon be used for meliorating the quality, and increasing the quantity of this necessary article. The Lyne is the only brook deserving attention in the parish. Its source is near the eastern extremity of it. Having received various accessions, it becomes considerable below the town, frequently overflows its banks, and lays the rich fields of Pittencrieff, Loggie, Cavil, and Pitliver under water. After running towards the western extremity of the parish, it unites with another small brook, and takes a southern direction towards the frith of Forth. There are several lakes of considerable depth and extent, in which perch, pike, and eel are found. Two of them may be drained at no great expense.—The southern extremity of the parish extends about a mile and a half along the coast of the frith  
of

the world by thy death, Oh! deliver me." While pronouncing *deliver me*, she expired \*.

\* She died 16th November 1093, and was buried at Dunfermline. In the 1250 or 1251, her bones were removed, and placed in a more honourable place in the Church of the Trinity of Dunfermline, Hailes's Ann. "Alexander III. caused her bones to be put into a chest of silver, enriched with precious stones, after many prayers and solemn processions, and placed it in the noblest part of the church. During the troubles of the Reformation, the coffer wherein her head and hair were inclosed, was carried to the castle of Edinburgh, and from thence transported to the manor-house of the Laird of Dury, who was a Reverend Father, Priest and Monk of Dunfermline. After he had kept this religious pledge some years, it was in 1597 delivered into the hands of the Jesuits, missionaries in Scotland, who seeing it was in danger to be lost or profaned, transported it to Antwerp. Her relics are kept in the Scots College at Doway in a bust of silver." Hay's Scotia Sacra.

of Forth. The coast here is partly flat, and partly high and bold. The fish found on the other coasts of Scotland are sometimes caught. No rocks, banks, nor islands, within the Frith, are off this part of the coast. The sea-weed is used as manure. Kelp is occasionally made in small quantities. Salt is also made, which is reckoned of an excellent quality. Soap is manufactured in smaller quantities than formerly. There are two excellent harbours. The one is situated at the village of Limekilns, and the other at Charlestown. They admit vessels at stream tides, from 200 to 300 tons. Many of the articles imported into the country are conveyed to these harbours; and from them, a great deal of its valuable productions are exported to other parts.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The soil is various. The low ground is a deep, strong, black loam, which gradually becomes lighter towards the N. Clay is found in every field, at no great distance from the surface. In some places it is covered with earth that is brown and gravelly, and in other places with what is dark, extremely rich, and fertile. Above the town, the soil is much inferior to the soil below it. Though greatly improved of late years, yet many acres of moor and morafs still remain in a wild and uncultivated state, of which the one half is improvable. In this, as in the other districts of Scotland, husbandry was in a languid state till about the middle of this century. Inattention, indolence, servitudes, bad roads, the want of wheel carriages, and other necessary implements of husbandry, prevented all improvements. The land is divided among 80 proprietors, of whom the Earl of Elgin is the principal. His Lordship lately gave new leases of most of his farms, and built excellent farm-houses and offices upon them. His lands are sufficiently enclosed, and regularly subdivided, with fences  
of

of stone and lime, or ditches and hedge-rows of various kinds, in a prosperous condition. His Lordship is also planting all the uncultivated spots, and conspicuous places of his estate, with belts and clumps of trees, which, in a few years hence, will have a fine effect in ornamenting this part of the country. George Chalmers, Esq; late of Pittencrieff, about 1760, began improving his lands after the English mode. Regardless of the ancient customs and prejudices of the people, he persevered in his expensive improvements, which for many ages will probably remain as monuments of his ingenuity. Much about the above mentioned period, or soon after it, the late Sir John Halket of Pitferrian began his judicious improvements. Unlike many thoughtless landholders, who repair to populous cities to spend their time, health, and fortunes in fashionable amusements, extravagance, and folly, this Honourable Baronet resided on his estate, inspected his operations, and influenced his neighbours to cultivate the ground. Accordingly, it soon assumed a new appearance. Agriculture became an object of importance. Every landholder began to study what kind of culture might ultimately become most beneficial. A great deal of waste land was drained, levelled, and enclosed. In some places, the fences consist of stone and lime, and in other places, of single or double ditches, hedges, and plantation. On the barren and unimproveable parts of the country, many hundred thousand trees are planted, which are prospering, enriching the soil, and becoming a source of wealth to the proprietors. The most numerous and thriving are, the Scotch fir, beech, elm, plane, larix, spruce, ash, and oak. With these, the town of Dunfermline lately planted 170 acres of its waste land, which was not worth 6 d. the acre, but in 50 years hence may bring L. 200 Sterling the acre. The climate and soil in the southern parts of the parish, being extremely different

ferent from the northern, the mode of cultivating and cropping is also different. The arable land on the S. is ploughed with Small's chain-plough, drawn by two horses. In some places on the N. the Scotch plough, drawn by four horses, is used, and the ancient distinction between croft and out-field preserved. The whole manure is laid upon the croft, which is constantly in tillage, while the outfield is occasionally ploughed, and afterwards left to rest. But this mode of culture prevails only in a very few places, where manure cannot be obtained without great expense. On the S. of the town, the land is highly cultivated, and produces as luxuriant crops as any in the kingdom. Farms are usually divided into different portions, and the crops are in the following order: After summer fallow, wheat is sown, the next year, barley, the following year, grass, and last of all, oats; some, after summer-fallow or potatoes, sow wheat, pease and beans, barley, grass, and oats, in their order. Wheat is generally sown in September and October; pease, beans, and oats, from the middle of February to the end of April; and barley, from the middle of March to the end of May. Potatoes are planted after the plough, about the beginning or middle of April. Hay is made from the middle of June to the end of July. The other crops are usually reaped from the middle of August to the middle of October; sometimes the harvest is earlier, and sometimes it is later. Flour, oats, oatmeal, and barley, are imported; wheat is exported.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 22,127 Scotch. It is difficult to ascertain the real rent, as many of the landholders possess their own lands. In general, it is valued according to its quality, and distance from the town of Dunfermline. In the immediate vicinity, it is feued from L. 8 to L. 20; and lets annually from L. 3 to L. 5 Sterling the

acre. On the S. of the town, it lets annually from L. 1 to L. 3, and on the N. from 5 s. to L. 2 Sterling the acre. One-third of the surface would let at L. 1, 5 s. and two-thirds at 10 s. Sterling the acre. Valuing the land in this manner, the whole surface, consisting of 36 square miles, or 23,040 square acres, would let at L. 17,280 Sterling a-year. Of this yearly rent, the fourth part may perhaps be spent in the parish. The value of farms is various. Many have small portions of land. About 50 farmers pay annually from L. 50 to L. 100; 30 from L. 100 to L. 200; 10 from L. 200 to L. 300; and 6 from L. 300 to L. 400 Sterling. A farm which presently lets at L. 320 annually was lately bought for L. 17,500 Sterling.

*Value of Stock.*

1000 draught-horses, valued at L. 12 each,	L. 12,000
64 saddle and carriage horses, at L. 20,	1280
800 best cattle, at L. 8,	6400
1600 inferior ditto, at L. 4,	6400
2000 best sheep, at L. 1,	2000
1000 inferior ditto, at 10 s.	500
200 swine, at L. 1, 10 s.	300
	<hr/>
Total value of stock,	L. 28,880

ANNUAL PRODUCE.

Crops.	Acres.	Produce the acre. Bolls.	Price the boll.	Total price the acre.	Total produce. Bolls.	Total value.
Oats, - - - - -	8500	7	L. 0 16 0	L. 5 12 0	45,500	L. 36,400 0 0
Bar and barley, - - -	3300	7	0 18 0	6 6 0	23,100	20,740 0 0
Wheat, - - - - -	1000	10	1 3 0	11 10 0	10,000	11,500 0 0
Peas and beans, - - -	2000	6	0 17 0	5 2 0	12,000	10,200 0 0
Potatoes, - - - - -	400	50	0 5 0	12 10 0	20,000	5,000 0 0
Turnips, - - - - -	200	—	—	—	—	1,000 0 0
Pasture, - - - - -	6000	—	—	5 0 0	—	3,000 0 0
Walle land, lakes, rivers, -	400	—	—	0 10 0	—	20 0 0
Gardens, orchards, - - -	200	—	—	0 1 0	—	1,600 0 0
Woods and plantations, -	550	—	—	8 0 0	—	300 0 0
Flax, - - - - -	50	Stones.	The flone.	—	Stones.	550 0 0
Meadow hay, or natural grass,	140	22	L. 0 10 0	11 0 0	1,100	350 0 0
Sown grass, - - - - -	2000	200	0 0 6	2 10 0	14,000	9,333 6 8
Ditto fold, the acre, - - -	300	—	0 0 7	5 16 0	320,000	1,800 0 0
Straw at 2 s. the boll of corn,	—	—	—	6 0 0	—	9,200 0 0
Pasture at L. 5 the horse, L. 3 the cow, 8 s. the sheep,	—	—	—	—	—	36,500 0 0
Mines, - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total value of annual produce,				L. 147,493 6 8		

Minerals,

*Minerals.*—This parish abounds with valuable mines and minerals. In many places there are prodigious rocks of freestone, extremely white, durable, and susceptible of a fine polish. Granite, or blue whin, is also found in great quantities, and of an excellent quality for paving streets, making roads, and other useful purposes. Limestone is found in various parts of the parish, near the surface. This valuable fossil has lately been wrought to a great extent. Several seams are quarried, and manufactured in the lands of Craig-luscar, belonging to Charles Dury, Esq; and also in the lands of South Fod, belonging to Mr John Stenhouse. Besides supplying the interior parts of the country in the immediate neighbourhood, the lime is carried to a considerable distance for manure and building. But the most extensive limeworks in this parish, or even in Britain, belonging to any particular person, are those of the Earl of Elgin, situated on the coast of the frith of Forth. From the vestiges of limekilns along the shore, the village of Limekilns derives its name; and it appears from these ancient ruins, that the limeworks were carried on at a very remote period. The seam of limestone is opposite to the Forth. It is a mile long from E. to W. from 20 to 50 feet thick, and dips to the E. and W. from about the centre. The late Earl, his Lordship's father, who was no less distinguished for his intellectual than his moral qualities, conceived the idea of extending his limeworks on a larger scale than had ever been attempted by any of his ancestors. Accordingly, in the years 1777 and 1778, his Lordship began to build nine large draw-kilns, a harbour, waggon-ways, for drawing the stone from the quarry to the kilnheads, and a village for accommodating his work people, which, after himself, was called Charlestown. As the works were great, the expense was proportionable; before they were finished, the necessary utensils for quarrying procured, and the difficulties inseparable from new and great undertakings



undertakings surmounted, it is said they cost above L. 14,000 Sterling. But great as this expense was, it has been repaid. By prudent arrangements, and constant attention, the works have succeeded beyond expectation. Their success was partly owing to the fidelity and discretion of the managers, and partly to the valuable qualities of the lime, which secured for it a ready and an extensive sale. Ever since their commencement, the public has progressively increased its demands. From 80,000 to 90,000 tons of limestone are quarried annually. It is partly manufactured into lime at the works; and partly sold in the unburnt stone. Of the manufactured lime, about 200,000 bolls of shells, or unslacked lime; and from 30,000 to 40,000 chalders, at 18 bolls the chalder, of slacked lime, are annually sold in 1300 separate cargoes. The total annual value is above L. 10,000 Sterling. Lime shells, including all expense at shipping, are sold at L. 4 Sterling the hundred bolls; slacked lime at 5 s. 3 d. the chalder, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. the boll; and limestone at 1 s. 8 d. the ton. The principal market for the lime is along the coasts of the frith of Forth and Tay, and the N. of Scotland. From 30 to 50 vessels are usually lying at Charlestown, waiting their turns of loading limeshells during the summer months\*.—From the very liberal credit that has always been given at these works, it is obvious, that a large capital is necessary for carrying them on. But neither the money sunk in erecting nor conducting them has been lost. While they have amply rewarded their noble proprietor, they have occasioned an extensive circulation of money; retained in their native land,

\* Above 200 men are employed in quarrying, and other necessary operations. They work mostly by the piece, and during the limeburning months, earn from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. the day. About 4000 chalders, or 12,000 tons of coal, are annually consumed in burning the lime.

land, and supported many thousand people; greatly promoted improvements in agriculture; and may be considered among the most laudable, important, and beneficial works for the good of the country, that have ever been undertaken in this part of the kingdom.—Ironstone is found in the lands belonging to Sir Charles Halket, Baronet. Of this mineral there are two seams at a small distance from each other. The uppermost is 4 inches, and the lowermost  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. Being above a seam of coal, they are wrought along with it. They are of an excellent quality for making cannon, and have been exported to the Carron Company for that purpose. The ironstone began to be wrought by that Company in 1771, and in 1773 and 1774, there were 60 miners, and as many bearers employed in the mines. Since that period, the ironstone has been wrought by the tacksmen of the coal.—Coal is also found in great abundance in almost every part of this parish. The coal mines of this parish are the most ancient in Scotland. The earliest account of coal used as fuel, is a charter of William de Oberwill, in which he granted liberty to the Abbot and Convent of Dunfermline to open a coal-pit wherever they inclined, excepting on his arable land, and permitted them to take as much as was necessary for their own use, and to open a new mine whenever the old was exhausted; but not to sell any part of it to others. The charter is dated at Dunfermline, on the Tuesday immediately before the feast of St Ambrose 1291\*. But at that early period

\* Carta de Pethyncreff de dono Willielmi de Oberwill, 1291.

Omnibus has literas visuris vel auditoris Willielmus de Oberwill, dominus de Pethyncreff, eternam in Domino salutem; noveritis me, ex mera gratia nixa et propria voluntate, concessisse religiosis viris Abbati et Conventui de Dunfermlyn, unam carbonariam in terra nixa de Pethyncreff ubique voluerint, excepta terra arabili, ita quod sufficientiam ad usus suos

period it does not appear that coal was wrought to a great extent. It was only used in the abbey, and by persons of distinction in the country. In progress of time it was more generally used as fuel; and when trade began to flourish, it was exported to foreign parts. Although it was worked by crop levels ever since the above mentioned period, there was little exported till about the middle of this century. Even so late as 1763, the annual value of exported coal was only L. 200; and in 1771, it did not exceed L. 500 Sterling. The coal-mines, since 1771, have been sources of great wealth to many of the proprietors.

*Description of the Subterraneous Coal Strata.*—The first appearance of coal on the S. W. extremity of the parish, is a seam about 2 feet thick, situated under the Earl of Elgin's lime-rock at Charlestown. Northward, near broad-hills, there is another seam, from 4 to 6 feet thick, which dips very rapidly towards the N. E. the crop of which has been wrought by a level in the same direction. Advancing still northward, about 3 miles from the Frith, through a fine level country, we again find various seams of excellent coal in the lands of Sir Charles Halket of Pitferran, immediately above the village of Crosford. From a remote period, the family of Pitferran, obtained from Government, the privilege of exporting these coals to foreign parts, free of all duty whatever. The original privilege was renewed by Queen Anne on December 21.

1706,

suos inde percipiant, et aliis vendere non presumant, una vero deficiente aliam pro voluntate sua facientes quoties viderint expediri sibi, &c. &c. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum apposui, una cum sigillo officialis domini Episcopi Sancti Andree, et sigillo Roberti de Malavilla, qui sigilla sua ad instantiam meam presentibus apposuerunt. Datum apud Danfermlyn die Martis proxima ante festum Sancti Ambrosii Episcopi et Confessoris, anno Gratiae millio ducentesimo nonagesimo prima.

1706, and ratified in Parliament on March 21. 1707. The family continued to enjoy the privilege till 1788, when it was purchased by Government for L. 40,000 Sterling, when the property that could injure the revenue was nearly exhausted.

The most remarkable, in these lands, are the seams, consisting of 5 feet, 2 feet, and 4 feet each. They are all found within the space of 14 yards, at the distance of 3 fathoms and a half from each other, and in their natural state, they dip from one foot in four, to one in six towards the N. E. Immediately above the two feet seam, are the strata of iron-stone already mentioned. The surface being irregular, the pits are from 10 to 80 yards in depth. Eastward from the mines of Pitferran, are those of Urquhart and Pittencrieff, which are nearly exhausted, until deeper levels are made or engines erected.

Northward from these are the numerous seams of coal that appear above each other, (as *per* section), situated under the lands of West and Midbalbridge, Clune, Luscar, and Rosebank. They are the property of the Earl of Elgin\*. They contain immense quantities of coal, of various qualities, within 30 fathoms from the surface of the uppermost

\* The difficulty of finding a regular supply of coals to burn his lime, lately induced his Lordship to purchase this extensive field of coal. It consists of more than 900 square acres, and contains valuable seams of all the various kinds that are found in the country. From these coal-mines, his Lordship is making a wagon way, of 4 miles extent, to his lime works. It is said he intends to make a new harbour, a little west from his harbour at Charlestown, for exporting his coals, which will have 20 feet of water at stream tides, and be one of the best in Scotland. A harbour so safe and convenient will be extremely advantageous for the town of Dunfermline, whenever the canal, which has been proposed, shall be made from the town to the Frith. Nor will it be less advantageous for the country in general than for his Lordship.

uppermost seam, which is covered with other 4 fathoms of earth. None of them are at a greater distance from each other than 5 fathoms.

			Feet. Inch.
The 1st seam near the surface,	is	4	thick.
— 2d,	-	-	7
— 3d,	-	-	6 3
— 4th,	-	-	2 6
— 5th,	-	-	2
— 6th,	-	-	5
— 7th,	-	-	3

These 7 seams contain 29 9 inch. of excellent coal.

The next colliery deserving attention is Rosebank : It contains the following seams :

			Feet. Inch.
The 1st seam is,	4	6	thick.
— 2d,	-	3	4
— 3d,	-	4	
— 4th,	-	4	
— 5th,	-	3	

Making altogether, 18 10 of coal under those lands. There are found in these collieries belonging to the Earl of Elgin, a kind of allum rock, and also soft sulphur, which would make green vitriol. Detached pieces of ironstone sometimes appear. This is the only colliery in the parish in which inflammable air is found.

The next in the same direction is the colliery of Balmule. which comprehends the coal lying under the lands of Lochhead, Coalton, Lochend, and Balmule. In number

ber of seams, thickness, depth, and quality, it resembles Rosebank.

Having mentioned the collieries in the northern direction, it may be proper to return to those in the middle of the parish. Of these middle, Baldrige colliery, the property of Robert Wellwood, Esq; of Garvoch, deserves attention. It is in many respects similar to that of Pittencrieff, and the other mines in the same direction. The lowest seam is a fine splint coal. This colliery has been worked for many years, and been extremely advantageous to the proprietor. Eastward, in the same line, are the collieries of Venterfair, Dunfermline town coal, and Whitefield. They are worked level free, and contain an immense quantity of excellent coal, which is mostly sold in the country. The town supplies its inhabitants with this important article at a reduced price, which makes the fuel cheaper than in any other town in Scotland.

To the east of these is the colliery of Halbeath. It contains 8 or 9 seams of good workable coal, amounting in all to upwards of 30 feet. The lowest or splint seam is the same as in the other collieries, and is in high repute. Some of the other seams on the north of a large dike \*,

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which

\* Dikes are confused masses of metals, that in some places seem to intersect the earth from the surface to the centre. They are of different thickness. They generally alter the situation of the strata, by cutting them off entirely, and substituting other strata in the place of them, or by elevating or depressing them beyond their natural situation. Sometimes they raise the coal to the very surface, and at other times, sink it to an unapproachable depth. Besides throwing up the coal, they are often of great use in keeping off the water from the neighbouring mines. The dikes with which the coal of this parish is troubled run in different directions, but most generally towards the S. E. and N. W. †. Their course is however very uncertain. Their elevation is generally from 40 to 80 degrees, and they are composed of every kind of substance, from hard green whin and white spar, to blue clay.

† (See the annexed sketch).

which has a S. E. direction, have been wrought many years ago, by crop levels. The coal dips nearly in the same manner and direction as in the west of the parish, but is free of dikes. This colliery was purchased in summer 1785 by Messrs Campbell, Morison and Company. They have built two large engines. The one is erected on stone, and the other on a frame of wood. From this colliery vast quantities of coal are at present exported. The same seams are found in the lands of Praithouse, and run eastward to the crossgates into the neighbouring parish.

Sinking pits is not difficult in this parish. The cover generally consists of a few fathoms of earth, and afterward freestone and blue metals.

*Explanation of the Eye Sketch.*—Were the seams of coal and dikes in the parish of Dunfermline visible, they would appear as they are exhibited on the annexed sketch.

The letters a. b. c. denote the three seams of coal in the estate of Pitferran, &c.

D. The two bands of iron-stone, above the two feet or second seam.

E. E. E. The lowest level mine driven from the south of Pitferran, to the face where it is standing in Lord Elgin's property.

E. E. E. In dotted lines, show how the said level, if continued, would intersect and drain the uppermost seams of coal to the depth of the level.

A. A. A cross level, by which the crop of all the north seams have been worked.

B. B. B. A level brought up from the lower grounds, farther south, which is a few fathoms deeper than the one above.

M.

**M. M. 1<sup>st</sup>.** An upcast dike to the north.

**a. b. c. D** (between two dikes). The three seams of coal, and two of iron-stone, represented on the south of said dike, which are cast up by it into the north, all above, and drained by the lowest level.

**Q. Q.** A coal pit, by which the said three seams are wrought and raised level free.

**e. e.** A kind of dike, or rather stage, which is sometimes met with in the level course of the coal, nearly perpendicular, without casting the coal up or down on either side of it.

**M. M. 2<sup>d</sup>.** Another large dike, which throws up the seams of coal considerably to the north, and in some parts they dip more rapidly afterward.

**G. G.** An engine pit on the south side of the first dike, to drain the coast from *x.* to *x.* that is below the level.

**H. H.** Another engine pit to the north of all the dikes, to drain the coal from *N.* to *N.* in all the seams below the level.

**P. E.** A level free pit, on the four lowest seams on the north side of the north dike.

**1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.** Nine seams of coal on the north side of the second dike, from two to five feet thick each, making in all, upwards of 30 feet of coal under the surface, in some parts of this parish. The three lowest of those nine seams are supposed to be the three seams *a. b. c.* on the south. The other six appear to be upper seams that come on from the north. Those nine seams are marked where they are intersected by the north engine pit, and are continued downward, to show, that if there were no  
dikes



dikes to cast up the coal to the north, it would soon get below the surface level, and be lost without the assistance of the engine, which wins from N. to N. in all the seams to the south of it.

If a level mine were driven from the bottom of the pit, at H. to L. it would win the upper seams to the north of it, between the levels *E. E.* and H. It also shows, that if it were not for such dikes, the coal would soon run too deep to be raised to any advantage. Supposing the lowest seam to be 100 fathoms deep at the north engine pit, then the uppermost seam will be 100 fathoms deep at L, and consequently the lowest seam will be 200 fathoms deep at that point.

The proportion will always be, according to the dip of the coal, and the elevation of the surface towards the north.

The level *E. E. E.* would be about 40 fathoms from the surface at the north engine pit, so that the engine would have to lift the water about 60 fathoms, and deliver it into the said level, where it would discharge itself at the lowest south point.

*Numbers employed.*—At the above mentioned coal mines of this parish, there are about,

180 colliers.

140 bearers.

300 persons above ground employed at the works,  
repairing roads, driving and shipping coals,  
&c.

400 women and children, who occasionally work,  
and are supported by the mines.

**Total, 1020 employed and supported.** Besides, there are also 200 horses employed above and below the surface, in performing various operations. There are about

50 waggons constantly employed in carrying coal from the mines to the ships. Having excellent waggon ways, the waggons contain from two to three tons each.

*Annual produce and value of Coal.*—The annual quantity of coal raised from the various mines of the parish amounts to 90,000 tons. Of these, 60,000 tons are exported from Lime-kilns, Brucehaven, and Inverkeithing. The remaining 30,000 tons are consumed in the town and parish of Dunfermline, and the immediate neighbourhood. The great coal is sold at from 6s. to 7s. the ton; the chows from 5s. to 6s.; and the small at 3s. the ton; valuing the whole at 5s. the ton, the total annual value of coal amounts to L. 22,650 Sterling. Of this sum, there are L. 3000 annually expended on timber, iron, ropes, incidents, &c. &c. and L. 13,000 for labour.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The miners in the horse-pits, without bearers, make about from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a-day; with bearers, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.; and the people above ground, from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. a-day\*.

*Villages.*—There are 8 villages in the parish. The populous villages of Lime-kilns and Charlestown are pleasantly situated on the coast of the frith of Forth.

Crosford,

\* The wages of men servants employed in husbandry, are from L. 6 to L. 9, and women from L. 3 to L. 4 Sterling a-year. Gentlemens domestick men-servants, get from L. 12 to L. 20, and women from L. 4 to L. 6 Sterling a-year. A day-labourer, in husbandry, and other work, gets 1s. 2d.; a carpenter, 1s. 6d.; a mason, 1s. 8d.; and a tailor, 10d. with his meat a-day.

As the price of labour is double of what it was 30 years ago, so the price of provisions is also double. Beef, veal, mutton, lamb, and pork, are from 3d. to 5d. the lb.; a pig is 6d.; a duck, 1s.; a hen, from 1s. to 1s. 6d.; a chicken, from 3d. to 5d.; eggs, from 4d. to 6d. the doz.; butter, 11d.; and cheese from 3d. to 5d. the lb.

Crossford, Halbeath, and Crossgates, are situated on the great turnpike road, which passes through the town and parish of Dunfermline, from the western to the eastern extremity. Mastertown, Petimuir, and Pitliver, are situated on the southern division of the parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The advantages of this parish are various. It abounds with lime. Coal is comparatively cheap. House rents are moderate. There is a regular post-office, which annually brings to the revenue upwards of L. 400 Sterling. There is a ready market for the various productions of the land; and there are ferries, with convenient harbours, for exporting or importing by water, all the necessaries of life.

In this, as in every other parish, there are some disadvantages. Owing to the numerous mines and subterraneous levels which have lately been opened, the water is greatly drained from the surface, and in some places it is scarce, and but indifferent. The roads are often in disrepair. Within these few years, since turnpikes were raised, they are however greatly improved, and it is expected they will be still better, when the statute-labour shall be paid in money, and properly expended. The removal of the Sheriff-substitute from this district is another disadvantage deserving attention. Being near 30 miles from Cupar, the inhabitants are exposed to much trouble and expense, before they obtain decisions in litigated questions.

The language is a mixture of Scotch and English. The voice is raised, and the emphasis frequently laid on the last word of the sentence. Many of the names of places are derived from the Celtic.

There are about 200 ploughs, almost all of the English or lately improved kind; about 300 carts; 8 gentlemens wheel-

wheel-carriages, 400 male-servants, and 300 female-servants employed in husbandry. From 6000 to 10,000 bolls of barley are annually manufactured into spirits, porter, strong, and small beer.

In general, the people are strong, and abundantly quick in learning mechanical employments. Many are remarkably ingenious, industrious, and frugal. Such persons enjoy the necessaries and comforts of life, and are happy in their present situation. It must be acknowledged, that there are also many idle, factious, discontented persons, who are greatly divided in their political, moral, and religious sentiments. In gratifying their capricious humours, and supporting their respective parties, they sometimes involve themselves in unnecessary expense, and defraud their just creditors. Their expense in dress, furniture, and living, too often exceeds their income. Increasing trade, manufactures, and the rapid circulation of money, have had an unhappy influence on their morals.—At public works, nothing is required but labour. Education is too often neglected. Many cannot read. Proprietors are not sufficiently attentive to the instruction of youth, and providing them with teachers. Many come to the parish, and go from it, whose characters are never attested. The profligate repair to these works, where they are under no restraint, and their infectious example is as hurtful to the morals of unguarded youth, as their unseasonable labour is hurtful to their constitutions. Being too early removed from the watchful eye, and faithful admonitions of their parents and teachers, the young and the thoughtless frequently become grossly ignorant, and openly profane. With regard to the religious sentiments of the people, it may be observed, that in general, they are more mild than they were, about the middle of this century. The rigid severity

severity, that then generally prevailed, is now found only amongst a few. The violence of party spirit seldom appears. The sectaries have subdivided, weakened their own influence, and seen the folly of their former disputes. Many of them are now peaceable, social, and friendly in their dispositions. Various denominations of Christians converse freely with each other, enjoy mutual intercourse in business, as well as in all the social, relative, and domestic walks of life. Upon the whole, the people are in general sober, industrious, and religious. They have just views of religion and morality. All attend public worship, and are apparently decent and devout, excepting a few of the wealthy, and a few of the ignorant and the profligate, who neglect the ordinances of religion.

\* \* \* *Since the greater part of this Account was printed, the following Particulars were transmitted by the Ministers of the Parish.*

Mr Chalmers's bridge was begun in 1767, finished in 1770, and cost about L. 5000 Sterling.—The value of the cloth annually manufactured when trade was flourishing, amounted to between L. 60,000 and L. 70,000 Sterling.—Mr Fernie's stipend is L. 71 Sterling, and 5 chalders of grain; viz. 2 of bear, 2 of meal, and 1 of oats.—Mr Christie's salary amounts to L. 11 : 3 : 4 Sterling.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXX.

## PARISH OF MONIFIETH,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN'S,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

By Mr JAMES ROGER, *Preacher of the Gospel.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish is pleasantly situated on the S. border of the county of Angus. The S. E. point of the parish is about a mile west from the light-house, built in the year 1753, which stands beside the narrow, variable, and difficult entrance into the æstuary of the Tay, formed by a sand-bank, seen at low water, stretching from the coast of Fife in a N. E. direction, and lies about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles S. W. from Arbroath, about 7 miles N. E. from St Andrew's, about  $7\frac{1}{4}$  miles east from Dundee,  $56^{\circ} 27'$  N. lat. and  $2^{\circ} 55'$  W. long. from Greenwich. From the S. E. point of the parish, along the æstuary, about the distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, is its S. W. boundary. From the æstuary, it stretches N. W. to the distance of about 6 miles, decreasing irregularly to a point, in form of a wedge, inserted

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between

between the parishes of Dundee and Murroes, on the S. W. and W.; that of Barry on the S. E. and of Monikie on the E. N. E. N. and N. W. No actual survey has been made of the parish; but he who supposes it to contain 3710 Scotch acres, will not be far from the truth. The parish seems anciently to have been of less extent than at present. Its proportion of the links which skirt the coast, may be safely supposed above 400 acres, and seem all once to have been covered with water. Adjoining to these links in this parish, tradition relates that some part belonged to the parish of Ferry-Port-on-Craig on the opposite side of the æstuary; but what that part was, or when the separation was made, it might be vain, at this distance of time, to enquire.

*Surface, Rivulets, &c.*—From the N. W. point of the parish, out of a well at the foot of the hill of Dodd, in that low range, reaching thence to the Knockhills near Arbroath, and about 4 miles E. from the hill of Lorn, in that high ridge of hills called Sidla, which extend from Perth to Redhead, and are the southern boundary of Strathmore, there issues a rivulet which waters for about a mile the S. W. border of the parish, crosses it in an eastern direction, and after meandering through the parish of Monikie, returns, and dividing this parish for about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from that of Barrie, and receiving the name of the Buddon Burn, loses itself in the æstuary. About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile S. W. from the Buddon Burn, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in the same direction from the village of Monifieth, the river Dighty falls into the æstuary, after a S. E. course of about 11 miles from its rise in the lake of Lundie, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from its entrance into this parish. Where the Dighty enters the parish, it is joined by the Burn of Murroes, which, rising in the western part of the parish of that  
name,

name, runs eastward, and at last washes for a mile, the S. W. boundary of this parish. From the N. W. point of the parish, about the distance of 2 miles, the road from Dundee to Brechin crosses the rivulet, which, near its efflux into the æstuary is called Buddon, in a northern direction. About 4 miles from the N. W. point of the parish, the old road from Dundee to Arbroath crosses the Burn of Murroes, in an eastern direction. About 5 miles from the N. W. point of the parish, the new turnpike-road from Dundee to Arbroath crosses the Dighty in a N. E. direction.

*Beach.*—Within water-mark, on the bounds of this parish, a very few rocks only are seen; the far greater part is sandy and level. The links which skirt the coast, and stretch from the village of the East Ferry, so called, in contradistinction to that of the West Ferry, in the parish of Dundee, to which it joins, rise in a few places into small knolls, but oftener approach to a plain.

*Soil.*—From the links on the W. of the Dighty, the ground suddenly rises, and then gently declines towards that river; and the soil is generally an excellent loamy black. From the links on the E. of the Dighty, there spreads for more than a mile almost a level plain; and the soil is at first light and sandy, but extremely fertile, and then assumes a rich blackness of colour. Black and excellent, the ground now gradually swells towards certain hills of inconsiderable height, which at large intermediate spaces traverse the parish from N. to S. from the village of Drumsturday-moor, built on the sides of the old road from Dundee to Arbroath, to the vicinity of the village of the East Ferry, near Broughty castle. From these hills the ground again descends towards the Burn, near its termination



mination, called Buddon, and in its descent, by degrees, loses its excellence. It again rises somewhat towards the N. W. point of the parish, and shews to the eye of the traveller spots yet moorish and waste.

*Hills.*—Of these some may deserve notice. The highest and most remarkable, is the most southern of that collection of hills called *Laws*, in the vicinity of the village of Drumsturdy-moor. Its height has not been ascertained by measurement; but is supposed not much to exceed 530 feet above the level of the sea. It lies from E. to W. is of an oval figure, and is covered with a pleasant verdure; its summit is 233 yards in length, 66 yards in breadth, and 316 yards in circumference. From this hill westward, may be seen the coast of Fife, the level and pleasant country, which stretches to the rich and populous city Dundee, part of the fertile carse of Gowrie, and almost all the estuary, as it beautifully winds to Perth, and the distant prospect is bounded by the mountains in the shire of Argyle. South and eastward may be seen the bay of St Andrew's, the hills of Lothian, the agreeably varied country to Arbroath, and the German Ocean to the utmost extent of the horizon. Around the summit of this hill, are to be seen the broad foundations of an ancient fortress; and on the E. end of it, several large vitrifications, or masses of sandy and whin-stones firmly united, by means of the fusion of certain parts of the whin-stones\*.

From

\* These vitrifications have plainly been caused, by the application of external fire; as small pieces of burnt wood are found in the heart of the masses when they are broken. But the question occurs, how was this fire applied, so as to vitrify these masses?—One ingenious gentleman has conjectured, that before the use of lime, as a cement, was introduced by the Romans into the island, whoever wished to strengthen their forts, made

From this hill of Laws, at a little distance S. W. is the Gallow-hill of Ethiebeaton, on which, it is said, the Barons who were the proprietors of the adjoining farms of Ethiebeaton, Laws and Ornochie, were wont to sit in judgment on their vassals, and to hang such as were convicted of theft. Farther to the S. is the hill of Balgillo, which will be included in the account of Broughty castle, in its immediate neighbourhood.

*Broughty castle*.—Broughty castle \* is situated on the most southern point of this parish, whence to the coast of Fife,  
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made a wooden frame, of the same dimensions they wished their defence to be, filled it with sandy, and whin or plum-pudding stones, set fire to the frame, and by the intenseness of the heat, vitrified the inclosed mass, and produced a strong munition. (See William's treatise on vitrified forts.) A second agrees to the conjecture of the first in every thing but this, that fire was applied to the frame, not by friends who wished to strengthen the fort, but by enemies who wished to demolish it. (See Essay on Vitrified Forts in Phil. Trans. Ed. Vol. II.) But by whatever process the vitrifications on other hills have been effected, it appears probable, that the vitrifications on this hill have been effected, neither at the construction nor demolition of its fortrefs, but at a different period. When that period was, it is not easy with precision to tell; but surely a supposition which occupies little time, where supposition only is to be had, can do no harm. In A. D. 838, the Picts had been finally expelled by Kenneth II. whose father King Alpin, in a battle fought on a plain N. W. from Dundee, they had taken prisoner, and with barbarous cruelty slain. Most of the Picts at their expulsion sought for shelter in Denmark, whence, it is said, their ancestors sprung. Incited by them, the Danes rose for revenge, and frequently invaded the eastern coast of Scotland. From these wasting invaders, the fortrefs on this hill might afford a temporary refuge. On the E. end of it, which is most conspicuous, fires might be kindled to alarm the more distant parts of the country, when these incursions happened in the night; and the frequent fires might at last vitrify the stones which they touched.

\* The following note, the substance of which has been extracted from the Kirk-session records, will afford a proof that there is no reason to question,

is not above a mile distant. It might thus, it is not unlikely, be originally spelled *Borgbtay*, from Borgh, a security, and Tay; or, the security of the Tay. When it was built will not, perhaps, be easily ascertained. It cannot be one of the castella, or forts, which Tacitus, in his life of Agricola, says that general erected, in the third year of his expedition, when he came to the æstuary of the Tay; for these forts, we are informed by Boece, in the fourth book of his History, were erected not on the north, but on the south side of the æstuary; not in the county of Angus, but in the county of Fife. Dr Macpherson seems to be right, who supposes that the square towers, like Broughty, were built at a much later period. The earliest mention of it with which I have met, is in the year 1492, when, according to the credulous Boece, in the Delineation of the Scottish Kingdom, prefixed to his History, it witnessed a foolish prodigy.

tion, as some do, whether Broughty belongs to this parish. Towards the end of last century, a man committed a trespass within the bounds of Broughty, for which he was summoned to appear at the tribunal of the Kirk-session. He refused obedience, under pretence that Broughty belonged not to this parish, but to that of Caputh, in the neighbourhood of Dunkeld, about 26 miles N. W. To ascertain the true situation of Broughty, the minister wrote to a Mr Webster, then its proprietor; who replied, that it lay neither in the parish of Monifieth nor of Caputh, but in that of Kirriemuir, about 16 miles N. On this the minister applied to the presbytery, who by their deed annexed Broughty and its pertinents for ever, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Monifieth. Had the Kirk-session records been fully consulted, it would have been found that Broughty was already annexed, not only *quoad sacra*, but *quoad temporalia*, to this parish; for there it is expressly said, that on December 12, 1658, Broughty among others paid for the reparation of the church. It follows not indeed always, that a place belongs to that parish for the reparation of whose church it pays. It seems, however, an acknowledgment of Broughty's belonging to Monifieth parish, that it paid for the reparation of the church there. For had there been any evidence that Broughty belonged not to this parish, Mr Webster, its proprietor, when called on, would surely have been able to produce it, and not have founded his opinion wholly on tradition.

digy. From the year 1547 to 1550, it was the scene of deeds not unworthy to mention, and which are connected with events that form a striking æra in history.

On the death of James V. of Scotland, Henry VIII. of England, to save that blood and treasure which were expended in defence of either nation, sought to unite the two neighbouring kingdoms, by the marriage of his young son Edward, to Mary, the infant Queen of Scots. To this measure all that nation had sworn agreement: But, incited by Cardinal Beaton and the Queen Dowager, who dreaded the downfall of the Popish religion, by an union with a heretical nation, they were prevailed on basely to break their oath. To enforce acquiescence, Henry arose in his might, and at his death the cause was espoused by Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, who was elected Protector of the kingdom during the minority of Edward his nephew. Moving along the eastern coast of Scotland with a numerous army, which was seconded by a powerful fleet, on Saturday, September 10. 1547, he met the 30,000 Scots under the conduct of the Earl of Arran, Regent of the kingdom, on the west of the river Esk, near Muffelburgh, and discomfited them with great slaughter; but was soon after, by reason of the advanced season of the year, and intelligence he received of designs forming against him in England, forced to return thither, without completely prosecuting his victory. Immediately on this his fleet, besides the fortresses on the isles in the æstuary of the Forth, seized this of Broughty, and filled it with an English force\*.

*Ancient*

\* As the Duke of Somerset departed with his army by the east of Scotland, the Earl of Lennox, who had received a disgust in the court of that kingdom, and had been honoured with the alliance of Henry VIII. entered by the west. His presence spread terror and dismay, and none met  
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*Ancient state of rivulets, roads and bills, &c.*—From time immemorial the rivulets and river above mentioned have run in their present channels; but of late the roads in this parish have undergone considerable alteration. Within the last twelve years, the road from Dundee to Brechin has been made wider and straighter. Within twice that number of years, the old road from Dundee to Arbroath was formed; and the new turnpike road is yet scarcely finished. Within the last 50 years, no trees shaded any hill in the

but to do him homage. The heart of Arran, the regent, which was never intrepid, now shrunk within him. To conceal his fear, however, he collected the scattered remains of his ensuebled host, and, from the western parts of Scotland, where he had taken refuge after the unfortunate action at Muffelburgh, marched by Perth and Dundee to blockade the castle of Broughty. After having lain before it from the 1st of October 1547 to the 1st of January 1548, he departed from the siege with the loss of one of his best generals, and with that of all his ordnance, lamenting his doom to perpetual misfortune. Inspired with this success, the English fortified the hill of Balgillo, about half a mile northward, and, notwithstanding the active exertions of James Haliburton, provost of Dundee, with a hundred horse, and of Sir Robert Maule, in his castle of Panmure, about six miles northeastward, and about half a mile east from the present beautiful seat of that family, in the parish of Panbride, laid waste Dundee, and most of the county of Angus. With rage the Earl of Argyll heard the report. He collected his valiant clans, and, indignant, marched to Broughty; but felt the mortification of repulse. Not long after, a similar fate awaited three regiments of French, commanded by D'Esse, and as many regiments of Germans, commanded by one of their own princes. At last dissensions at home, and war with the French abroad, engaged the whole attention of the English. Provisions, arms, and ammunition, ceased to be regularly sent to their garrisons in Broughty, and the fort of Balgillo; and thus, on February 20, 1550, they fell an easy prey into the hands of the allied army of Scots, Germans, and French, commanded by Des Thermes, the successor of D'Esse. Both fortresses were then dismantled; and though they have been more than once repaired and fortified, yet history describes them as the scene of no action which merits record. At present, there are only a few vestiges of fortification to be seen on the hill of Balgillo; and Broughty castle is fast wasting down to ruin.

the parish, as at present they shade several; and within the same period, the extensive and beautiful plantations around the two seats Fintry and Grange were reared. The house of Fintry stands where the Dighty enters the parish, and is a modern elegant mansion. Nearly where the Dighty falls into the estuary, stands the house of Grange, which displays marks of ancient magnificence.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1421. In this parish there are at present 1218 persons of all ages. Of these 620 are males, and 598 females. There are 246 families, of which 233 belong to persons who have been married, and 13 to persons who were never married. Below the age of five, there are 136; between 5 and 10, 183; between 10 and 20, 223; between 20 and 30, 251; between 30 and 40, 132; between 40 and 50, 136; between 50 and 60, 86; between 60 and 70, 53; between 70 and 80, 15; between 80 and 90, 3. The three villages of the parish are thus peopled: In the village of Drumsturdy-moor, there are 132, *viz.* 70 males and 62 females; in that of Monifieth, 175, *viz.* 84 males and 91 females; and in that of the East Ferry, 230, *viz.* 114 males and 116 females. Of late years there have been annually married 12, been born 39, and died 18. The great inequality of deaths to births, seems to arise from this: Many inhabitants of this parish early in life settle in Dundee; many go aboard merchantmen, may perish by the dangers of the sea, or be impressed into ships of war, and perish by the hands of the enemy\*.

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*Agriculture.*

\* The parish appears at no former period to have been much more populous than at present. About the year 1660, the annual average of marriages was 5; of births 26; and of deaths 14: So that whether a calculation be made from the marriages, births, or deaths, the increase in population

*Agriculture.*—The subsistence of the people is chiefly by agriculture. Of the 3710 acres of which the parish may consist, 140 may be supposed in plantation, 400 in links, and 170 otherwise unarable. Of the remaining 3000 acres, the one half may be supposed in fallow, pasture, and green crops. Of the other half, nearly 100 may be supposed in wheat, and the rest equally divided into oats and barley. Here the farms are generally extensive. There are ten farms that rent between L. 99 and L. 200; two between L. 200 and L. 300; one between L. 300 and L. 400; one between L. 400 and L. 500; and one between L. 600 and L. 700. Below L. 99 of rent, there is no ground possessed by any farmer, properly so called. The other possessors of land are the 46 pendiclers, who are generally tradesmen, and hold a few acres of a proprietor; and the forty-two cottagers, who have each a house and an acre or two from a tenant. Here the means of improving land are embraced, and their good effects are visible. Sea-weed cannot be found in sufficient quantity on that part of the coast which belongs to this parish, to be of use as a manure. Marl also lies at too great a distance, as well as the dung of Dundee, much to profit the farmer. There is, however, abundance of lime brought from the south of Fife, and from north and south Sunderland, in England, which is landed

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tion must have been considerable. If a calculation be made from the births, the parish will be found to have increased in number 406, which is precisely one-third of its present inhabitants. From the period now mentioned to the present time, the increase in population has been gradual. About the year 1750, indeed, the annual average of births was 44; but that of marriages was only 9; and of deaths 15. Some years before 1750, a malignant fever had raged, which sent many to their graves. The extraordinary number of births in the years which immediately followed, only filled up the breaches the fever had made. About the year 1760, the annual average of births was only 35, and that of deaths was 18. The marriages are omitted in the record.

at the villages of Monifieth and the East Ferry; and of which about 6000 bolls of Winchester measure may be annually used in this parish as a manure. The crops in the lower part of the parish are very liberal; but those in the upper part are less productive. The time of sowing and reaping in the lower part, is much the same as in the east of the Cars of Gowrie, or the centre of Strathmore; but in the upper part is latter. Though a considerable quantity of grain be yearly exported from the villages of Monifieth and the East Ferry, yet its price is regulated by the market at Dundee.

*Cattle.*—Besides a considerable number of cattle fed on common pasture, there are between 300 and 400 fattened every summer in grass enclosures, and about a fifth part of that number fattened by turnips in winter. A few sheep pasture part of the links.

Within the last 50 years, the agriculture of the parish has been much improved. It ought not to be omitted, that this was entirely owing to Mr Hunter, then proprietor of Grange, a gentleman whose name deserves to be recorded. Some years before 1750, he, first of this parish, began to enclose land, and between the years 1750 and 1752, to use lime as a manure. In the year 1753, he introduced the culture of turnips, and in the year following, that of potatoes. By fallow, dung and lime he prepared his grounds for the crop, and he sowed them at the proper season with grass-seeds. Now had his fields begun to assume a fairer surface and a softer mould; but still their displeasing form remained. The ridges were wide at one end, narrow at the other, and bent in various curvatures. They were soon rendered regular and straight. His fields lay beside the road to the parish church, and the parishioners, as they passed, beheld their beauty and fertility with wonder.

What



What they beheld they imitated, and many soon saw with satisfaction their own fields covered with a similar beauty and fertility. The old Scottish ploughs were dismissed apace; and at present there is not one in the parish. The old Scottish plough improved, however, continues in general use. A few of Small's newly invented make, have been introduced, but are found to succeed only in lands that are level and free from incumbrance. There is but one thrashing machine in the parish, used on the largest farm. The other farmers employ men to thrash out their grain, called lot-men, who generally reside in the neighbourhood, and receive as wages the twenty-fifth boll of grain they thrash out, with breakfast, and a small allowance for dinner.

None can ever hope to see the agriculture of this parish increased, but by a very small part of the links. They must either be allowed to remain, as at present, in pasture; or be planted with trees. If they were planted, the roots of the trees would harden the soil, and prevent the encroachment of the sea. An extensive clump of firs planted in the links of the neighbouring parish of Barrie has thriven well. If some plan of this sort be not adopted, the period perhaps, is not distant, when they will all be again completely inundated. From the links between the light-house and the village of Monifieth, (a space of about 2 miles,) within the last 40 years, the sea has plundered upwards of 50 acres.

*Fisheries.*—The fisheries of this parish are inconsiderable. The salmon fishings pay a yearly rent of no more than L. 130. Fifteen years ago, before any were sent from this parish to London, they were sold in the adjacent villages, and in Dundee at 1½ d. the lb. Since that period, a pound of salmon has not been sold under 4 d. At first sight, it  
would

would be thought beneficial to the salmon fishing, if a method could be invented, by which the porpoises, or *Gair fish* as they are called, which devour so many salmon, might be destroyed. But it is to be considered, that the fear of the porpoises forces the salmon nearer to land than they would otherwise be willing to come. If the porpoises were destroyed, the salmon would be safer; but the fisher would catch less in his net.

About 10 years ago, the white fishing on this coast began to decline. Soon after, the haddocks, which were caught in the greatest abundance, totally left the coast. While they remained, they chiefly had given constant employment to 3 large boats belonging to this parish, which earned annually, at an average, L. 100 each. The 3 boats are still retained, and frequent their old fishing grounds; but as they seldom catch any other kinds of fish than some eod and ling, or when any other kinds chance to be caught, as it is in small quantity, they afford a very scanty and precarious subsistence. Whether the haddocks were banished by lack of proper food, or pursued by some voracious enemy, it is the less important to inquire; as they have now begun, in small quantities, to revisit our coasts. A few small shell fish might be found within the bounds of this parish, if one were at pains to gather them. Lobsters and crabs are caught in their greatest perfection on this coast, in the parishes of Panbride and St Vigeans.

*Manufactures.*—There is little in this parish which deserves the name of manufacture. There are only 38 weavers, who, as they at one time weave osnaburghs, and at another time household cloth, and are scattered over the parish, the quantity of cloth which they weave cannot easily be ascertained. But it must be very inconsiderable, as several of them occupy a few acres of land, which requires

quires a portion of their time. There is an oil mill on the Dighty, which annually extracts oil from 800 bolls of lint-feed. A small quantity of oil only is used in the neighbourhood, and is sold at 1 s. 3 d. a Scotch pint. The rest is sent to London. A small quantity of oil dust also is sold in the neighbourhood between 6 d. and 8 d. a stone Avoirdupois, and is used in spring, before the rising of the grass, to increase the milk of cows, and to assist in fostering calves. The rest made up in cakes about 18 inches long, 5 broad, and 1½ inch thick, are put into casks and sent to England, up the river Humber in Yorkshire, to fatten cattle. But though there be little in this parish which deserves the name of manufacture, yet it is well stored with those who furnish the necessaries and conveniences of life. Besides the 38 weavers and 2 oil-millers, there are 3 corn and 7 flax millers, 1 fuller, 3 flax-dressers, 4 gardeners, 10 tailors, 20 shoemakers, 9 blacksmiths, 8 masons, 13 wrights, 2 bakers, 3 brewers of ale, 9 sellers of drink, and 5 sellers of small wares. Beside the oil mill, there is on the Dighty a corn and fulling mill, together with a thread mill belonging to a manufactory in Dundee. The Dighty, in its progress through this parish, affords many fine falls of water, on which machinery might be erected, and by which manufactures might be greatly improved.

*Rent, &c.*—The present rent of the parish may be estimated at L. 3832 : 2 : 9. In the year 1656, during the usurpation of Cromwell, when the lands of the different counties in Scotland were valued for the purpose of taxation, the rent of this parish was precisely L. 457 : 13 : 9<sup>11</sup>; which is less than an eighth part of the present rent\*.

*Peor.*

\* The prices of provisions, of the implements of husbandry, and of labour are high. The price of 1 lib. butter, 10 d.; 1 lib. cheese, 3 d.;  
1 lib.

*Poor* —The charity which this parish gives to the poor, is a branch of expenditure which does it honour. There is collected in the church every Sabbath throughout the year at an average 7 s. 3 d. exclusive of the larger sums collected at the time of the celebration of the sacrament. These collections, and a considerable sum arising from money at interest, with the lending of a hearse and mortcloths, and the letting some seats in the church, more than amply supply the necessities of the 12 poor of late years commonly on the list, and of the two which the general dearth of last year has added \*. Before the year 1678, several sums had been

1 lib. salmon, 6 d. ; a hen, 1 s. 3 d. ; dozen eggs, 7 d. The price of a pair of horses is L. 52, 10 s. ; harness, L. 3. 3 s. ; a cart, L. 10, 10 s. ; a plough, L. 2, 2 s. ; a pair of harrows, L. 1, 1 s. The wages of a male servant a-year, are L. 10 ; a female servant a-year, L. 4 ; a male reaper, L. 1. 4 s. ; a female reaper, L. 1 ; a labourer a-day without board, 2 s. 3 d. The prices of provisions, implements of husbandry, and labour, have much increased within the last 40 years. At the commencement of that period, the price of 1 lib. butter was 4½ d. 1 lib. cheese, 1½ d. ; 1 lib. salmon, 1½ d. ; a hen, 4 d. ; a dozen eggs, 1 d. The price of a pair of horses was L. 10 ; harness, 5 s. ; cart, 10 s. ; a plough, 9 s. ; a pair of harrows, 1 s. The wages of a male servant a-year, were L. 2, 2 s. ; a female-servant a-year, L. 1, 6 s. ; a male reaper 11 s. 6 d. ; a female reaper, 10 s. ; a labourer a-day without board, 6 d.

\* In the year 1578, the usual collection on Sabbaths was ½ d. ; and on June 29. the same year, the fund of the poor amounted to no more than 6 ½ d. These days afforded small provision for the present exigence of the poor, and laid up little in store against the season of uncommon need. The cottagers gave to the masters of whom they held their little hovels, all the children they needed as servants. The rest found it often vain to apply to a trade, for almost every man was his own tradesman. Away, therefore, they were sent by the cravings of hunger, to beg that bread which they could not earn, and the poor preyed on the poor. Before 1651, the times seem to have grown better ; for the usual collection on Sabbaths that year was 4½ d. ; and on Sabbath November 23, the parishioners were able to collect L. 2, 5 s. for the support of their brethren in the

been bequeathed to the kirk-session for the benefit of the poor; and the usual collections on the Sabbaths had risen to 8 d. an increase of precisely 12 times in the space of a century; from that to the present year 1793, the weekly collection has increased nearly 11 times. The charity which the parish thus gives to the poor, is no doubt owing in a great measure to its increased opulence. It will not be supposed, however repugnant to their liberality, that in common with many other parishes, they enjoy that useful instruction which a church and two schools may be expected to communicate.

*Church, Stipend, Heritors, &c.*—The church, which is situated at the village of Monifieth, is an ancient building; but the period of its construction is unknown. It must have been built before the æra of the Reformation, as on the E. end of it is a quire, in which mass, in the days of Popery, was wont to be celebrated\*. The church-living, including

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the prison of Dundee, who had been taken captive by the English army under General Monk, as they passed through this parish to the siege of that city, and which sum Mr John Barclay, the minister, and another gentleman, were commissioned to carry.

\* Tradition relates, that there were once at the same time four chapels in the parish; one at the East Ferry, where there is still a burying-place; a second on the banks of the Dighty, at the Mill of Balmossie, the foundation-stones of which were dug up by the present farmer; a third on that spot in the land Ethiebealin, which is still called Chapel Dokie; and the fourth at Monifieth. The chapel at Monifieth, it is said, being found likely to endure the longest, was made, as it continues at present, the parish church, and the rest were shut, and suffered to decay; but when this happened, tradition is altogether silent. Before the Reformation, Monifieth was annexed to the diocese of St Andrew's. In 1560, when Presbyterianism was first established in Scotland, its superintendant was appointed to reside in Brechin. After 1606, it belonged to the Presbytery of Dundee, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. °

56 bolls of meal, 56 bolls of barley, 8 bolls of wheat, L. 45 : 6 : 8, a manse, garden, and offices, 4 acres of glebe, and a right of pasturage, may be estimated at L. 147 a-year. The Hon. Mr Maule of Panmure is patron. Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, Baronet, is the principal heritor. Besides these two gentlemen, there are seven others who are heritors. None of the heritors are resident.

*Schools.*—Of the two schools, one is parochial. Its salary of L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , the school-house and garden, the emoluments arising from proclamations and baptisms, L. 2 for the office of clerk to the kirk-session, and the fees, for teaching 50 scholars, may yearly amount to L. 40. Here was Mr William Craighead, for several years schoolmaster, a man whose treatise on arithmetic is not wholly unknown to the lovers of that science, and who died in 1763. The other school was founded by the generosity of Sir Alexander Ramsay in 1782, for the benefit of the upper part of the parish. He has endowed it with 2 acres of land, and a garden rent free, besides an annuity of 2 bolls of meal; 20 s. are given by the kirk-session to the teacher, and these emoluments, with the fees for 20 scholars, may be worth L. 15 a-year.

*Character of the People, &c.*—As their situation is so salubrious, that multitudes resort every summer to the villages of the East and West Ferry for the benefit of sea-bathing; as the employments of few are sedentary; as the ground is no where marshy; as the access to coals is easy; they are generally healthy. But it is of more importance to characterize the minds than the bodies of a people; it is of more importance to be told, that within the last 80 or 90 years, this parish has increased as much in religion and

morals, as in the arts of life. The kirk-session register informs us, that from 1676 to 1710, a period of 34 years, during the ministry of Mr John Dempster, the last Episcopal clergyman at Monifieth, and from whom the present Mr Dempster of Dunnichen, so well known for his patriotism is descended, the strictest church discipline was observed. From among the numerous proprietors, who then shared the lands of the parish, but whose race have all long since left the possessions of their fathers, and are gone, he selected seven elders to watch over the morals of the people, and the same number of deacons from among the tenantry, to watch over the state of the poor. Great was then the need for inspecting parochial conduct. Little regard was paid to the Sabbaths. On these days some were occasionally convicted of having fished with the rod or the net. Scarcely was there a Sabbath on which some delinquent was not justly and publicly reprov'd; and it was seen necessary, after public worship was finished, to send a committee of the kirk-session to perustrate the inns of the parish. By degrees decency and devotion began to reign. The pious exhortations and worthy example of Mr Dempster and his kirk-session were long remembered and imitated, after death had stilled their voices, and withdrawn their presence. At this day the parishioners attend the church with the utmost regularity and graveness of deportment; and they are extremely steady in their religious principles. About two years ago, the sects called Burgher and Antiburgher built each a conventicle in this vicinity; but they are thinly attended, and have not been able to gain over from this parish more profelytes than 20, of whom 15 are Burghers, and 5 Antiburghers. There are only two other sectaries in the parish, the one an Independent, and the other a Methodist. But the inhabitants of this parish are not only regular and decent  
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in their attendance on church, steady in their religious principles, but distinguished for their industry and sobriety. Successful diligence has given to several the blessings of moderate wealth ; and laborious exertion has been able to banish from the dwellings of all, save the 14 poor on the fund, the wretchedness of abject poverty. Since the beginning of the present century, none in this parish has deprived himself of life, been deprived of it by the law, or been doomed to exile.

N U M.



## NUMBER XXXI.

UNITED PARISHES OF ST MARTIN'S  
AND CAMBUSMICHAEL,(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,  
PRESBYTERY OF PERTH).*By the Rev. Mr DAVID BANNERMAN.**Name, Extent, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THESE two parishes were united above 100 years ago, and take their names from the two faints to whom they were dedicated. *Cambus* in the Gaelic language, signifies a low plain, and is descriptive of the situation of the old parish church of Cambusmichael, as it lies in a plain on the banks of the Tay. The ruins of the church of Cambusmichael still remain, but the name of that parish is lost in that of St Martin's, which now forms the designation of both parishes. It extends from the banks of the Tay, about 4 miles to the East, forming an oblong square, scarcely a mile in breadth. It is situated about 5 miles N. from the town of Perth, and 7 W. from Cupar of Angus. This parish lies considerably elevated above the Tay; and though the grounds are not hilly, they are pretty

pretty much diversified by ascents and declivities, covered in many places by plantations of Scotch firs, besides several coppice woods on the banks of the Tay. The soil in general is a black mould with a till bottom, seems originally to have been taken from moor, but is now mostly all cultivated and improved. The grounds near the banks of the river are better, and have a gravelly bottom. The climate is good, and the air salubrious. The inhabitants in general live to an advanced old age. Consumptions and rheumatisms, seem to be the most prevalent diseases of the country people, and arise probably from the dampness of their houses, and the scarcity of fuel, having little else but coals, which they must bring from Perth.

*Rivers, Hills, Minerals.*—There are several rivulets in the parish, which are serviceable for corn and lint mills, but no rivers of any importance, except the Tay which bounds it on the West, and is valuable for its salmon-fishings. There are no public ferries on the river in this parish. There are no hills of any note here; nor are there any minerals worth mentioning, except limestone and rock marl, near the banks of the Tay. Freestone quarries are found almost every where through the parish.

*Antiquities.*—There are plain vestiges of a Roman road leading from Bertha through a part of this parish, and running eastward past Berry hills, Dritchmuir, and Byres, towards the parish of Cargill. Several Druidical temples are observable, but no tumuli.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755 was 1083; of whom 4 were Papists. About 30 years ago there were 800 examinable persons above 10 years of age in this parish, and the population

tion has not increased since that period, owing to the demolition of several villages occupied by many little pendiclers, who had their lands run-rig, which are now let to fewer tenants, in larger farms, and which has tended much, if not to the increase of the population, certainly to the improvement of the country. There are in the parish about 200 weavers, 12 carpenters, 3 smiths, 20 masons, 12 tailors, 6 shoemakers, & good many employed about the 3 corn and lint mills, and the remainder occupied in the purposes of agriculture. The average number for 4 years preceding this date, of baptisms is 26; and of marriages for the same period is 10. No register of deaths is kept.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—There are 9 heritors, of whom only 3 are resident in the parish. The valued rent is L. 3268, 17s. Scotch. The real rent about 30 years ago was L. 10514, 14 s. 4 d. Scots, but is now at least tripled, by the great improvements made upon his estate by Mr Macdonald of St Martin's, the principal heritor, who is employed in building a handsome mansion-house for his family. The rents are paid very punctually. The people are in a thriving condition, and in general very well lodged.

*Character of the People.*—They are generally decent, industrious, and humane, regular in their attendance on ordinances of religion, and much more showy in their dress, and expensive in their living, than they were 12 years ago. There are few or no dissenters of any denomination among them, and these only of the more ignorant and inferior classes. Upon the whole, they seem well contented with their different situations, and enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society.

*Stats*

*State of the Poor.*—There are at present 8 on the poor-list, besides several others that get occasional charity. They are supported by the daily collections, mortcloth and marriage money, by the interest of a stock of L. 200, and by the rent of the seats in the communion-tables, belonging to the kirk-session. The funds are managed by the heritors and kirk-session, and there has been no occasion for any assessment since the year 1782.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—The church of St Martin's is the only place of public worship in the parish. It was new built in 1776, and does credit to the heritors in being neatly fitted up for the accommodation of the parishioners. The stipend is 1000 pounds Scots, of which there are 44 bolls of victual valued at 6 pounds the boll, with 2 glebes, one at St Martin's of about 7 acres, the other at Cambus-michael of about 4 acres. The manse at St Martin's was built in the year 1792, and is a large commodious house. The present incumbent was presented by the Crown. Lord Stormont is thought to have the Vice patronage.

*School.*—There is one parochial school in the parish. The schoolmaster has 100 pounds Scotch of salary, with a free house, school-house and garden. The school is well attended. There are also two private schools, in the distant parts of the parish. The children are taught to read, write, and cypher. Some of them learn the elements of the Latin language, and all of them are taught the first principles of religion. The schoolmaster is also session-clerk, with a small salary.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The parish produces wheat, barley, oats, and pease; and flax is cultivated in such considerable quantity, that no family, and scarce any servant, wants a  
I share

share of that useful commodity. Agriculture is much improved of late years here, and grass seeds, turnips, and potatoes are generally cultivated by the farmers. Lime brought from Perth is the manure made use of. There are a good many enclosures in the parish. Carts, ploughs, and other labouring utensils, are made after the most approved models. The labour is performed entirely by horses, and few cattle of any kind are reared, excepting some cows. Our best arable grounds rent at about 25 s. the acre, inferior or outfield at 10 s. We have some farms rented at L. 100, but the general average rent is from L. 20 to L. 30. The number of farms is diminishing, as the proprietors are finding their advantage in abolishing pendicles, and converting them into larger farms. The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but disposes of a considerable quantity of grain, particularly barley, to the breweries and distilleries about Perth. About 20 years ago there was scarcely any wheat, now we have about 40 or 50 acres yearly. Wheat is generally sown in September, and reaped in September following. Oats are sown in March, and reaped in September. Barley is sown in May, and reaped in the end of August. Flax is sown in May, and reaped in August.

*Roads.*—The turnpike road from Perth to Cupar of Angus, passes through the south side of this parish; and there is another turnpike road in contemplation from Perth to Blairgowrie, which is to pass through the west end of the parish. Turnpike roads are now, contrary to former prejudice, looked on by the country people, as a very great advantage to trade and agriculture. The statute labour is commuted, and is now employed on the cross roads, to much greater advantage than when it was exacted in kind.

*Price*

*Price of Labour.*—A day-labourer has generally 1s. a-day, without victuals, but in harvest he has at least 1s. with victuals. Masons earn from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a-day; carpenters 1s. 6d; tailors 1s; weavers from 1s. 6d. to 2s. A labouring man-servant, qualified to hold the plough, gets from L. 9 to L. 12 a-year, besides his victuals. Female servants from L. 3 to L. 4.

*Manufactures.*—The great manufacture of this parish is flax, which in raising, spinning, weaving, and bleaching it, occupies the labour of a considerable number of the inhabitants.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Its vicinity to Perth, seems to be the principal advantage which this parish enjoys; and want of fuel the greatest disadvantage under which it labours.

The following account of the parish of St Martin's, drawn up in 1711, was sent to Sir John Sinclair, by Dr WILLIAM WRIGHT of Register Street. Though it does not contain any information of much importance, yet it is thought proper to preserve it in this publication, as a specimen of one of the most ancient parochial accounts now extant.

The Paroch of Saint Martines lies in the Shire and Presbytrie of Perth.

There are two united paroches, Campsmichael in the Diocess of St Andrew's, a church belonging to the Abbacy of Scone, where there is another little chapple beside the church in the same church-yard, both now ruinous. And the church of St Martines, where the cure is only now served, lying within the Diocess of Dunkelden, being a menial church of the Abbey of Haly-rood-house. The King is patron of Campsmichael paroch, and the Viscount of Stormonth is titular of the tithes there. The bishop of Edinburgh is titular of the tithes of St Martines, and patron of that church. The stipend amounts to four chalders of victual, two part meal; and third part bear, with four hundred pounds Scots, in money. And for the small viccarage tithes, which are valued, together with fifty merks for the communion-elements, with two glebs and a manse.

The

The ministers successively since the Reformation were first, Thomas Strachan, a son of the Laird of Thorntoath's in the Mearns, chief of that name, who before had been a monk in the Abbey of Scoon, and after became minister of the saids paroches, and preached *per vias* in the saids churches, and died minister there.

To him succeeded Mr John Strachan his son, who was famous for his skill in physick, and who died minister there.

After him succeeded Mr Thomas Strachan his son, who after his return from his travels, when he had waited upon the Earl of Kinnowel, his son as his governour for the space of three yeares, became conjunct with his father, and died minister there, in the year 1671.

After him succeeded Mr Patrick Strachan professor of Philolophy, first in the old town College of Aberdeen, and afterwards in the old College of St Andrew's, a man very famous for his learning; he died there minister also. Afterwards succeeded Mr James Inglis, who after he had served sometime there, was deposed by the bishop of Dunkelden for erroneous doctrine, and immoralities in his life. To him succeeded Mr Thomas Strachan, son to the above-named Mr Thomas Strachan, who had been minister there, where he continued till the Revolution, and was deprived by the Scots council, in the year 1688, when the Episcopal church was overturned and destroyed. After this, the foresaid Mr James Inglis, notwithstanding of his deposition, without any call, turned Presbyterian, and took possession of the said church, from which he was afterward transported to Burnt Island in Fife, and in a litle deposed by the Presbyterians themselves. And then to him succeeded Mr George Jamison, who was deposed for adultery, by the Synod of Stirling, in the year 1710.

There are no mortifications in the saids paroches, and the schoolmaster has only one hundred merks by a voluntary condescension of the heretors settled on him.

The most considerable heretors, are, the Viscount of Stormonth, Sir Lawrence Mercer of Ady, Mr John Balnaves of Friartown, Mr James Murray of Inchmurray, John Mitchel of Byres, who have all good mannor houses, especially Ady, Inchmurray, and Byres, who have likewise their burial places in the said two churches.

The house of Inchmurry, formerly called Kirkland, was built of old by the Abbot of Halyroodhouse for his accommodation when he came to that countrie, and was formerly the minister's mans, till afterwards, that house and a gleeb he had adjacent thereto, were exchanged for a gleeb and a piece of ground to build a mans upon, by an excambion made betwixt James Hay of Kirkland, and Mr John Strachan, formerly mentioned, minister there.

## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF KILTARLITY,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF MURRAY, PRESBY-  
TERY OF INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN FRASER.

*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**K**ILTARLITY consists of two united parishes, Convent or Conveth and Kiltarlity; but how early these parishes have been united, is not known. Convent or Conveth is a vicarage, depending on the priory of Beaully. Conveth, (in Gaelic *Conn-Cheatbach*, a ravenous animal), has, according to tradition, received its name from some extraordinary reptile or serpent, which infested this district, and had proved fatal to some of the inhabitants. But from some old records in this country, it appears, that there was originally a convent in this parish, or small glen; and therefore it is much more probable that it got the name of Glenconvent, or parish of Convent, from this circumstance. Kiltarlity is a parsonage dedicated to St Thalargus. *Kil*, in Latin *Cella*, originally meant the cell or place appropriated



ated to the worship of a faint. But as there was always a small portion of ground around such a place of worship, which was considered as consecrated, and used for burying those who died in the peace of the church, the word *kil* or *cille* came in process of time to signify a burial-place, which is now the common meaning of the word in the Gaelic language \*.

From the various windings of the road passing through Kiltarlity, this parish, in the line of the road, is upwards of 40 miles long; but in a straight line, it is at least 30 measured miles from the N. E. to the N. W. At an average, it is supposed to be at least 6 miles broad: thus containing 180 square miles, or 91,638 Scotch acres. Of this extent, there may probably be a 30th part arable, or 3054 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres, all under corn and potatoes, excepting a few acres under turnip and sown grass. The same number of acres, or rather more, may be under meadow-grass. The remainder is under wood and heath. The church and manse are situated within three measured miles of the east end of the parish. Eastward of the church, the north side of the parish is pretty level; but the south side is high ground, mostly covered with wood and heath, excepting a small piece of cultivated ground, called Clunes, signifying, in Gaelic, the gradual declivity of a hill, and possessed at present by about 12 small tenants. Clunes is near the very height of the ground, with a south exposure. To the west of the manse, the parish is intersected by 4 small burns, which run from the S. S. W. and W. so that this part of the parish is divided into 4 different ridges; three  
three

\* I suppose Cille to be derived from the Latin, Cella, after the introduction of Christianity into this country, and that the Latin term Cella is derived from the Gaelic word Cuile, signifying a corner, or place of retirement.

three of them lying between these burns, and the fourth between one of these rivulets and the river Beauly, which bounds the parish here on the N. W. These ridges gradually ascend for near two miles; and near the very summit of the whole four, there is at present some cultivated ground\*. Of the foresaid burns, that of Belladrum lies farthest to the south; and on this burn, about a measured mile due south of the church, is situated the small beautiful glen, called Glen-convent, or parish of Convent or Con-venth. A gentle declivity on the north side of this glen is covered with birch, alder, hazel, and some planted firs. Small spots of cultivated ground are interspersed through the birch wood, which forms a beautiful landscape. In this glen is some excellent pasture for cattle. The lower part of this narrow strath is a good rich deep soil; what lies higher is a light thin sharp soil; and in favourable seasons produces very good crops of Scotch bear and oats. To the south of this glen lies the place of Cuddierash, which is the highest ground in culture in all this country; south-east of the same glen lies Caplach, signifying in Gaelic a moss, covered with brushwood. In this place, which is detached from the rest of the parish, there is a considerable number of families; and as it is at the distance of about 3 miles of very bad road, from the parochial school, it seems to be a very proper station for a society-school. There is a davoch  
of

\* But these ridges seem to have been wholly cultivated in some former period, though now covered with short heath, and very barren; for here one sees many hundred heaps or small cairns of stones, placed irregularly over the whole ground. These are unquestionably the stones which our forefathers took out of these barren moors in cultivating them. When the neighbouring low grounds were wholly covered with wood, and infested by the wolf, and British tiger, or wild cat, our progenitors lived by hunting, and by cultivating small portions of the higher grounds. The present inhabitants, of the higher parts of this parish, throw the stones they take out of their fields in irregular heaps over them, in the very same form with those described in these barren moors.

of land belonging to this parish, about 7 measured miles to the W. of the church, on the N. side of the river Beauly, called the Davoch of Erchless, where the chief of the Chisholms has his seat. This Davoch almost intersects the neighbouring parish of Kilmorack. The farm round the Chisholm's seat lies well, and is supposed to be one of the most fertile spots in the parish. Erchless, in Gaelic Earghlais, the name of the Chisholm's seat, signifies a piece of ground, forming the segment of a circle, situated by the river Glas. Above the place of Erchless, the river Farrar, coming from the N. W. falls into the river Glas, which runs from the S. W. The land lying on both sides of the river Glas forms Strath-glas, or the Chisholm's lands. The south side of said river only belongs to this parish. In this Strath there is not much corn raised; but there is a great deal of good pasture for black cattle, sheep, and goats. What lies of the parish to the south of Strath-glas, is very high ground, all covered with heath, and only fit for pasturing sheep and goats.

*Climate.*—The climate is reckoned very salubrious. There is much less rain in the lower end of this parish than in Strath-glas: For on the east end of the parish the Strath on both sides of the Beauly is about 3 or 4 miles broad; so that this part of the country lies at some distance from the neighbouring high mountains. Thus the clouds that break on the Strath-glas mountains, and fall down in heavy showers in this narrow valley, are often spent before they come to the lower end of the parish. But the inhabitants of Strath-glas seem to be fully as healthy as any people in the parish\*.

*Hills,*

\* The most prevalent diseases are inflammatory fevers, coughs, asthmas, dysenteries, and rheumatisms, owing chiefly to cold. There have been several  
several

*Hills, Rocks, Rivers, Lochs.*—By far the greatest part of this parish consists of mountains and rugged rocks. But our mountains are not so high as in the neighbouring parish of Kilmorack. The greatest part of them afford pretty good pasture for sheep and goats. The principal rocks are those of Mayne, about 5 measured miles westward of the church, by the S. side of the river Beaully. Here are three farmer villages, consisting of a few houses, called East, West, and Mid Mayne\*. The principal river is that of Beaully, abounding with salmon, and different kinds of trout. The fishing of this river is let to a Company in Perth at L. 631 Sterling a-year. The salmon fetch on the spot 3 d. the lb.; some years ago they sold for 1 d. They are in season from February till the end of August. The Beaully is reckoned one of the best angling rivers in the north, or perhaps in Scotland. Some gentlemen in this neighbourhood have been known to fish with the rod on this river from 12 to 18 salmon in the course of 5 or 6 hours. About 2 measured miles N. W. of the church, there is a considerable fall on the Beaully, called the Red Linn. In the pool below this fall, at some seasons of the year, many hundred salmon are seen constantly attempting to get up the fall; and when the fish are in full vigour, they leap an  
amazing

several instances of people who died of bilious complaints, jaundice, and dropsy, for some years past. I judge this to be owing in a great measure to the quantity of spirits drunk by the common people of this parish, in their distilleries and dram-houses.

\* Mayne, in Gaelic, signifies a mine, or some metallic ore formerly discovered in the rocks of Mayne. If so, this discovery has been lost, as no mine of any kind has been found or wrought here in the memory of man; however, by a proper search, this mine might still be discovered, and perhaps prove a valuable acquisition to the proprietor.

amazing distance \*. Again, in attempting to get up the fall, some of the fish are driven back by the strength of the current, and thus fall partly in the pool below, and partly on the rock, which is almost level with the water on both sides of the pool. The country people formerly used to place some branches of trees on this rock, along the edge of the water, to prevent the fish which fell on the rock from getting again into the water, and by this simple contrivance frequently caught from 8 to 12 fish in a night †. A very small proportion of the fish of this river is sold in the country. In summer and autumn, the Beaully and Glas, by overflowing their banks, do much damage to the natural hay and corn growing by the sides of these rivers. Near Erchless, the Chisholm's feat, the river Farrar running from the N. W. falls into the Glas, and these two streams united form the Beaully. Five or six miles above Erchless, the river Cannich coming also from the N. W. falls into the Glas; and some miles above this, the water of Deathac, running from the S. W. joins the same river. On the Cannich and Glas, large logs of timber are float-  
ed

\* On this pool I have seen some of the neighbouring inhabitants fish, by standing on the rock above it, with a long pole. On one end of this pole are fixed three large hooks joined together, and turned back to back. The person who fishes with the pole, dips it in the pool, and after waiting for about half a minute, draws it up with a jerk, and generally hooks a fish by some part of his body.

† I am also informed, that the late Lord Lovat, by way of amusing himself on some occasions, caused a small boiler full of water to be placed over a fire on this rock, and that some of the fish, in attempting to get up the fall, being driven back by the current, fell often into the said boiler. A fish caught and boiled in this manner was sometimes served up to dinner; so that his Lordship often surprized strangers by telling them, that the fish now before them had leaped out of the Beaully into the very pot in which it was boiled; and bringing them sometimes to the spot, what he gave out was confirmed by ocular demonstration.

ed from the Chisholm's woods. All these rivers abound with trout and some salmon. The salmon are kept from getting up this length by the cruives on the Beauty, till the end of August, when the fishing stops, and the cruives are opened. Then thousands of them get up to these rivers to spawn, and not a few of them are at that time killed by the Strath-glas people, by fishing on the said rivers with spears and torches in the night time.—Among the hills that run along the S. side of the parish, which, for 25 miles in length, occupy more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the breadth, there are several moorlands, some of them of considerable extent, and about 9 or 10 small lakes of fresh water, situated in deep hollow glens between these hills. Eight of said lochs abound with different kinds of trout. The largest of these is loch Bruiach, with a small island in the middle of it, which lies about 3 measured miles S. W. of the church. It is about a mile and a half long, and near a mile broad. Four different kinds of black trout are found in it. It also abounds with a great number of the finest char found in any loch in Scotland. This fish is about the size of a herring, and called, in Gaelic, "tarr-dhiargan," or the "fish with the red belly." Loch Neattie lies within less than a mile N. W. of the former, and is about a measured mile long. In this loch is found a very black trout, from 10 inches to a foot long; it also abounds with very large pike. Loch Gorm lies  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles S. W. of Loch Bruiach; it is only about a mile in circumference, but the best fishing loch in the parish. It is replenished with a very fine white trout, about 10 inches long, but very thick in proportion, and highly delicious.

*Wood.*—There are upwards of 1200 acres under planted fir in this parish; four times as much, or 4800 acres under natural wood, as fir, oak, birch, alder, hazel, &c. Major

Frazer of Belladrum, one of the heritors, has been planting for upwards of 30 years past. He has successfully introduced most of the different trees planted for use or ornament in Great Britain. All his plantations are in a very thriving state, some of them of a considerable size, and fit for use. He was the very first person who introduced the *larix* into this North country. Many of his larches near his house are of a great size. This is found to be a very hardy tree, having this singular advantage, that it seems to advance faster than any other that has as yet been introduced into this country, and thrives almost in any soil, or in any situation, and its wood is supposed to be equally valuable with most other species of the pine for flooring, and some other uses.

*Birds, Beasts.*—We have all the land birds that are in the neighbouring parish of Kirkhill, and which have been formerly described, only this parish abounds much more with moor fowl and black game than Kirkhill. We have also some ptarmigans, though not in such numbers as they are to be found on the tops of the high mountains in the neighbouring parish of Kilmorack. In the higher parts of this parish a great number of ravens nestle among the rocks. The large blue hawk, about the size of a common hen, nestles in the rocks of Mayne. This is one of the most ravenous birds in this country: though not so strong as the eagle, it is much more fierce and agile; and when the eagle and this bird fight, the former is commonly worsted. We have also two different species of glede, or kite, which breed in this parish. The caperkaily, or king of the wood, said to be a species of wild turkey, was formerly a native of this parish, and bred in the woods of Strath-glas: one of these birds was killed about 50 or 60 years ago, in the churchyard of Kiltarlity.

Of

Of wild animals, hares are very numerous, owing to the abundance of cover they have among the woods, and in the broom, with which shrubs the lower end of this parish abounds. We have also many foxes, otters, and polecats; some mountain hares, and a few wild cats; the last are not so numerous now as formerly. The number of black cattle in these united parishes may be about 3016. They are of various sizes, but in general somewhat larger than the old highland breed. Some of the proprietors, and a gentleman farmer, have for some years past greatly improved their breed of cattle. Major Fraser of Belladrum is supposed to have the best breed of cows in this country; though not quite so large as the Fifeshire cattle, they are much hardier and handsomer; and when sold, commonly fetch from L. 6 to L. 9 Sterling each cow. The number of sheep may be about 5226. About 200 of these are of an excellent breed from England; 400 or 500 more are considerably larger than the common breed of this country: the rest are of the old Scotch sheep, small sized, with short wool. The number of goats is about 429. There were formerly many more sheep and goats in this parish than at present. Since the gentlemen have begun to enclose their grounds and to plant, sheep and goats have in a great measure been banished from the lower end of the parish. There may be about 719 horses of different sizes, but in general they are small.

*Population*—The return to Dr Webster, between 40 and 50 years ago, was 1964 souls, 402 of whom were Papists. By an exact survey in September 1793, the number of souls in these united parishes was 2495:

Males,



Males, -	1139	Catholick souls, -	486
Females, -	1356	Catholicks below 9,	153
Souls below the age of		Examinable Catholicks,	333
9, -	692	Catholick males below 9,	62
Persons above 9, or ex-		Females below the same	
aminable, -	1803	age, - -	91
Males below 9, -	336	Male Catholicks above	
Females below the same		9, or examinable,	147
age, -	356	Female ditto, -	186
Examinable males,	803	Families, or inhabited	
Examinable females,	1000	houses, -	562
Protestant souls, -	2009	Great farmers, inclu-	
Protestants below 9,	539	ding 5 proprietors, -	6
Ditto above 9, or exa-		Small tenants, -	202
minable, -	1470	Cottagers, among whom	
Male Protestants below		are included the dif-	
9, - -	274	ferent artificers, and	
Female ditto, -	265	merchants or chap-	
Protestant males, exa-		men, -	294
minable, -	656	Small crofters, paying	
Protestant families, dit-		from 5 s. to 30 s.	
to, -	814	rent, -	60

There are 392 married couples; 19 widowers; 99 widows; 167 male-servants; 177 female ditto; 12 tailors; 22 weavers; 7 wrights; 7 shoemakers; 7 millers; 10 smiths; 6 masons; 4 chapmen, or small merchants; 4 gardeners; 5 overseers; 3 drivers; 3 schoolmasters; 1 catechist; 2 students in divinity, tutors in two different families; and 13 apprentices to different trades. The reason for the great increase in the population of this parish, is principally the hill improvements that have been carried on within the said period. The gentlemen have greatly enlarged their own farms, while the small farmers that

that have been dispossessed, have remained as cottagers in the parish, or have built houses for themselves in the moors, and improved a small portion of ground called a croft, around their houses. Again some of the gentlemen having a taste for improvement, employ a number of day-labourers throughout the year, who crowd in to us from the neighbouring parishes\*.

*Proprietors and Rent.*—There are 6 proprietors, and 1 wadsetter, 4 of whom reside constantly, the other two occasionally in the parish. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2455, 15 s. Scots. The real rent may be about L. 2200 Sterling. The rent of land is various, from 5 s. to 20 s. the acre.

*Produce, Implements of Husbandry, Manure.*—The principal crops in this parish are oats, rye, Scotch bear, and some barley. The gentlemen raise turnip and some wheat in their enclosures, as also a little pease and beans. Some of them yearly lay down a considerable part of their farms in grass feeds and clover. The small tenants, crofters, and cottagers raise a considerable quantity of potatoes,

\* The average of births for the last 15 years is about 67½. But as the names of natural children have not till this year been inserted in the parish register, I suppose 3 may be added to the above number, which will make the average of births to be 70½, of these, 38 are males, and 32½ females. The proportion of examinable males to the females, is as 5 to 6½. The decrease of adult males is owing to their leaving the parish. Several young men go to the south of Scotland; some enlist in the army; a few go the West Indies, while the women remain. The average of marriages and of deaths cannot be so exactly ascertained, as no register of marriages has been kept, and there are 3 different burial places in this parish, and in these, some are buried from the neighbouring parishes of Kilmorack, Kirkhill and Inverness, as several from Kiltarlity and Convent bury in Kirkhill. The average of deaths may be about 34, of marriages from 16 to 18.

toes, on which they principally subsist, perhaps for three-fourths of the year. There is also some flax raised by the farmers for their own use. Major Frazer of Belladrum, one of the proprietors, has commonly upwards of an acre of ground annually under flax. This gentleman, by his superior skill in farming, his taste for improvements of various kinds, and his indefatigable activity and industry, has perhaps done more than most gentlemen in the N. to introduce a spirit of improvement and industry into this part of the country. By various improvements, he has considerably raised the value of his lands, which originally were but a poor subject. He has also upon his estate valuable plantations of forest trees of all kinds, oak, ash, elm, beech, plane, poplars of various kinds, mountain ash, some maple and service trees; also laryx, spruce, silver fir, New England pine, and the common Scotch fir, besides a number of other trees and shrubs for ornament, near his house and gardens, all planted by himself within these last 30 years. The Honourable Archibald Frazer of Lovat has also planted a great variety of forest trees since he has resided in the country; he has at present a valuable nursery, consisting of many hundred thousands of forest trees, which he means soon to transplant. Colonel Frazer of Bruiach, a gentleman farmer in this parish, has enclosed and subdivided the greatest part of his farm, partly with good stone fences, and partly with hedge and ditch. He has also planted some thousands of forest trees about his farm, which are at present a great ornament to this part of the country, and will in process of time, when they grow up, be a valuable acquisition to the proprietor\*.

The

\* Oats, rye and pease are sown the end of March, and beginning of April. Bear and barley, from the end of April to the end of May.

Flax,

The parish does not produce as much grain of every kind, as is sufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants. The common tenants make use of the old Scotch plough, some of them use it upon an improved plan. The gentlemen make use of the English and Lord Kames's plough with a chain. The number of ploughs in the whole parish may be about 214. Much less than half this number would be sufficient to turn up all our arable ground, were they properly employed. There are 376 carts, 40 coups or small waggons, and 361 sledges employed in the parish. About 50 years ago, there was not a wheel-carriage of any kind in the whole parish, Lord Lovat's coach excepted. At this period, even the gentlemen employed only sledges, in carrying home their peats, and in the other business of the farm. What manure was used was carried to their fields in *keallachs*, a creel in the form of a cone, with the base turned upwards, placed upon a sledge. Many of these keallachs are still used in the heights of the parish. There is a considerable number of fruit trees in this parish, which, with favourable seasons, are perhaps as productive, as in any part of this north country.

The principal proprietors have very good gardens. Lovat's principal garden measures about seven Scotch acres. It is fenced with a wall 18 feet high lined with brick. The wall is contrived to have a great variety of curves, so

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Flax, from the middle of April to the beginning of May. Turnip, from the middle of June to the middle of July, and a small quantity of wheat is sown from the 10th October to the 10th of November.

Harvest seldom begins before the month of September, and is generally finished before the end of October. In the heights of the parish, our harvests were formerly very late and precarious; but since the year 1783, early oats have been introduced into the higher parts of the parish, which has been of infinite service to the inhabitants, as their harvest is now almost as early as in the low grounds, and consequently not so precarious as in former times.

as to catch the heat of the sun in every direction. Through the middle of the garden runs a fine clear stream, which formerly had two Chinese bridges over it, and was replenished with fish. There is also a very large hot-house. But the rivulet passing through the garden, and the hot-house, have been out of repair for some years past. The wall of the garden, from its various curvatures, measures upwards of 800 yards, so that with favourable seasons, a considerable quantity of fine fruit is produced on wall-trees. There are besides a great number of good standard trees in this garden. On two standard apple-trees here, mistletoe grows, which is a very rare plant in this country. In our meadows and woods are produced almost all the plants found in the lower parts of Scotland, and there is scarcely an Alpine plant that is a native of this island, but is to be found in some of our high hills, or among our rugged rocks.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor.*—The situation of the present church is called, “Tom na Croiffe,” or “The hillock of the Cross;” about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre are enclosed round the church. This piece of ground has been planted by order of the late General Frazer with Scotch firs, interspersed with a few oaks, elms, and beeches. These trees have now almost eclipsed the church. Thus we worship God in a grove. The patron is Frazer of Lovat. The living consists of 48 bolls 1 firlot and 1 peck of barley, L. 217, 4 d. Scots, of money. The vicarage and grass-money, by a composition of the present incumbent’s predecessor in office, is L. 39 : 19 : 5 Sterling. The glebe is rather larger than the ordinary glebes in this country, but the soil is very thin and poor.—The emoluments of the parochial school are 18 bolls 1 firlot and 2 pecks of barley, 1 s. the quarter for every scholar taught to read, 1 s. 6 d. the quarter

ter for every scholar taught writing and arithmetick \*.— There is no fund for the poor of this parish, but the weekly collections, the hire of a mort-cloth, the rents of a few seats in church, and fines for immoralities; which may amount to L. 9 or L. 10 Sterling yearly. The number of poor on the roll is 45. The greater part of those on the roll can partly provide for themselves by their own labour; few of them beg from door to door. In the heights of this parish, and that of Kilmorack, a missionary paid by the Royal bounty officiates; he has 4 different places of preaching, some of them at a considerable distance from each other, so that this is a laborious charge †.

### Language.

\* No Latin or Greek is taught here, the schoolmaster being incapable of teaching these languages, which is a disadvantage to some of the inhabitants. As session-clerk and precentor, the schoolmaster receives L. 1, 13 s. 4 d. Sterling out of the session-box, besides 1 s. for every marriage, and 6 d. for every baptism. Two young men are presently employed by the Strath-glass tenants, to teach their children to read and write. Application is just now made by the Presbytery of Inverness to the Honourable Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, &c. and requesting some encouragement to a schoolmaster in this district. From the great extent of this parish, at least two Society schools would be absolutely necessary to accommodate the inhabitants.

† *Prices and Wages.*—The price of grain and provisions is much the same as in the neighbouring parish of Kirkhill, of which an account has been given. The price of grain and meal has been almost doubled within these last 40 years. Other articles of provision, as all flesh meat, and fish of every kind, have been more than doubled within the said period. Farm servants hired by the year receive from L. 3 to L. 5, 10 s. Sterling, and six bolls of meal, unless they board in the house. Female servants for the farm, from L. 1 to L. 2 Sterling. Household female servants of the first class from L. 2 to L. 3. Labourers hired by the day 8 d. without meat, or 6 d. with their meat. Most of our labourers have small crofts in the moors, for which they pay from 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. Sterling yearly, and if sober and industrious, they may support a wife and 4 or 5 children.

*Language.*—The language principally spoken in this parish is the Gaelic. In the heights of the parish, very few of the inhabitants understand any other language. But in the lower end of the parish, many of them being taught to read and write at school, can transact ordinary business in English, only they speak this language with the Gaelic idiom. They have all a strong predilection for their mother tongue \*.

*Manufactures.*—There is a lint-mill established in the E. end of the parish for some years past; a waulk-mill and dye-house have also been erected within a quarter of a mile eastward of the church this very harvest. There are 8 licensed distilleries in the parish. In these about 2496 bolls of barley are annually distilled into spirits. These spirits are bought by whisky merchants from Lochaber, Kintail, and Strath-glas. There is also a considerable wood manufacture in this parish. For many years past a saw-mill has been erected on the river Beauly, about 2½ miles westward of the church. Here the Beauly dividing into two branches, forms the small but beautiful island of Agaish, which is of an oval figure, and about a mile and a half in circumference. The island is principally formed of a rock of hard whinstone, rising in a sloping manner about 100 feet above the level of the water; it is covered with natural oak, birch, alder, and hazel, and affords good pasturage for sheep, goats, and a few Highland cows, during  
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\* The names of places are all obviously derived from the Gaelic, and are descriptive of the situation, the nature of the ground, or something remarkable near the place, by which it is distinguished. As, for example, Belladrum, in Gaelic, "Bal an drom," "the town on the eminence;" Brniach, a corruption of "Breagh-achadh," "the beautiful field;" "Eskdale," "the dale of the waters;" here two rivers partly surround the arable ground, and often overflow a great part of the same.

ing on the sloping sides of this island, with the surrounding rocks, and a fall of water near the E. end thereof, form in summer a very pleasing and picturesque scene. On the S. branch of the river, near the eastern extremity of the island, stands the saw-mill, in a hollow, extremely well sheltered on all sides by the surrounding hills and rocks. The mill consists of three shades, the length of the whole three is about 126 feet. In these shades 7 saws are moved by 4 different wheels; the wheels are about 4 feet deep, and 2 feet 8 inches in breadth. Above the mill is a natural fall of about 6 feet, and a strong artificial dam, of 2 feet high, is raised above this fall. Thus, from having the command of a great body of water all the year round, with a considerable fall, the wheels go with amazing rapidity. They turn from 80 to 90 times in a minute, and when the saws are in good order, they easily cut through a log of 10 or even 12 feet long in 4 minutes. This manufacture has been carried on from the year 1765. The present manufacturer pays to Chisholm for his wood from L. 250 to L. 300 Sterling a-year. The greatest part of the timber manufactured grows in the neighbouring parish of Kilmorack. The trees, when cut, are from half a mile to 2 miles from water; and after being cut into logs of 10 or 12 feet long, they are carried by horses to the water edge, and afterwards floated on the rivers Glas, Cannich, and Beauly, from 30 to 40 miles, before they come to the saw-mill. As there is a considerable fall about 2 or 3 miles below the mill, the manufacturer is obliged to carry all his planks and deals from the mill, three miles by land. They are afterwards floated in rafts, 4 miles farther down the Beauly, and lodged in a wood-yard at Lovat, in the parish of Kirkhill; and as vessels from 50 to 90 tons burthen can, by the assistance of the tide, come up the Beauly this length, they  
can



can be conveniently carried away when sold from this yard either to Leith or London. The wood here manufactured, is a yellow deal, the most durable perhaps in Scotland.

*Antiquities.*— There are 6 druidical temples, within a mile of the present church, one of them in the present church yard. I have observed, that such of these temples as are entire in this parish, consist of two concentric circles, the external circle is from 74 to 64 yards in circumference, and uniformly consists of 9 large stones. Four of these stones, placed to the W. S. W. and N. W. are always considerably larger than the other 5, being from 5 to 6 feet 4 inches high, and broad in proportion, while the other 5 do not exceed 4 feet in height; and the said 4 stones are always 3 or 4 feet farther distant from each other than the other 5. The inner circle is generally about 10 or 11 feet distant from the outer one, and consists of a number of smaller stones, placed near each other from 18 inches to 2 feet high; the area of the inner circle is sometimes filled up with a heap of small stones. Two different places in the parish are named after these circles, viz. Bal na Carrachan, the town of the circles, and Blar na Carrachan, the moor of the circles. A small farmer village, near the church, is called Ard-drughnich, or the high place of the Druids\*.

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\* *A Vitrified Fort.*—About 2 miles N. W. of the church, by the side of the Beauly, is a vitrified fort, called Dun-Thidonn, or Fingal's Fort. It is situated on the top of a conical hill, only accessible on the east side. The wall of this fort is a complete circle, about 60 yards in circumference. The wall is only visible above the surface of the ground; but the substance of which it is formed, both above the surface, and for 2 or 3 feet below the same, is completely vitrified. Mr Williams, the engineer, is the only one who seems to have given a rational account of the manner of constructing these forts. That they are artificial works, intended for defence, and not volcanic productions, is evident at first view; and that  
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*A Watch Tower.*—About 2 miles due east from the church, is situated Castle Spynnie, in Gaelic, Castall Spuinnidh, or Fortrefs of the Spoil or Prey. The wall of this building is a complete circle, whose circumference is about 54 yards. It is 9 or 10 feet thick, built of dry stone without cement. It stands on the summit of a hill, which is about 700 or 800 feet, above the plain below, commanding a most extensive prospect to the N. N. W. and N. E. From this castle, Dun-Thionn to the W.; and Knockfarril, in Strathpiffer, to the N. are clearly seen\*.

*Beaufort.*—The present seat of the family of Lovat was originally a fortrefs, as the name denotes. Scarcely a vestige of this ancient building now remains. The present house is built on a part of the ground, originally occupied by the said fort. From its situation, it must have been of old a place of considerable strength. It lies about a mile to the north of the church, on a beautiful eminence, near the river Beauly; it is defended on the N. W. N. and

the vitrification is not accidental, as Mr Tytler supposes, is abundantly clear from this very reason, that no such accidents, as he supposes, were adequate uniformly to produce such effects. There is an old record in Dunrobbin in Sutherland, which perhaps throws some light on this subject. It is mentioned in the said record, that a stranger, who came to Sutherland from the South, had discovered an excellent cement for strong buildings. That this cement consisted of iron-stone, or ore, partly mixed with other stones, (probably the pudding-stone mentioned by Mr Williams), and cemented together, or vitrified by the force of fire, probably applied in the manner described by the foresaid Mr Williams.

\* Within a gunshot to the north of the church, is a stone coffin, in Gaelic, called Uamh Gillichuinne; or grave of Gillichuinne; only the sides of the coffin now remain. Two urns, filled with ashes, were found in this coffin in 1763. Who this Gillichuinne was, even tradition does not say.

N. E.

N. E. by a steep descent, at least 100 feet above the level of the water, which runs within 40 yards of the foot of this descent. On the S. E. S. and S. W. there are two ditches, formerly of considerable depth. The inner ditch is within 40 yards of the present house; the outer one, which is about 250 yards beyond the former, is from 500 to 600 yards in length. When this fortress was built, or by whom, I find not.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people, in general, are sober and industrious, humane, generous and hospitable, and seemingly contented with their situation; but I am persuaded, the number of distilleries in this and the neighbouring parishes, have been rather prejudicial to the health, morals and industry of some of the inhabitants. Here, it is common for five or six, and sometimes more poor people, to have different shares in one distillery; and while their profits by this manufacture are very small, this practice has introduced a habit of drinking in these distilleries, and has rendered such of the people as are engaged in this business, indolent and inactive, never inclining to apply vigorously to any other business. There are also no less than 8 dram-houses in the parish, where spirits are sold at a low price, which must also be unfriendly to the morals of the inhabitants; half the said number would be fully sufficient to accommodate travellers.—There are several mosses of considerable extent in the parish; those who live close to these mosses are well supplied in peats, but many of the inhabitants are at the distance of 3 or 4 miles from these mosses; the access to them is also very bad. Thus, a great part of the summer is employed in cutting, drying and carrying home fuel, to the great disadvantage of the farmer.—The size of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches to 6 feet

The road from Inverness to this parish, divides into two branches, near the church; the one branch leading to Urquhart, Fort-Augustus and Fort-William; the other, to Strath-glas and Kintail, along the south side of the Beauly and Glas; this last road is not yet finished, it has only some the length of Strath-glas. It is an excellent road, made at a considerable expence. The statute-labour has been lately commuted in this and the neighbouring parishes, which, it is hoped, will have a happy effect in keeping our roads in good repair, and in making new roads and bridges where these are necessary. A number of bridges have been erected within these few years past over all the rivulets that cross these roads. The smallness of the farms in this parish is a disadvantage: Joining 2 or 3 of them together, would be of real service to the inhabitants in general, could such as are dispossessed be otherwise employed. Had some of the proprietors spirit to introduce a branch of the coarse woollen manufacture into this parish, it would be of infinite service to many of the inhabitants, who could be usefully employed in this way \*. As the soil of this parish in general is thin and light, could the small tenants be persuaded to lay down a small part of their farms yearly in white clover and rib-grass, I am convinced, it would be of considerable benefit to their ground, and enable them to keep a few more cows in summer; for one acre, under clover and rib-grass, would produce more grass for pasture,

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\* From the failure of crops 1782 and 1783, meal rose to the enormous price of 30 s. the boll in this and the neighbouring parishes; but by the generous relief afforded by Government, and the exertion of individuals, before the end of summer 1783, it was reduced in the town of Inverness below 14 s.

than 3 acres of our common ley-ground ; but the people cannot be persuaded to keep a herd after their cattle in winter or spring. For after the corn is housed, they allow them to range at large through their neighbours fields and enclosures, and consider it as a great hardship, and a species of oppression, to have them pointed after breaking through enclosures.

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## NUMBER XXXIII.

## PARISH OF CARGILL,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By the Rev. Mr J. P. BANNERMAN.

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil and Climate.*

CARGILL, like most places in the neighbourhood, takes its name from the Celtic language, *Caër*, signifying a village, and *Cill*, a place of worship, or burial. It was formerly called the *West Parish*, and is said to have been only a part of the parish of Cupar of Angus, but has long since been disjoined from that, and erected into a distinct parochial district. Bishop Spottiswood mentions, that as far back as the year 1514, Andrew Stuart, brother to John Earl of Athole, got the benefices of Cargill and Aylith. It lies about 9 miles from Perth, and 4 from Cupar of Angus, making part of that extensive plain called Strathmore. It extends from W. to E. about 6 miles in length, and from N. to S. about 4, on an average, in breadth, forming nearly an oblong square. This parish exhibits a

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surface

surface diversified by wood and water, and variegated by ascents and declivities. Rising gradually in the form of a ridge for about a mile from the river Tay, which bounds it on the N. it reaches a plain of near 2 miles in breadth, which, with some unevennesses, it preserves till it comes to the Sidla hills, which bound it on the S. Excepting the woodlands, it is mostly all arable; and if improvements go on as they are doing at present, it will be soon all under cultivation, and laid out in regular enclosures. The soil is extremely various and different. In the lower part of the parish, along the banks of the river, it is a wet mortary clay, which produces strong crops; inclining as you rise in elevation to a rock marl, which is cold and unproductive. The level grounds on the top of the ridge are partly loamy and partly moorish. Towards the foot of the hills the soil is a light dry gravel.

The air is extremely pure and salubrious. Owing to the rapid course of the river, the high elevation and varied position of the grounds, it has at all times a free and strong circulation, and is hurt by none of those noxious damps, which prove so detrimental in low lying grounds. Accordingly the inhabitants are in general stout and healthy, and many of them live to a very advanced old age. Not to mention many who are upwards of 80, it is worthy of remark, that the late Duchess of Perth lived here without an ailment, to her 90th year; and there is now residing in the parish a Lady of Quality born in the last century, who has still the entire use of all her faculties, enjoys life as much as she did at 20; and to the wisdom of age, adds all the cheerfulness, and much of the gaiety of youth. If there be any particular diseases more prevalent in this parish than others, it is the consumption and rheumatism; and these are probably owing to the sedentary life of many of the inhabitants, who are weavers, and  
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are but badly lodged, and still worse provided with fuel. It is not known that this parish was ever visited with any epidemical distemper. The prejudice against inoculation is worn off; and it is now practised with the happiest effects.

*Rivers, Woods, Hills.*—The river Tay forms the N. W. boundary of this parish, and abounds with salmon, trout, and pike. Its course is here all along skirted with woods, its banks are steep, its current rapid, and its channel rocky; nor is it any where else so well calculated to afford the diversion of angling for salmon. Near the W. end of the parish, this river forms what is called the Linn of Campsey, by falling over a rugged basaltic dike, which crosses the water at this place, and is found to extend in a right line many miles to the N. and S. of the Tay. At the distance of 20 miles, Drummond castle stands on a similar rock, which is supposed to be a continuation of the same range. The most romantick and magnificent views on the Tay are in this parish. About half a mile above the village of Cargill, the river Ila runs into the Tay. It is a slow running river, and abounds also with salmon, though of a size inferior to those of the Tay. Salmon caught in the Tay here, at an average, weigh 20 lb: Ila salmon only 10 lb. It is reckoned that the size of salmon bears a proportion to the size of the rivers in which they are bred. The fisheries of this parish are of considerable value, and are mostly all held in lease by a Company in Perth, who preserve the salmon in ice, and send them fresh to the London market; few of them are sold in this country during the spring season; and even in summer, when they are most plenty, never under 4 d. the lb. It is observed by old fishermen, that there is not now 1 fish in the river here for 10 that were in it 50 years ago; but this

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scarcity



scarcity is probably not owing to fewer fish being spawned in the river, but to the many fishings carried on in the lower parts of the Tay now, where formerly there were none \*.

There are 3 ferries in this parish, 2 over the Tay, and 1 over the Ila; but it is in contemplation by the gentlemen of the county to build a bridge over the Ila, near the confluence of the rivers, which will supersede the necessity of the Ferry there, and prove highly beneficial to the country at large. The ferries are put under excellent regulations, the fare paid at them is moderate, and the passage safe and commodious.

In former times, the parish of Cargill abounded with wood much more than it does at present. The Shortwoodshaw is mentioned by Blind Harry, in his life of Wallace, as an immense woody fastness, remarkable for being the scene of many of that great warrior's achievements. For though there be only a few scattered trees remaining there now; yet in this place, owing to the extent of the woods, Wallace is said to have eluded the search of a thousand of his enemies. There are at present about 400 acres of planted wood, mostly Scotch firs; and upwards of 100 acres of coppice, or natural woods, consisting chiefly of birch and oak. There are no hills of any note in this parish, excepting the Round Law and King's Seat, the last of which

\* Besides salmon, the rivers in this parish produce also a number of horse or pearl mussels. About 20 years ago, there was a great demand for pearls, and many people here were occupied in fishing for them; considerable numbers were caught, for which there was a ready market, and good price. The demand however ceasing, this species of fishing has been dropped for some time. There is now in the custody of the Honourable Mrs Drummond of Perth, a pearl necklace, which has been in the possession of the ladies of that noble family for several generations, the pearls of which were found here in the Tay, and for size and shape are not to be equalled by any thing of the kind in Britain.

which is among the highest in the range of the hills. Both hills are mostly covered with heath, but the lower part is a valuable pasture for cattle.

*Minerals.*—There is no marble nor slate. Several quarries of freestone of an excellent quality and colour, have been wrought to a considerable extent. Limestone also is to be found, and might, it is said, be wrought to great advantage. Those who have tried it, after counting all expenses of quarrying and conveying the stones, they have the lime much cheaper than it costs them at Perth. It is a pity that a proper experiment was not made to ascertain this, because even if the position of its being as dear, yet the saving in the long carriage would be an astonishing advantage to the country at large, and to the proprietors of the hills in particular. Rock marl, of a reddish colour, is here in great abundance. Little use has been made of it as a manure; but it is thought it might be of service to the light moorish ground in the part of the parish\*.

\* About 30 years ago, an ineffectual search was made in the village of Whitefield in this parish. The trial was not carried on with that ardour, nor with that perseverance as to be deemed satisfactory. The expense was defrayed by public contribution, and when the money was abruptly given over, leaving as strong an impression on the people in the country, that there are still coals in the country, that a trial was made. As people skilled in these matters have every appearance of having coal, it is to be hoped that the Coal Company, who are offering terms to the proprietors of their mines and minerals, in order to make a thorough trial, will succeed in their endeavours to discover an article so much wanted in this part of the country.

*Antiquities.*—There are several tumuli in this parish, in some of which, when opened, human bones have been found, and near them the remains of some military weapons. Druidical temples also are discovered in different places. Near the confluence of the Tay and Ila, and exactly opposite to the ancient castle of Kinclaven on the other side of the river, are discovered plain vestiges of a Roman station, now called the Castlehill; on one side, this encampment is defended by the steep banks of the Tay; on another by a deep ravine; a high breast-work and strong entrenchments guard it on all other sides where it was any how accessible. The fossæ are perfectly discernible, and the aqueduct by which they were filled from a neighbouring rivulet, is still in high preservation; but the site of this encampment is now converted into a corn field—*Et seges est ubi Troja fuit*. In this camp, according to Boethius, the Romans took up their winter-quarters under Tribellius, after Agricola left him, and preserved their communication with other detachments of their troops who had advanced farther into the country, towards the foot of the Grampians.—Upon the top of a high rock which rises perpendicular above the Linn of Campsey, in a most romantick situation, stand the ruins of an old religious house, dependent on the Abbey of Cupar. Next to our Kings, the Hays of Errol were the principal benefactors of this monastery, and some stones lately picked up from the ruins, still bear the arms of that family\*.—Stobhall, a seat of the family of Perth, is situated

\* By a deed, the original of which is preserved among other records in the Register-office at Edinburgh, dated 24th October 1538, it appears, that Donald Campbell, then Abbot of the Abbey of Cupar, let in lease, for the space of 19 years, to Mr Alexander Machbroke, Advocate, and his heir-male, the place and lands of Campsey, with the fishings thereon, together with the forrestrie of the wood of Campsey, and the teind-sheaves belonging thereto, upon the following, among other curious conditions,

tuated on the banks of the Tay in this parish. It is an old  
bric, most fancifully situated on a narrow tongue of high  
land, and seems to have been built at different times, and  
on different plans. It has been in the possession of the fa-  
mily of Perth since the year 1360, when Sir John Drum-  
mond, by marrying Lady Mary, the eldest daughter and  
coheirs of Sir William de Montifex, Justiciar of Scotland,  
and head of a most ancient family, with her got the lands  
of Cargill and Stobhall, which then became promiscuously  
the designation of the family.—A Roman road or paved  
way runs along the high grounds in this parish, which de-  
serves particular notice. The face of the country is so  
much altered since the Romans were in Scotland, partly by  
time and partly by improvements, that it is difficult in  
many

viz. " That he should pay a rent of L. 20 usual money of the realm ; 4 do-  
zen poultrie, with all aryage and carriage, and do service use and  
wont : That he should find ane sufficient rowar to the fishing of Neither  
Campsey, with an carriage man to bring hame the fish frae the samyn ;  
with sufficient wax to St Hunnand's lyght and chapel : And also, that  
the said place should at all times be patent and ready to him and his suc-  
cessors brethren and familie, as often as should happen him, or any of them  
to come thereto, furnisht with 4 feddir beddis, and 4 other beddis, con-  
venient for servandes, with all the sundry necessaris pertaining\*to said  
awcht beddis ; and als upbalding said place of Campsey in sclates and  
biggin ; and attour, finding burd claithis, towalis, pottes, pannys, plates,  
dishes, and other necessaries convenient for his hall, kitchen, panntre,  
bakehouse, brewhouse, and cellar, as effeirs to his honesty and familie ale-  
nerlie ; with elden of sawn wood and browme ; Mr Alexander and his  
heir-male, after being warned 24 hours warning of before." This Mr  
Alexander Macbroke, to whom the place of Campsey was thus let, was  
probably both a priest and a lawyer, who conducted the business of the  
Abbey both before the King's Courts and the Church ; and his *heir-male*  
was probably either a nephew, or nearer relation, whom he meant for his  
own business, and the place of Campsey seems to have been a retreat for  
the Abbot and monks, when they were disposed either for pleasure or de-  
votion. The Abbey of Cupar was supplied with fuel from the wood of  
Campsey, and the road they made use of to convey it thither, is still called  
the Abbey road.

many cases to trace accurately the monuments they have left behind them. This road, however, which is about 20 feet broad, and composed of rough round stones rudely laid together, can be plainly traced from Innerpeffry, through the parish of Gask, (where there is a camp), to Duplin Parks: from thence to Bertha few vestiges of it can be discovered. About a quarter of a mile above Bertha, (which seems to have been a Roman station from the number of urns that have been discovered there), a ridge of stones which extend far into the river, and a great number of large oak-trees which have been dug up there, and many of which still remain in the water, give strong appearances of a military Roman bridge over the Tay there. From thence the road is to be traced to Rome, (which probably got its name at that time), past Sherifftown and Innerbuit, where there is a large camp and several tumuli, through the parish of St Martin's to Byres, keeping the ridge of the hill through the estate of Stobhall, and passing near Gallowhill, where it is very discernible, it bends its course to the Ha at Windyedge, where the remains of another military bridge are distinctly to be traced, and the houses adjacent to which still go by the name of Bridgend. This bridge seems to have communicated with different Roman stations, which are to be seen in different places on the extensive plain on the other side of the river towards Blairgowrie, where the Romans, as Boethius informs us, fought a bloody battle with the united armies of the Caledonians and Picts. When this military road was made is uncertain; probably by the army at Ardoch, to preserve a communication between their different camps, and as convenient for their after marches had they conquered the country\*.—An old custom takes place in this parish, called

*Gool-riding,*

\* Near the village of Cargill may be seen some erect stones of considerable magnitude, having the figure of the moon and stars cut out on them,

*Gool-riding*, which seems worthy of observation. The lands of Cargill were formerly so very much over-run by a weed with a yellow flower that grows among the corns, especially in wet seasons, called Gool, and which had the most pernicious effects, not only upon the corns while growing, but also in preventing their winning after cut down, that it was found absolutely necessary to adopt some effectual method of extirpating it altogether. Accordingly, after allowing a reasonable time for procuring clean seed from other quarters, an act of the baron-court was passed, enforcing an old act of Parliament to the same effect \*, imposing a fine of 3 s. 4 d. or a wedder sheep, on the tenants, for every stock of gool that should be found growing among their corns at a particular day, and certain persons, styled *gool-riders*, were appointed to ride through the fields, search for gool, and carry the law into execution when they discovered it. Though the fine of a wedder sheep, originally imposed for every stock of gool found growing in the barony, is now commuted and reduced to 1 d. Sterling, the practice of gool-riding is still kept up, and the fine rigidly exacted. The effects of this baronial regulation have been salutary, beyond what could have been well expected. Five stocks of gool were formerly said to grow for every stock of corn through all the lands of the barony, and 20

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threaves

them, and are probably the rude remains of Pagan superstition. The corn-field where these stones stand is called the Moonshade to this day.

There are several round artificial little hills, or conical mounds, in this parish called Laws, particularly one at Lawton, the property of George Wright, Esq; which, as it is situated in the near neighbourhood of Macbeth's Castle, on Dunfinnan-hill, is said to have been the place where Macbeth dispensed laws and settled differences among his subjects.

Near the village of Gallowhill is a field called the Gallowthade, which was a place of execution under the feudal system.

\* Boethius, lib. 10. mentions a law made by King Kenneth, to prevent the growth of manaleta, or gool, and imposing a fine of a mutton upon a native who breaks it; and of an ox for a similar trespass on a stranger.

threaves of barley did not then produce one boll. Now, the grounds are so cleared from this noxious weed, that the corns are in high request for seed; and after the most diligent search, the gool-riders can hardly discover as many growing flocks of gool, the fine for which will afford them a dinner and a drink. Similar regulations in other places might be productive of the most beneficial effects.

*Villages.*—There are several villages in this parish, but none of them deserve particular notice, excepting the village of Strelitz, so named in honour of her Majesty. It was built in 1763, by the Commissioners for managing the annexed estates, and was intended as a place of residence for the discharged soldiery at the conclusion of the German war. It consists of about 80 dwelling-houses, with necessary office-houses, built in a commodious manner, after a regular plan, forming a spacious street, 90 feet broad, watered by a small stream, which runs along the side of the street. To every house is annexed a good garden, with about 3 acres of land properly enclosed with hedge and ditch, and sheltered by strips of planting. As these houses and lands were intended as an encouragement to industry, and a reward for laborious services, they were given to the soldiers at a mere quit-rent, and are still possessed by such of them as survive at the same rate.

*Heritors, Rents, &c.*—This parish is the property of 4 heritors; Mr Drummond of Perth, Captain John Drummond of Gairdrum, Mr Wright of Lawton, and the Hon. James Stuart Mackenzie, Lord Privy Seal. Mr Wright is the only residing heritor; but a branch of the family of Perth resides at Stobhall. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5640 : 7 : 4 Scots; the real rent about L. 3000 Sterling. Landed property has not been exposed to sale in this parish

parish for a great many years. Some of the best lands are let about L. 1, 10 s. the acre; those of inferior quality from 10 s. to 15 s. A cottage and garden gives from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. a-year.

*Produce.*—The land here produces wheat, barley, oats, pease, turnips, and sown grasses. Potatoes are also raised in considerable quantity, and are used as food by the poorer kind of the inhabitants. Of late years also, the culture of flax has been much attended to, and the returns it makes have encouraged the farmer to sow much more of it than formerly. The modes of cultivation are so various, that it is difficult to give any accurate idea of the average quantity of land employed in any particular crop, or to ascertain the amount of the produce. The tenants, too, are averse from disclosing the returns made to them. It is sufficient, therefore, to observe, that the produce of the parish not only supplies the inhabitants, but affords a considerable supply of wheat to the bakers, and of barley to the distilleries and breweries in Perth and Cupar, which are our nearest markets. The woods in this parish form no inconsiderable part of its productions.

*Agriculture.*—Almost all the lands in the parish are arable, though a considerable part remains yet unimproved. During the period that the baronies of Stobhall and Cargill, which constitute three-fourths of the parish, were under the direction of the Commissioners for managing the annexed estates, the lands were rented at so low a rate as to afford no spur to industry, or excitement to exertion. If the farmer could pay his rent, and live like his neighbour, by following the old mode of husbandry, his ambition seldom carried him farther. Since the estate was restored to the present proprietor, the rents have been raised; a  
farm,



farm, which before was let at L. 33, is now rented at L. 200; another, which was then let at L. 23, now gives upwards of L. 90; and so on, of all others which have been let lately. The activity and skill of the farmer are now called forth; improvements are beginning, and a spirit of industry diffusing itself over the whole parish. As we have no shell-marl, all our improvements are carried on by lime brought from Perth, distant about 9 miles. The soil is so different in different places of the parish, that no stated rotation of cropping is universally pursued. White and green crops alternately seem best calculated for cleaning and enriching grounds so far removed from the means of artificial manure as this parish is. Some, accordingly, have divided their farms, after they have got them all thoroughly fallowed and limed, into four parts; sowing one-fourth with pease, potatoe, and turnip, to which they give all their dung; this crop is followed next year by barley, or wheat, if the season answers, and is laid down with grass-seeds; next year it is grass, cut green for feeding cattle in the house, or made into hay for private consumption, or public sale; this fourth is broke up next year, and never fails to yield an excellent crop of oats. This rotation excludes pasture, but it abundantly compensates for the want of it by the turnips in winter, and the great quantity of sown grass in summer. The turnip, and every other species of drill husbandry, begins to prevail here, and the good effects of sown grasses are well understood. An attempt was lately made, with much probability of success, of rearing cattle in the house on green cut clover in summer, and on turnips in winter. The quantity of dung raised by this method of feeding is astonishing, and the cattle attain the same size, and bring the same price at 3 years of age that they formerly did at four. The farms in this parish are very unequal, both as to size and rent. We have some large farms

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at L. 200, and others at L. 100 a-year; but are between L. 20 and L. 30. It seems, however, the plan of the heritors in general, as soon as the lease expires, to convert several small farms into one. A third part, at least, of all the grounds in the parish are enclosed, and the advantages of enclosed grounds can be watered, are universally enjoyed. Hedge and ditch are generally made use of for fences are found to be the only substantial ones. Ploughing here is performed altogether with two-horse ploughs, with iron heads, and carts prevail universally; and carts drawn by two horses in one place to those drawn by one. Few horses are reared in the parish; and no sheep are bred for family use, but the farmers generally breed what they have occasion for. The instruments employed in agriculture have been much improved of late, the farmers endeavour to copy after the most approved models. Horses are employed; the labour is mostly carried on by men living in the farmer's house, who are looked upon as expensive and more disinterested than the labouring families of their own. There are 144 ploughs and a proportional number of carts. Wheat is generally sown in September and October, and reaped in September thereafter; barley is sown in March and April, and reaped in September; potatoes are planted in April, and taken up in August and October; turnip are sown about the middle of August. Corns are reaped about 10 days earlier by the lower part of the river than in the upper part of the parish.

\* *Price of Labour and Provisions.*—Owing to the increasing number of labouring manufactures, the rapid progress of improvement

*Manufactures.*—The only manufacture of any consequence carried on in this parish, is that of brown linen, yard wide, made out of the flax produced in the parish, and which is spun, wrought and bleached in the parish, and sent to the London market. There is also another species of linen-cloth, called Silefias, narrower than the brown, but about  $\frac{1}{2}$  better in quality, made from foreign yarn, which affords work to a good many of our weavers. There is also in this parish a small manufacture of white thread; and we have 3 bleachfields, which are carried on to considerable advantage.

*Roads.*—The new made turnpike-road from Perth to Cupar of Angus, runs through the south side of this parish; and a bill has passed this season in Parliament, to erect toll-bars, and make another turnpike through the north side of the parish, between Perth, and a new projected bridge over the Isla, near the boat of Kinclaven. The cross roads have been much neglected of late years; but as the tolls collected

nity to the Carle of Gowrie, the price of labour is here already very high, and is still rising. Since the writer of the present sketch took up house in 1785 it is doubled. His first ploughman cost him L. 5 a-year; the wages of a servant of the same description are now from L. 10 to L. 12. Female servants, which then earned L. 2, now get from L. 3 to L. 4. The wages of a man servant for harvest-work are from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s.; of a woman servant for the same period, from 16 s. to L. 1. A day-labourer gets from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. a-day without victuals; a mason from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s.; a carpenter from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d. The great rise in the price of labour, and the expenses of farming utensils, are more generally complained of by the farmer than the rise of the rent of their farms. The price of provisions here is regulated by the Perth market. Wheat sells from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s. the boll; barley from 15 s. to L. 1; oats from 11 s. to 15 s.; pease from 12 s. to 14 s.; meal from 13 s. 4 d. to 16 s.; potatoes from 4 s. to 5 s. the boll. Butcher meat from 4 d. to 6 d. the lb.; fowls from 9 d. to 1 s.; eggs 4 d. the dozen; cheese 5 s. the stone; butter 9 d. the lb. Horses fit for farm work from L. 20 to L. 30. Fat cattle about 5 s. the stone.

collected on the turnpike-roads will be sufficient to keep them in repair, the statute-labour, which is now commuted at the rate of from 8 s. to 12 s. each ploughgate, and paid in money, will go some length in making them more passable. The commutation of the labour into money, has at least doubled the effective labour, applicable to the roads. The road-money levied in this parish amounts to about L. 30. The turnpike-roads are deservedly looked upon as the greatest improvement that could be introduced into the country. The cultivation of every field in their neighbourhood follows as a certain consequence.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls in 1755, was 1897.—The population in this parish has decreased of late years, owing to the practice of converting several small farms into one large one, and the abolition of pendicles and cottagers. In the year 1784, when the present incumbent entered on his office, the number of parishioners on an exact survey, was found to amount to 1850. By an accurate enumeration of the inhabitants made in February 1793, there were then in the parish of Cargill, 376 families, containing 1720 souls. Of these, the males bear a near proportion to the females. The annual average of births for 10 years preceding 1791, is 45; of marriages, 8; and of deaths, 17. As some of the people, and particularly Dissenters, are remiss in registering the births of their children, to evade the duty on baptism; and others get them registered in the parishes where they happen to be situated nearer, the information on this subject cannot be perfectly accurate. The number of deaths also is no less difficult to be ascertained, because many of the parishioners bury in other parishes, and some from other parishes bury here.—In the parish, there are 314 tradesmen. Of these, 152 are weavers; 20 carpenters; 16 shoemakers;

shoemakers; 3 gardeners; 12 flaxdressers; 24 masons; 13 tailors; 6 corn-millers; 5 lint-millers; 5 blacksmiths; 4 dealers in cattle; 1 dealer in horses; 3 distillers; 2 household male-servants; 1 maltman; 20 bleachers; 2 ragmen; 12 fishers; 1 butcher; 3 midwives; 1 tollman; 3 school-masters; 2 preachers; 2 clergymen; 1 precentor; including a proportional number of apprentices. The remainder of the inhabitants are employed in the purposes of agriculture. All the parishioners are of the Established Religion, except about 12 Seceders; 24 Roman Catholics; 30 who attend the Church of Relief; 6 Episcopalists; and about a dozen of deluded people, who call themselves covenanters.

*Church and Manse.*—It is uncertain when the church was built, but part of it appears to be very old. It underwent a thorough repair in 1754, and is now a tolerably decent commodious place of worship. It is, however, very inconveniently situated for the parishioners, as it is placed at the north-west extremity of the parish, close on the banks of the river. The stipend, which is partly victual and partly money, including the glebe, &c. may be worth about L. 100 a year. The Crown has the right of patronage. There is no Dissenting meeting-house in the parish, excepting a small Roman Catholic Chapel, which is principally supported by the aids of the Society at Rome, *de propaganda fide*. The manse was built in 1745, and repaired in 1784.

*Schools.*—There are at present 3 schools in this parish. A parochial, or established school at Gallowhill; a charity school at Strelitz, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge; and a private school at Woodhead, without any fixed salary. The established school-master, besides a free house and garden, has a legal salary  
of

of L. 8 : 6 : 8, with an allowance of L. clerk and precentor. By this and his other emoluments, he makes about L. 20 a year. His teaching English and writing, are 1 s for arithmetick, 1 s. 8 d. and for Latin, the average number of scholars is 30. The school which was originally established by the late the Annexed Estates, is continued by the late propagating Christian Knowledge, with a salary besides a free house and some other perquisites is allowed by Mr Drummond of Perth, of the village. His fees are much the same as the parish-school, with this difference, that the scholars gratis. His school is regularly managed by a committee of Presbytery. At present there were 39 scholars. The school at Woodhouse the year 1787, by the tenants in the village parish, for the benefit of their children, on account of the great distance from the parish-school. It has a free house, but no fixed salary. His salary is therefore, depending on the number of scholars, diligence and success in teaching, proportional to exertion. The number of scholars at this school, on an average, is 45 ; all of them can read, write and cypher.

*Poor.*—Much praise is due to the gentleness and humanity, for the salutary regulations they found for suppressing vagrants, and providing maintenance for the necessitous poor ; but it is to be regretted that laws, framed with so much judgment, have not been enforced with so little attention and

able to an act of the Justices of Peace for the shire of Perth in 1775, notification is made here on the two Sundays immediately preceding the day of meeting, from the reader's desk, to the heritors, minister and elders of the parish, to meet on the first Monday of January, and first Monday of July, half-yearly, in order to make up a list of our poor, and provide for their maintenance. At this meeting, after electing a preses and clerk, the heritors, minister and elders present, proceed to make up a list or roll of all the poor, young and old, which have either been born in the parish, or have had their residence in it for the last 3 years. The meeting then compute and estimate what sum may be necessary for the maintenance of each poor person, whose name is entered on said list, according to their different necessities, till the next half-yearly meeting, and then sum up the quota, which shall be found necessary for the maintenance of the whole for the current half year. The meeting proceed to assess the one half of this sum upon the heritors of the parish, according to the valuation of their respective lands within the parish, and the other is collected from the parishioners, according to their circumstances, and then appoint a collector to levy said proportions. The other funds for the support of the poor, arise from the contributions at the church on Sabbath, which amount, on average, to about L. 18; from the rent of a gallery in the church, belonging to the poor; from proclamation and mortcloth money, and from the interest of a small sum lent out at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In all, about L. 26 or L. 27. This sum is applied to the relief of those who, by unforeseen accidents, are reduced to the necessity of accepting occasional charities; but as these charities do not always exhaust it, the surplus goes to the augmentation

tion of the poors funds, which the heritors wish to increase till at least they have a capital of L. 100, in case of years of scarcity. The monthly allowance, which is given to the poor in their own houses in money, as being most convenient, is from 2 s. 6 d. to 7 s. 6 d. according to the different necessities of the poor. None are permitted to beg. In appointing the different quotas the poor shall receive, care is taken not to encourage idleness, and no more is given to the necessitous, than what, with the exertion of their own industry, will support them. But so high is the spirit of independence, that it is looked upon as disgraceful to receive charity from the parish, and none will submit to it till they are necessitated by distress. The number of stated poor on the roll at present, is more than double of what it was 20 years ago. As the crop of the year 1782 proved very unproductive, more poor received supplies than usual; and the assessments, by consequence, were higher. Our collections at church are now double what they were 20 years since. Sectarists contribute nothing to the maintenance of the poor on the parish list; indeed they are generally the poorest themselves; but the charity of the parish is not confined to those of the Established Church. The effects belonging to those on the poors list, are, at their death, sold by the session, as belonging to the parish.

*Character of the People.*—The people are generally sober, honest and industrious, punctual in their attendance on religious ordinances, and more knowing in general than what might be conceived. Their manner of living and dress is much altered and improved of late years; and to their credit, it may be added, that none of them have been subjected to punishment for capital crimes, during the memory



mony of the longest liver. But there is nothing more characteristic of the people here, than the assistance they afford, and the sympathy they show to one another in distress. Instances might be produced of this kind, that would do honour to more elevated stations. Though there be a colony of old soldiers in the parish, the ardour for a military life seems to be faint, and almost none of our young men enter into the navy. There is nothing peculiar in their size, strength, or features.

*Eminent Persons.*—The family of Drummond, which has always been ranked among the most ancient and illustrious of the Scottish nation, and who had for a long time their chief residence here, gave birth to many characters, not more distinguished by their high stations, than by their personal merit; among a variety of these which might be specified, the brevity of this sketch permits only one to be mentioned.—Annabella Drummond, daughter of Sir John Drummond and Lady Mary Montefix. She was a Lady of the most exquisite beauty and distinguished accomplishments, and had the honour of being married to Robert III. King of Scotland, and crowned at Scone with him in the month of September 1390. Her personal charms could be excelled only by her mental accomplishments. She was the ornament of the Court of which she was the Queen\*. And her death about the year 1401 was considered and lamented as a public loss. Queen Annabella was mother to James I. King of Scotland, and from her are lineally descended all the royal race of the Stuarts.

*Miscellaneous*

\* Ab regina incolumis aulæ dignitas est sustentata. BUCH.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 3 distilleries in this parish, but no brewery. The high duties on malt have almost abolished the practice of brewing. The use of whisky is encreasing, that of beer diminishing. Few private families brew their own beer. There are 5 licensed publick houses in the parish. It is not observed, that they have any remarkable tendency to corrupt the morals of the people. There are 3 corn-mills, 1 lint-mill, and 1 wind-mill for beetling cloth. There are no remarkable birds or animals here, but such as are common to the country in general. The names of the places are mostly local, and of Gaelic original. The language now in use is the English.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Our distance from markets, and the means of improvement, the great expence of land carriage on that and every other commodity, together with the badness of our roads, check the rising spirit of agriculture, and retard the progress of improvements in this parish. The want of fuel also, is another great disadvantage under which this place labours, being 30 miles from the nearest coal-pit, and 9 miles from the port of Perth. The shortness of the leases here also, in an improving country, where so much remains to be done, affords neither time for extensive improvements, nor encouragement for expensive operations. These natural disadvantages are somewhat counterbalanced by a grateful soil, and temperate climate, which raises good grain, and ripens it, were proper encouragement allowed for improvements, and longer leases granted, upon progressive rises of rent. The abolition of all services, and not being astricted to any mills for multure, are advantages enjoyed by this parish.

Better

better houses would encourage the tenantry to improve their lands. At present, from their coldness, their dampness, and dirtiness, arise all those disorders which carry them off before the period of nature's appointment. The elevated exposed situation of a great part of the lands here would require to be better sheltered. Strips of planting drawn across the high grounds would impart shelter and warmth, and promote vegetation and fertility.

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## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF LOHCARRON,

COUNTY OF ROSS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, PRESBYTERY  
OF LOHCARRON.)

*By the Rev. Mr LACHLAN MACKENZIE.*

*Name, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**T**HIS parish derives its name from a Loch or arm of the sea, into which the river Carron falls. Carron, or *Carambusin*, which, in the Gaelic, signifies the 'winding stream;' takes its rise in the heights of the parish, from a lake, called Loch Scavan. A little above this loch, there are two burns; the one falls into Loch Scavan; the other goes to the burn of Lubgargan, and falls into the sea at Dingwall. It forms another loch at Bellanocra, within 4 miles of the sea. In this loch, as well as in the other, there is a small island, where MacIan, when proprietor of this part of Lochcarron, had a house and garden. There is a good salmon-fishing upon the Carron. This parish is bounded on the W. by the sea. It is upwards of 14 miles long,

long, and 5 or 6 broad; a beautiful highland country. The soil in some parts is deep and clayey; in others, sandy and light. The manures made use of are sea-wear shelly-sand and lime. The implements of husbandry are the plough and the crooked spade. The crops raised, are oats, barley and potatoes, and some pease. Seed-time is in April and May. Harvest is September and October.

*Population, Rent, Heritors, &c.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 771 souls.—The number at present is 1068. There are 3 heritors, Mackenzie of Applecroft; Matthieson of Attadale, and Macdonald of Courthill; one of whom resides. The rent is about L. 900. Applecroft, the principal heritor, augmented the rents last year. There are 9 weavers, 3 or 4 tailors, 1 smith, 3 wrights, 1 public-house, 4 dram houses, 4 gardeners; 1 Popish wife, and 1 Episcopalian. The rest are of the Established Religion.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in 1751. It was formerly called the Great Church of Lochcarron; and it was so, compared with other Highland kirks. The manse was built in 1778. The stipends are 1000 merks Scots, and 60 merks for communion-elements. The glebe was reckoned worth 60 merks Scots. It is worth more. The King is patron. In the parochial school are taught English, writing, arithmetick, Latin and Greek. The number of scholars is between 20 and 30; the salary, 200 merks Scots. There are 20 merks Scots yearly for the poor, by mortification. The yearly collection in 1783 may have been L. 4 or L. 5. The yearly collection for these 6 years past has been upwards of L. 6 or L. 8. It is sometimes

sometimes more, sometimes less. The number of poor, upon an average, is between 20 and 30.

*Long Leases.*—The greater part of the people of Lochcarron have lately got leases for 25 years. This has excited a spirit of industry and improvement. They are now building comfortable houses, and turning their lands to the best advantage. The great error, however, of the Highland farmers is overstocking. If they kept only two cows for every three they do at present, they would improve their breed of cattle, and be in no danger of losing them by severe winters or springs. Three bad cows will devour more grass and straw than two good ones, but will never fetch as good a price from any drover. The price of cattle was very high for some years past. A Highland cow would sell for L. 5 or L. 6, and sometimes for L. 7 Sterling. If this be a good cause for augmenting the rents, it is to be hoped, that proprietors will see that the fall of the price of cattle, when that happens, is a good cause for diminishing them again.

*Diseases.*—The most common diseases in this parish are rheumatisms and fevers. These distempers, it is very likely, arise from cold, and from improper feeding. A Highlander will sit for a whole day in wet shoes, and sometimes in wet cloaths.

In 1791, there was a remarkable herring-fishing in this loch. During low water, the children of Kirktown went often to the strand, and carried lapfulls of herring with them. The people fed entirely on fish. They were visited by a fever. Their blood was vitiated. When they were let blood in the fever, it had the appearance, when it congealed, of the blood of a boiled pudding, or of an ugly kind of jelly. Their breath smelled strong of fish. In

proportion as they fed, soberly or voraciously on the herring, the fever was more or less severe. Such as lived mostly on fish, and other strong food, suffered dreadful agony. The poor people, that mostly lived upon water-gruel, suffered very little. There are many instances of longevity in the parish. There have been likewise instances of some old couples in this parish, who have felt the sweet passion of love, after passing their grand climacterick. Their union has given rise to some curious anecdotes and verses, which would move the risible muscles, even of a cynick philosopher.

*Gaelic Poets.*—Lochcarron has produced some good Highland poets. William Mackenzie, and Alexander, his brother, composed good Gaelic songs. Some of their poems are to be found in Macdonald's collection. John, their brother, was equally good; and from the specimens we have of their poetry, we may say, it is cause of regret, that more of their verses were not committed to writing, both on account of the language and sentiment. The thoughts are just and natural; and the language, for the most part, beyond the reach of criticism. There have been likewise other poets in Lochcarron, who have composed verses, that are far from being despicable. And indeed many of them would have given the highest pleasure to the greatest admirers of Homer, Virgil, or Milton, had they heard and understood them. Gaelic is the language of descriptive poetry. It is strong, nervous and comprehensive. No language can do greater justice to the finest feelings of the human heart.

*Character of the People, and State of Religion among them.*  
—About 60 years ago, the inhabitants of this parish, it is said, had not reached any considerable height of civilization. This, with their strong and almost invincible prejudice  
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against Whig ministers, as they called them, made the situation of a clergyman at that time very disagreeable. A wise Providence, however, which always raises fit instruments for carrying forward its plans of mercy towards men, sent among them Mr Æneas Sage, a man of an undaunted spirit, who did not know what the fear of man was\*. He had, however, the fear of God, and great zeal for the good cause in its highest perfection. He was the determined enemy of vice, and a true friend to the gospel.

*Seasons.*

\* The people were so barbarous, that they attempted to set fire to the house he was boarded in, at a time when there was a meeting of clergy there. Such usage made it necessary for him, not only to make use of the sword of the Spirit, but likewise to have recourse to the arm of flesh. He was a true soldier in every sense of the word. For some time he had the oversight of the parish of Applecross, as well as Lochcarron. There was a wicked fellow in Tosgag, who kept a mistress in the same house with his lawful married wife. When Mr Sage went to see him, Malcolm Roy drew his dirk; Mr Sage drew his sword; and the consequence was, that Malcolm Roy turned his mistress off. Mr Campbell, Seaforth's factor, sent him once a challenge upon the morning of a Lord's day. Mr Sage knew his own situation, and accordingly accepted the challenge. He went out with his claymore, and no sooner did he begin to draw it out of the scabbard, than Mr Campbell made a pair of heels, and did not look behind him for some time.

He was very hospitable and benevolent. He was warm and affectionate in his friendship, and perfectly sincere in his professions. A gentleman who had the misfortune to be concerned in the late rebellion, came to see Mr Sage, as he was going to leave the country. Mr Sage made him an offer of his purse. Although the gentleman did not accept of this offer, he always retained a grateful sense of Mr Sage's friendship. He was subject to sudden starts of passion, and this was his great weakness; but this very circumstance was subservient to the gospel. He struck terror into vice; and by enforcing the discipline of the church, and composing differences among the people, he reduced them to a state of civilization. He ploughed up the fallow ground, plucked up many of the thorns and weeds, and made it easier for his successors to sow the good seed.

He



*Seasons.*—The seasons are always wet in this place, but within these few years they seem to be turning worse.  
Every

He laboured for 47 years among them, and his labours were eminently countenanced by his Lord and Master. Sinners were brought under a concern for their salvation and their language was that of the jailor, "What shall we do to be saved?" Mr Sage did not build with untempered mortar; he did not make them believe that an outward course of decent behaviour would bring them to heaven, though they were strangers to a work of the Spirit. He preached the doctrines of the new birth, the corruption of human nature, and the necessity of the influences of the Divine Spirit, to break the power of sin in the soul. The effects were correspondent. People did not then reckon themselves to be good Christians, because they abstained from such actions as exposed them to the lash of the law. They were persuaded that they must have a principle of grace in the heart before they could please God. This made them not to rest satisfied till they experienced the power of religion upon their souls.

They were warm Christians; and such as made a public profession, evidenced their sincerity by a suitable practice. They were animated with love to God, and to their fellow men. Kenneth Mackenzie, one of his first converts, used to kill a cow in the scarce time of the year, which he divided among the poor. The rest of the professors of religion in Lochcarron were equally zealous of good works in conformity to their circumstances.

Mr Sage's character is inscribed upon his grave-stone in these words: "He fought the good fight of faith, and finished his course; exclaiming with the Apostle Paul, for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." A carnal minister may say with Balaam of old: Let me die the death of Mr Sage, and let my latter end be like his. His successor, Mr Donald Munro, lived but a short time among them. He was an agreeable man, and preached the gospel in its purity. As Mr Sage made the parish very orthodox, the people seem to think, that they have at least as much religion as their neighbours. They seem to have a strong attachment to religion, and yet they would be the better for a little more. They appear willing at times to hear what they shall do to inherit eternal life. They are hospitable, charitable, engaging, and obliging. Although many of them do not dislike the present world, it cannot be said that they have entirely forgot the next; but it must be owned, that very few of them would refuse a dram if it was offered them. There is a great appearance of religion in Lochcarron; and as the fire of God's word is hereafter to try every man's work, there is cause to hope that some of it will bear the trial.

There

Every thing almost is reckoned a sign of rain. If there be a warm or hot day, we shall soon have rain; if a crow begin to chatter, she is calling for rain; if the clouds be heavy, or if there be a mist upon the top of the hills, we shall see rain. In a word, a Highlander may make any thing a sign of rain, there is no danger he shall fail in his prognostication.

*Antiquities.*—At the ferry town of Strom, are the remains of an old castle. It belonged once to the Macdonells of Glengary, who were proprietors of part of Lochcarron. There were quarrels between them and the family of Seaforth: The consequence was, that Seaforth, with some difficulty, dispossessed them \*.

There

There is one opinion, however, which many of them entertain, and which, indeed, is not peculiar to this parish alone, that a Popish priest can cast out devils, and cure madness, and that the Presbyterian clergy have no such power. A person might as well advise a mob to pay no attention to a merry Andrew, as to desire many ignorant people to stay from the priest. The most effectual antidote against this delusion is to lay before them some of the most laughable of the Popish miracles.

\* The history of the siege of Castle Strom, as it is related in a manuscript history of the Mackenzies, and in possession of several people in Rosshire, is literally as follows: " Lord Kenneth of Kintail, in spring  
" 1609, gathered considerable forces, and besieged the Castle of Strom  
" in Lochcarron, which at first they held out very manfully, and would  
" not surrender it, though several terms were offered, which Lord Kin-  
" tail seeing, and not willing to lose his men, resolved to raise the siege  
" for the time. But the defendants were so unfortunate, that all their  
" powder was destroyed by the women they had within, having sent  
" them out under silence of night to draw in water out of a well that  
" lay just at the entry. The silly women were in such fear, and the  
" room they brought the water to so dark, for want of light; still as  
" they came in, they toomed the water in a fart, missing the right one,  
" wherein the few barrels of powder they had lay; but on the morrow,  
" when the men came for more powder, having spent what they had the  
" day

There has been likewise an old building at Tomaclare, and another at Lagadum. Whether these houses were places of defence, or only light-houses to acquaint the country people of danger, in case of sudden invasion from their enemies, we cannot say. There are several such buildings upon the west coast. Near the place of Attadale are two caves. The country people call them Uagh ahoil, the stranger's cave. It seems to have been the dwelling of some robber, who lived upon plunder and carnage. There has been a burying place near this cave, and a place of worship in times of Popery or Paganism.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—About 40 years ago, there was a lint manufacture in Lochcarron. If there were an woollen manufacture established here, it would employ a great

“ day before, finds their barrels of powder floating in the fath, so they  
 “ began to rail and abuse the women, which Duncan MacIain vic Illi-  
 “ challum, being as yet prisoner there, and hearing being loote in the  
 “ house, having given his oath and promise he would never come out  
 “ be the door, till he were either ransomed or relieved, this they forced  
 “ him to do to save his life. So going with the keepers to the wall  
 “ head, and perceiving his countrymen packing their baggage, like to  
 “ quite the siege, he threw his plaid on him that stood next him, loaps  
 “ down on a dunghill near the entry, and rising as soon as possible, he  
 “ made for the camp; the man that stood by him, as he loaped, cried  
 “ after him, said you have lost much of your loaping; he asked what it  
 “ was? he said you have lost the two Clanranalds by it. He answered  
 “ in the Irish phrase. I take my being here at this time in pledge of  
 “ that; so comes where his master was, and tells all as it stood with these  
 “ in the castle, whereupon he renewed the siege. The defenders,  
 “ knowing their weakness was disclosed by Duncan, who had loaped,  
 “ whereof he was lame till his dying day, they begged quarters for their  
 “ lives, which was granted them, with all their baggage. Lord Kintail  
 “ presently causes blow up the house with powder, which remains there  
 “ in heaps till this day. He lost only at the siege but two Kinlochew  
 “ men. Andrew Munro of Teachnever was also wounded, with two  
 “ or three others. And so dissolved the camp.”

great number of idle hands, and might prevent emigration. All the common tenants upon the shore towns are fishers. Every town has 2 or 3 boats, or more, according to the number of tenants. They go out with their boats, and kill several kinds of fishes with the hand line; but the principal favourite is the herring. Many of the poor people live for several months upon herring and potatoes. With this humble fare, they are cheerful and thankful, and when they take it with sobriety, and qualify it by drinking water gruel after it, it proves wholesome food. God Almighty often receives the tribute of thanksgiving for this homely fare; when those who live upon the luxuries of the earth forget the hand that feeds them. Improvements are thriving and going forward in the Highlands. We wish that we could say that religion was improving likewise. May God revive his own work, and pour a spirit of grace and supplication upon all ranks and descriptions of people \*.

1. This same statistical account,  
Is sent to please Sir John,  
And if it be not elegant,  
Let criticks throw a stone.
2. We have not fine materials,  
And our account is plain,  
Our lands and purling streams are good,  
But we have too much rain.

3. In

\* It is impossible, it seems, to breath the air of Lockcarron, without acquiring a taste, if not a talent for poetry, of which the minister has sent the following specimen, under the name of "*Statistical verses*;" with which he concluded his account.

3. In Humber there's a harbour fine,  
Where ships their course may steer,  
Such as are building villages,  
Might build a village here.
4. From Castle Strom there is a road,  
Straight down to Kessock Ferry,  
And by this road the men of Sky  
Do all their whisky carry.
5. Of old the fox killed sheep and goats,  
But now the fox we kill ;  
The huntsman gets four hundred merks,  
And whisky to his will.
6. Our girls are dress'd in cloak and gown,  
And think themselves quite bony ;  
Each comes on Sunday to the kirk,  
In hopes to see her Johny.
7. A drover, when the sermon's done,  
Will ask the price of cows,  
But the good honest Christian,  
Will stick to gospel news.
8. The breach of Sabbath day is here,  
Cause of regret and sorrow,  
All worldly things should then give way,  
And be discuss'd the morrow.
9. We call for tea when we are sick,  
When we want salt we grumble,  
When drovers offers are not brisk,  
It makes our hopes to stumble.
10. Now good Sir John, it was for you  
I gather'd all my news,  
But you will say that I forgot  
To count the sheep and cows.

11. Of these we have a number too,  
    (But then, 'twixt you and I),  
    The number they would never tell,  
    For fear the beasts should die.
12. Sir John fend word, if you are pleas'd  
    With what I here rehearse,  
    Perhaps 'twere better had I told  
    My story all in verse.
13. The Parson has no horse nor farm,  
    No goat, nor watch, nor wife,  
    Without an augmentation too,  
    He leads a happy life.
14. I wish you health and happiness,  
    And may you live in peace ;  
    And if you would be truly great,  
    Then plead and pray for Grace.

## NUMBER XXXV.

## PARISH OF GLENTRATHEN, OR LINTRATHEN,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS,  
PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

By a FRIEND to STATISTICAL INQUIRIES.

*Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**M**ANY districts in Scotland afford little information or entertainment to a Statistical inquirer. Among these may be ranked the parish of Glentratheren, or Linratheren. It is 8 miles from N. to S. and 4 from W. to E. Elevated on the skirts of the Grampian mountains, from 500 to 1000 feet above Strathmore, this district has a bleak and barren aspect. The surface is uneven, consisting of hills, vallies, and mountains. Near the southern boundary there is a bank of tolerably fertile land, about a mile in length and half a mile in breadth, fronting the S. and gently sloping to the rivers Melgam and Ila. A mile northward of the church, in a deep valley, there are some well cultivated and fruitful fields. But the greater part of what is called arable land, is a thin and moorish soil, which

yields

yields corn of a very inferior quality. Several vallies, fit only for pasturage, extend northward among the hills, which are covered with short heath, and buried in snow during winter. There are few trees of any age or growth in this part of the country.

*Rivers.*—The Melgam, a considerable stream, has its rise beyond the N. W. boundary of the parish, runs S. E. along the base of a mountain, forms a small cataract in the village of Glentrathen, and after a circuitous course, in a rocky channel, falls into the lla below the walls of Airly Castle. The Carrity, less than the preceding, descends from the northern part of the parish, and bathes the foot of Carlaw in its progress eastward to the South Esk.

*State of the People, &c.*—In this sequestered district, there is no town, no village of note, no seat, no mines, nor minerals, no natural curiosities, few manufactures, and little trade; no innkeeper, no baker, no writer, no surgeon, no butcher, no apothecary, and one Seceder only. Hamlets, coarsely built of stone and earth, and covered with thatch, thinly scattered in the vallies, or on the southern declivities of the hills; and a mean village composed of despicable huts, crowded together on the rocky bank of the Melgam, almost opposite to the church, indicate the poverty of the inhabitants, who seem to be in a rude state of society.

*Antiquities, Lakes, &c.*—About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile N. N. E. of the church, there is an artificial eminence, whose summit commands an extensive prospect. On this spot a gibbet was erected for those unfortunate persons, whom the servile court of a despotick baron had condemned to death. Vestiges of the hangman's habitation appear at the foot of the tumulus, and the name of a neighbouring plot of land perpetuates



petuates the memory of this infamous practice. To the westward of the village, about a quarter of a mile, lies a circular lake, upwards of one mile in diameter, and in some places of considerable depth. It is fed by rills from the surrounding heights, and sends forth a small stream to augment the Melgam. Pike, perch, and trout are found there in abundance. The border of this lake is not garnished with a single tree, shrub, or bulrush. Half a mile N. W. on an elevated heathy tract, are many tumuli, or cairns. There, perhaps, a battle was fought by some contending chiefs, but tradition is silent. Near the W. end of the lake, there are remains of an extensive enclosure, said to have been a deer park belonging to Sir Allan Dorret of that ilk. The ruins of this gentleman's residence may be traced on the S. W. declivity of the hill of Formal, near the bank of the Ila\*.

*Population, Agriculture, &c.*—A territory so unpropitious cannot be well inhabited. The population of this parish has not been recently ascertained. The report to Dr Webster, 50 years ago, was 1165 souls. From the register of baptisms and burials, the number of inhabitants  
at

\* Some time before the Reformation, he was proprietor of the greater part of the parishes of Glentrathen and Kingoldrum. The latter he bequeathed to the Abbey of Aberbrothick; and the former he gave to his daughter, who married to one of the family of Airly. The patronage and teinds of the chapel which he built or repaired in Glentrathen, were transferred to the prior and convent of Inchmahomo. This priory, and others, were granted by James VI. to John then Earl of Mar. and erected into a temporal Lordship, called the Lordship and Barony of Cardross, in favour of the said Earl and his assignees. That family becoming bankrupt, it was judicially sold by the Court of Session, A. D. 1746, and purchased by Mr John Erskine of Carnock, Professor of Law. The teinds and patronage of this parish were purchased from Mr Erskine by the family of Airly, A. D. 1770.

50 are denominated farmers, who occupy certain proportions of land, out of which they tear scanty subsistence. Few improvements have been made there in agriculture. The old system prevails. Some plots of turnip, flax, and sown grass appear; but oats and barley are the principal productions of the ill cultivated soil. Of these a sufficient quantity is raised to supply the necessities of the natives; but there is no proper encouragement to industry. However sacred the promise of a feudal lord may be held, little exertion will be made, or can be expected, where no leases are granted, and where heavy servitudes are imposed; while a tenant subsists at the pleasure of the proprietor, and is bound to perform twelve carriages to the distance of 20 miles, even in seed-time or harvest, he will not display that vigour and enterprize, by which his brethren in other parts of the country have arrived at ease and opulence. This is a disgraceful remain of a system humiliating to man, and hostile to all improvement; a system which, about 50 years ago, prevailed in all its rigour throughout the northern part of Scotland, but which every enlightened landlord, desirous of the prosperity of his country, and of his own interest, has now abandoned. There are no enclosures nor plantations of trees, and scarcely one fifth of the parish is arable. The whole, perhaps, ought to be converted into grass farms, the coldness of the climate, and poverty of the soil, being inimical to cultivation. No marl has been found in this parish; and fuel for the purpose of burning lime cannot be obtained. With difficulty the inhabitants procure peats, turf, and heath for domestick use. These are dug out of Newton moss, or torn from the surface of the mountains; and the preparing and carrying home of that fuel consumes a great part of summer.—There is no trade nor manufacture in this corner, but such as is necessary to the accommodation of the natives, and their wants are few.

few. Destitute of the elegancies, and most of the conveniencies of life, their desires are limited. They enjoy little, and with that little are contented. Attached to their naked soil, they are temperate and sober.

*Heritors.*—The number of heritors is five, none of whom resides in the parish. The valued rent of the most considerable proprietor is L. 1074 Scots; of the real rent I have not been informed.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor.*—The church is an old, dark, disproportioned fabrick, built at two different periods. The manse is a wretched hovel, covered with thatch. The abject state of this habitation is not owing to any reluctance in the heritors to grant repairs, but to another cause, which has now ceased to operate. The stipend is L. 400 Scots, and 40 bolls victual. The late incumbent, far advanced in life when promoted to this charge, officiated 20, and his two immediate predecessors 107 years. Walter Ogilvy, Esq; of Clova, is patron.—The parochial schoolmaster has a salary of six or seven bolls oats, collected from the tenants, and some trifling fees. On this miserable allowance he has contrived to support a family upwards of sixty years. The hut in which he resides is hardly fit to accommodate the meanest beggar.—The number of poor on the session-roll is from 5 to 7. The funds allotted to their relief are the rent of a gallery in the church, the interest of a small capital, the mortcloth money, and a weekly collection of 10d. or 1s. The prices of labour and provisions are the same as in the neighbouring parishes of Kingoldrum and Glenisla.

*Language.*—The names of the parish, and many places in it, seem to be partly Gaelic and partly Anglo-Saxon; but the language spoken by the inhabitants is English, or a dialect of it peculiar to North Britain.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF HUTTON AND  
CORRIE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF  
LOCHMABEN.)

By WILLIAM STEWART, Esq; of Hillside, near Lock-  
erbie.

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*Description and Extent.*

THESE United Parishes extend from N. W. to S. E.  
about 12 miles in length. The breadth is unequal.  
Each of the ends drawing to a point, and the middle parts  
wider, but irregularly so, on an average, may be nearly  
3 miles. They measure from 18,000 to 19,000 acres. They  
are bounded on the N. E. about 9 miles by the ridge of  
hills, or waterfall, which divides Annandale from Esk-  
dale. On the S. E. about 6 miles by the water of Milk,  
from its source downwards, which separates the parish of  
Corrie from the parish of Tundergarth. The middle of  
th

the parish lies nearly 60 miles south of Edinburgh, and 18 miles north of the Solway Frith at Port Annan.

*Waters.*—The water of Dryfe takes its rise in Lochfell, at the N. W. corner of the parish of Hutton, and runs through it about 7 miles. The water of Corrie takes its rise at the north march of these annexed parishes, and runs between them, or along them, about 6 miles, where it joins the water of Milk at Balfack.

*Appearance or Aspect.*—The view or aspect of both parishes is very different from different points. Within sight of Dryfe, till near its source, the hills are of a fine verdure, the banks mostly covered with wood. The water alternately on rock and gravel, makes the whole romantick and pleasing. In sight of Milk, the view is something similar, but less hilly, less woody, and less rocky. In sight of Corrie, the extent of rich pasture and meadow is striking. But on the heights between these waters, the scene is much the reverse. It is partly mossy, and generally bleak, but not barren.

*Names and Derivation.*—The name of *Hutton* is from the farms of Upper and Nether Hutton, situated within a mile of the church. In the 16th century the learned and elegant bishop of Dunkeld uses the word *Holt*, for elevated and hilly grounds, and *Haut* for a wood. Both the farms of Hutton answer this description, being situated on elevated ground rising from Dryfe, having several small hills, and bordered with natural wood. But how versatile the meaning of words in living languages! *Holt* or *Hott*, is now diminished to a very small hay cock, or a small quantity of manure before it is spread. The word is here now not known in any other sense. *Corrie* is from the Gaelic. The water of that name, sets out from a narrow  
glen

glens similar to many of the small glens in the Highlands \*.

*Soil.*—The soil of the high or north part is partly mossy or moorish, excepting what is of the waters. The corn-lands upon Dr. the holms, are a rock gravel of a good quality. Corrie are generally a fine clay, and the meadow for producing large quantities of hay. A clay soil prevails over the heights of Corrie approaches the water of Milk, where again a soil comes in.

*Farming, and Different Kinds of Sheep.*—The management of farmers in this parish is various. A part of the parish is all under sheep, and a part is under cattle and sheep. The middle and lower parts of the parish are under cattle, and sheep, mostly changeable stocks. The highest farms are of the black-faced kind of sheep, and in farms rather lower situated are called long sheep; now known under the name of Cheviot breed; each kind is held to have its quality. The Cheviot sheep are generally supposed the most hardy, and the Cheviot sheep brings most money. It is allowed, that when manufactures are low and a good, the short sheep have most buyers; when manufactures are different, there is most demand for long sheep. It is agreed on all hands, that there are many more of the Yorkshire, Lancashire, Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Cheviot breeds.

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No

\* Hutton, it should seem, was at some early period a good place than in later times. Upon the farm of Nether a mount, artificially formed, (and the highest of the *Hutton Moat*. It is large and distinct of the kind. It is that these moats were the places where courts were held for the distribution of justice. *Moat* is the word in Gaelic at this day for justice.

Northumberland, that live in the higher parts of these counties, who would on no account buy any other than short sheep. They lay these of a year old on commons and high fells, where they say long sheep would not thrive. There are as many farmers in the same counties, who prefer the long sheep, and buy no other; both from an idea that the kinds they graze thrive best on their grounds, and consequently make the surest return. The sheep of the south of Scotland may be said to be driven wholly to these counties, and while so decided a preference is by different buyers given to each kind, it seems at least prudent in the Scotch breeders, to continue the kinds for which they find the best demand.

From the trials made of breeding long sheep upon high farms in this parish and the neighbourhood, it does not seem to be well ascertained that black-faced sheep are the most hardy. On the farm of Mackmaw, the second highest in this parish, long sheep were laid in the year 1759; they were continued for 9 years, and it is granted that no farm of the neighbourhood returned more to the tenant than Mackmaw did. This tenant removed in 1768. He was succeeded by a man from Tweeddale, who stocked with the black-faced sheep he was acquainted with. This man cannot be said to have thriven, but there is a difference in men as well as in sheep. The present tenant with black-faced sheep thrives. It is observed, when there is a general failure in sheep by wet and cold seasons, that long sheep are more generally affected with the rot. This it is believed is the case; but it is also the case, that short sheep generally inhabit the driest grounds. Let the farmers who possess wet grounds in seasons such as 1790, 1791 and 1792, and have short sheep, speak to the advantages they have had. If they had such, it is unknown to their neighbours.

The

The white-faced sheep, however, are rather on the increase. The management of one farmer, may not be thought impertinent. Mr Graham of Shaw in the year 1776, had his farms stocked with short sheep. About this time, the improvements in sheep by Mr Bakewell were much spoken of. The late Earl of Hopetoun so known in rural oeconomics, thought the Annandale sheep might be improved by Bakewell's breed. He bought rams, and some of the tenants thought they paid a compliment to his Lordship, by giving a few of their ewes to try the cross breed. It is said the lambs got the run of the flock, and did not thrive. This is likely; the hills of Annandale head are steep and high, and the prejudice of the farmers against so striking an alteration in the appearance of their sheep was great. Mr Graham was the only farmer who persevered in changing his breed; without getting one white-faced ewe, he had a white-faced stock in a few years, by putting out the lambs which went most to the face and wool of his former sheep. An unlucky circumstance was like to have destroyed his whole stock; and to his loss, add the mortification of his neighbours supposing, that it was the reward of his temerity in adopting English sheep. He had sent a few of his tup-lambs to be wintered near the sea-coast, in the view of their returning stronger, than if wintered on his own farms. They brought home, undiscovered, the scab. The whole flock was seized. Every remedy, then known, was applied for 4 years without effect; and the farmer was on the eve of despair of ever recovering them, after having lost many hundred pounds by the disease. The prescription, published for this disorder by Sir Joseph Banks, was observed in the newspaper, and immediately applied, which had the effect to clear the flock totally in a few months\*. This was only 3 years ago.

\* This prescription was:—Take 1 lb. quicksilver, 2 lbs. hog-lard,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Venice turpentine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. oil or spirit of turpentine. The whole to be beat,



ago. Since then, the sheep sold from this flock brought more money than any of their neighbours. The flock upon the average, fleeced a stone of  $25 \frac{1}{2}$  lb English for each five fleeces, and sold before the present fall of the price of wool, at about 14 s. the stone.

The lower part, and nearly the half of the parish, is occupied for raising corn, and grazing cattle and sheep; and the tenants, who generally keep mares for their work, breed each a foal yearly, of a good draught kind. For several years past, the raising of corn has been gradually giving place to the other purposes. This may have been partly owing to the increasing prices of sheep and cattle, but may more particularly have been owing to the tenants having had no leases, or leases which did not exceed 9 years. The want of roads, and distance from lime, prevented the advantages of art and improvement from keeping pace with the expense of labour; and the accustomed multures were no less than the ninth corn. These signal disadvantages are in a great measure got, and getting the better of. The chief proprietor of these parishes has lately annihilated the thirlage of his tenants in every degree. He has granted leases for 21 years, and communications to the lime-works, and markets are opening up. Though these are but recently set about, and far from being complete, the effect of them is already visible.

The cattle and sheep kept in this lower part of the parish are for the most part changeable stock. The cattle are

beat, wrought and mixed together, till made into an ointment. The parts affected to be rubbed with a small bit, about or less than a hazel nut. To prevent a flock of sheep from being infested, rub a few sheep, by laying the ointment in a strip from the neck down the back to the rump, a strip down each hip, and a strip down each shoulder.

fon. The strongest of them are driven next spring to the neighbourhood of London. The younger and leffer are kept on till August, and sold in the north of England. Sometimes these are changed oftener than once or twice in a year. Of the young cattle bred here, the stots, at 18 months old, are sold at Dumfries, and bought by the Galloway graziers; and the heifers not kept for breeding are sent into the north of England in September. These are considered a true good breed of cattle, and bring as much money in proportion to their bone as any in Scotland, excepting only West Highlanders. The sheep kept here are got in lambs from the breeders, and sold in hogs, *i. e.* year old's. For particular farms, reckoned the highest or bleakest, they are bought in hogs, and sold in dinmouts, *i. e.* wedders riving two years old.

This mode of farming, by changing stocks, has advantages and disadvantages in the extreme. When managed with attention and skill, and sufficient funds, the return is certain, and the difference of high or low prices will affect the farmer very little. If he sell cheap, he buys proportionally; and when he sells even at the same prices he bought in at the year before, he may still have enough left to pay his rent. His risk however is great. He sells his whole stock yearly, or oftener, in place of selling only the yearly cast of his stock as the breeder does. He has other material disadvantages. He is led often away from his home and farm, which must suffer in his absence; and if he have not more than an ordinary share of prudence, he is led to dissipation.

*Enclosing.*—There are yet little enclosed lands in the parish. The farms for breeding sheep are from 500 to 2500 acres. In these there is room to hirsel or keep separate,  
different

different kinds of sheep, which makes the want of fences the less felt. Some stone walls have been put up between different proprietors, which have proved advantageous and satisfactory in so far as they have stood. But the stone is generally of a bad quality. By a few years exposure to the air, it moulders and falls. The use of keeping sheep, and disadvantages before mentioned of the want of leases, &c. has hitherto prevented enclosing by thorn hedges, though there are some thousands of acres in the lower part of the parish well adapted for it. Hedges tried there thrive uncommonly. The hedge of one field enclosed at Wynholmhall, would turn a bull in less than 10 years after the thorns were planted.

*Crops.*—The crops raised are chiefly oats, some barley, potatoes, a few turnip, and flax in small quantities. Clover and rye-grass grow well where sown. Wheat has not filled to perfection, where tried; but none has been attempted in the most likely places. It seems once to have been the growth of Corrie. Two farms are named Wheatrigs, or Whitrigs.

*Proprietors, and Number of Farms.*—The whole of Hutton and Corrie belong in superiority to the Earl of Hoptoun, as heir of the Annandale family, and nearly four-fifths of them are his property. There are 6 other heritors. The rental of the whole is about L. 3000. The number of sheep is nearly 12,000. Cattle, 1200; horses, 140. There are 2 farms, each of L. 220; 4 from L. 140 to L. 180; 7 from L. 80 to L. 120; 7 from L. 50 to L. 80, 14 from L. 30 to L. 50; and 7 under L. 30.

*Inhabitants.*—The number of inhabitants of these parishes in 1755 was 993. In 1793, they are of all ages,  
583.

583. The decrease has probably been owing to laying farms together. There were in the first mentioned period many of them possessed run-dale, with 2, 4, or 6 tenants in a farm. In all situations, the restriction of each farm to one tenant has been found the first necessary step to improvement, particularly for improvement of sheep and cattle. The number of farmers, as observed, is 41, and cottagers of all kinds, 85, which includes 2 millers, 1 dyer and walk-miller, 1 shopkeeper, 1 publican, 2 tailors, 1 shoemaker, 15 weavers, 2 wrights, the rest labourers and herds. No record has been kept for many years back of the births, marriages, or deaths.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The number of ploughs in the parish is about 40, and carts 80. There are about 700 acres annually in tillage, of which  $\frac{1}{2}$  are in oats; the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  in barley, potatoes, some turnip, and a small quantity of flax for every farm, not commonly exceeding 20 falls for each. The crops of the parish serve the inhabitants. In the severe years of 1782 and 1783, though some particular farms of dry land sold oats for seed, yet the generality of tenants bought meal and potatoes. But they were at no loss to be supplied, as the neighbouring parishes lower situated had abundant crops in these years. There are no markets within the parish; each farm supplies itself\*.

*Stipend,*

\* Fowls are sold here at 8 d. and chickens at 3 d. for the Edinburgh market; and eggs at 3 d. the dozen are carried by Tiviotdale to Berwick, for the London market. Every farmer feeds one or two swine, and many cottagers one. They are killed from 10 to 15 months old, and sold from L. 2 to L. 3, 10 s. Butter brings 6 d. and lean cheese green, 2 d. the lb. English; ewe milk cheese green, 3 d. the lb. ditto. Labourers get from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. in summer and harvest, and 10 d. in winter. The wages of men servants are from L. 7 to L. 8; and of servant women from L. 3 to L. 4 yearly.

*Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.*—The Earl of Hopetoun is patron of both the parishes of Hutton and Corrie. They were united, it is supposed, soon after the Reformation. There are now no traces of a place of worship at Corrie, excepting the burying-ground, which is well fenced. The church of Hutton was built in 1764, and the manse in 1755. They have had often small repairs since then. The minister's stipend, including allowance for communion elements, is 1300 merks, or L. 72 : 4 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ . The glebe is extensive, and worth about L. 12 yearly.—The parish of Corrie in 1727 had L. 280 Sterling left to it by Mr Edward Moffat of Exeter, a native of the parish, for paying a schoolmaster. The heritors have granted him a house and small glebe, and the inhabitants have been fortunate in having good teachers. The heritors of Hutton give a voluntary salary of L. 8 : 6 : 8 to a separate schoolmaster; and their school has also been generally well supplied. The parishioners think they have been the better, so that the teacher was removable at will. But it is not meant to infer that this would be proper or just as a general practice. If it were, the employment of schoolmaster, at all times poor, would in old age be dependent also.—The poor of the parish have not been very many. Their fund of money at interest has been small, and is at present none; but the aged and fallen back tenants and cottagers have been well attended to by the chief heritors of the parish, by providing them generally with houses, some of them with a cow's grass, and an acre or two of land, and giving them temporary aids in money. This has been done at an expense not exceeding L. 25 yearly; and there has not been a beggar in the parish for many years.

*Character of the People.*—The people of these parishes have been at all times regular in their conduct, and well disposed

disposed to government. They are generally sober and industrious in their way, and their manners becoming and respectful. In justice to the female part of them it must be said, that in industry and sobriety they excel, with scarce an exception remembered. Where a farmer has not thriven, the blame has ever been on his side of the house. No capital offence, and few misdemeanors, are remembered to have happened within the parish. A number of the people of this parish, however, entered into the Secession from the Established Church so early as the year 1736, and they were partly the support of the meeting house then erected at Lockerbie. Several of them still attend there; but they are by no means rigid against the Established Church. If they are disappointed of their own pastor, most of them do not scruple to hear the nearest Established minister.

*Climate, &c.*—The parish is in general reckoned healthy, yet there are not many old persons in it at present, and no account of any extraordinary instances of longevity. In 1792, one died aged 92. There are now only 4 men between 80 and 85; 11 between 70 and 80; and 21 between 60 and 70. The complaints most general are fevers and consumptions. A malignant fever carried off about 12 young people about 15 years ago; but there is no other instance remembered of the same kind. Inoculation is practised, but not commonly. The natural small pox have not of late been mortal, nor are they remembered to have been much so formerly.

*Antiquities.*—There are not many antiquities attended to. There are several remains of old enclosures, of a circular form, called British forts, and a square one at Cartertown, of the Roman kind; but there is no record nor tradition of those who founded or used them. Two of them seem to

deserve most notice. About 4 miles from the source of Dryfe, the water makes a right angle from E. to S.; in this angle the hill Carthur rises almost perpendicular 400 or 500 feet; on the summit, or pinnacle of it, there is one of these enclosures, which appears to have been strong; and on one side of it there has evidently been a well sunk in the rock, which still holds water. On the hill, on the opposite side of the water, there has been a similar fort, but no well is observable; and between them, near the water, there has been two strong square enclosures. Of known old buildings, the residence of the lairds of Corrie is the most distinct. It stands on the brink of the water of Milk at Corrymains; it is called the Lun. Part of the walls are still of a considerable height, but it has probably been little inhabited since the family of Johnstone acquired the estate of Corrie, by marriage with the daughter of Sir Thomas Corrie, near 300 years ago. There are still some visible remains of their deer-park, which almost surrounds the farms of Penlaw and Parkcleughfoot\*.

*Names.*

\* The Grahams of Gillesbie had their residence at a place called Malkerfa, of which there is some remains and appearance of strength on the farm of Clofs. But they removed from it near 300 years ago to a tower on the brink of Dryfe, which, by the thickness of the walls, and the fosse, appears to have been strong; but having been treated like many others of the same kind, and converted into a quarry for other buildings, there are now only a few yards high of the walls remaining. The descendants of this family still retain property in the neighbourhood. In this tower it was, that the President of the Court of Session was lodged, when taken away to prevent his giving a second decision in a suit, in which one of the parties thought the President had too much influence. It is said, he was watched by a party of horsemen, and apprehended when on the way to his house near Leith, and carried off blindfolded, without stopping, till he was brought to the tower of Gillesbie; he was also blindfolded in his return, and set down at the place he was taken up. It is said, he was ig-

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*Names.*—The names of farms and places in these parishes are of the present English language, with very few exceptions. The lowest, or most southern farm of the parish on the side of Milk, is called Balfack, evidently from the Gaelic, and probably means the Town of large old Trees. Others, without any known signification, as Mackmaw, seem of Gaelic sound. Some names of the hills are so also, as Carthur, Scoup, Talmeilloch\*.

*Beasts and Birds.*—The wild quadrupeds are foxes, hares, polecats and weasels. The last generation remembered roes in the woods of Dryfe. Otters half a century ago were frequent. They are now very rare. Game are moor-fowl and partridge; heath hens are seen, but no black-cock. These hens are supposed to come from the parish of Johnstone. Wild geese in winter. Wild ducks, plover, and lapwing: The last was very numerous 40 years since. They are now, it is reckoned, not one for a hundred. Singing birds abound particularly on Dryfe, as the thrush, blackbird, goldfinch, linnets of all kinds, &c. There is a heronry

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norant of the place he was carried to, till upon occasion of his afterwards riding between Jedburgh and Dumfries, he came the road by the tower of Gillebie, and accidentally heard a voice call a dog, *Buttie! Buttie!* in the same manner and tone he was acquainted with when in the tower. This was soon after the institution of the Court of Session.

\* The names of waters here, as is generally the case, seem lost in antiquity. Dryfe, in the 12th century, in the charter by David Prince of Cumberland to the Bishop of Glasgow, is called *Drive*, and *Drivefdale*. This, as well as *Milk*, has no known derivation. Corrie only retains a name answerable to the present meaning of the word as before mentioned. There are several terminations in *Cleugh*, as Cowancleugh, Wynholmcleugh, &c. This is also a Gaelic word, and answers to a *cut* in the earth. Every cleugh is a cut by the water.



heronry at Shaw on Dryfe, where some hundreds are bred yearly, and have been so, past all account of the place. The number of breeders do not seem to have increased in the memory of man, though they are rather protected than otherwise. They bring fish for their young, a-pound weight, from the lakes of Lochmaben, 8 or 10 miles distant. In the Cocklawgill at Mackmaw, a falcon has bred, past memory of man. They are reckoned of the Isle of Man, or true game kind. The male is of a very light blue colour; the female a dark marbled brown, and by much stronger than the male. They have been taken and bred to hunt, and are reckoned to excel. The herds, for 10 miles round, are acquainted with the male, and few of them but have shared of his prey. The moor-cock stands him but one stroke; and when a herd is in fight, and not far distant, he commonly gets the game. The female hawk has been sometimes shot. The male disappears, but returns in a few days with another female. There are other hawks and kites of various kinds. But the most destructive of all ravenous animals to game and to sheep also, is the small raven, which in this part of the country is entirely black, but is the same with the grey or hooded crow of other parts of Scotland.

*Fishes.* The three waters mentioned are well supplied with trout; grilles and salmon-trout come far up in them in the spawning time. They do not meet with the same protection they do in most other waters in Scotland at that season. It is little wonder they should not, in the small waters of this parish, where the people are not benefited by them when the fish is of more value. But it is surprising, that even proprietors of fishings upon Anan kill salmon down to November, and see them destroyed  
under

under their eye with the keister or spear, upon the spawn bed. The destruction of the ewe in lamb, or the hen upon eggs in March, would not more demonstrate the impolicy and depravity of man. It is beyond a doubt, that salmon return from the sea to the rivers they are bred in, and the fisher is as sure of them as the shepherd of the cast of his flock.

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## NUMBER XXXVII.

## PARISH OF NEW LUCE,

(COUNTY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY, PRESBY-  
TERY OF STRANRAER.)

By the Rev. ANTHONY STEWART, D. D.

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

WHAT observations occur respecting this parish may be comprehended within narrow bounds, as it affords little matter for statistical investigation. Previous to the year 1646, it made part of Glenluce; but for the better accommodation of the inhabitants, this extensive tract of land was divided into two parishes, one named New, the other Old Luce. The presbytery records bear, that at the time this disjunction was effected, that the local stipend which belonged to Old Luce, was transferred for a stipend to the minister of the new parish, together with the superplus of the arrears of a certain sum of money, which had been mortified for a stipend to Old Luce. The name New, applied to this parish, is explained from what has been said above; as for the word *Luce*, it signifies:

“ flowers

“flower or herb.” The reason why the two parishes, before their disjunction, obtained the name of Glenluce, may be owing to this, that the land on each side the river Luce rises high, and is adorned with a great variety of plants, forming, what in this country is called a glen, besides that, there are considerable tracts of rich holm adjoining to the river; hence, when compared with the land that is contiguous to it, which formerly was mostly covered with heath, it abounded with a greater variety of plants. It is of an irregular figure, about 10 English miles in length, and from 5 to 6 in breadth; is bounded by Old Luce on the S. and S. E.; by Kirkcowan on the E. and N. E.; by Colmonell on the N. Ballantrae on the W. and by the Inch on the S. W. It consists partly of high and low land. The arable land is but little, when compared to its extent; the greater part of the high land being covered with rocks, heath, or with a mossy surface; and on part of it grows a coarse kind of grass called speert, which is cut by the farmers for hay. The greater part of the arable land lies along the banks of the rivers.

*Rivers, &c.*—Two small rivers run through part of the parish, one named Luce-water, which forms the boundary between it and Ballantrae, and for a considerable way between it and the Inch: The other river is named the Cross water, which runs N. and S. through the middle of the upper part of the parish, and empties itself into Luce-water, a little below where the church stands. A considerable quantity of salmon is annually caught in both rivers, but in greatest quantity in Luce-river. The common way of taking them here, is with an instrument called a leister, the beds of the rivers being so rocky as not to admit of their being draughted with nets, except only in a few places. They seldom have it in their power to kill salmon in perfection  
here,

here, before the middle of June, and give over towards the 17th of September. It is observed, that the skin of the salmon, when it first gets up the river, is of a silvery colour; but after remaining for some time in the rivers, the waters of which are deeply tinged with moss, it becomes of a brownish yellow. There is also sea-trout to be found, and great abundance of fresh-water trout; besides the above mentioned rivers, there is a small one named Tarfwater, which forms the boundary between New Luce and Kirkcowan.

*Minerals.*—Two attempts have lately been made in quest of lead ore in the farm of Knockebay, belonging to the Earl of Stair; the first was made some years ago, and at that time some hundred weights of rich ore were obtained; within these two years a second trial was made; but at this time little further was attempted than clearing part of the old works. It does not appear that the workmen, in either of these trials, had met with any thing like a vein, but only masses of floating ore. Though appearances were flattering, yet the undertaking appears to be abandoned for reasons not known.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 459 souls. As the land is of a moorish nature, there are but few inhabitants compared to the extent of the parish, being not more than 400 in whole, of which number about 72 live in the village adjoining to the church. No accurate register hath been kept as to births and burials: I cannot therefore exactly ascertain the number of either in any given period of time; but from what information I have received, I am led to conclude that the number of births will, *communibus annis*, be from 6 to 7, and of burials from 5 to 6, and as to marriages, from 3 to 4 in a year.

*Farmen,*

*Farmers, Heritors, Husbandry, &c.*—The parish is divided into 32 farms, which are held in lease by 27 farmers. The present rental is about L. 1100. The heritors are five in number, only one of whom resides within the parish. The farmers look toward their black cattle and sheep for the payment of the master and their own profits. There are yearly sold by them about 364 black cattle, of a small breed, but which, when removed to rich land, fatten in a short time. The other article they have to dispose of is sheep, of which they sell annually about 1480, and about 672 stones of wool. The mutton of this place hath long and deservedly been esteemed for its excellent flavour. The wool is also of a good quality, and hath, for these some years bypast, sold from 9 s. to 13 s. the stone. The parish hath not hitherto supplied itself with grain, but in time, I doubt not, will be able to remedy this defect. The land, in its natural state, makes but very poor returns to the farmer; but when dressed with lime, pays handsomely, a trial having already been made in three of the farms. As the great body of the farmers did not think of improving their land at the commencement of their present leases, now that they are willing, they are discouraged on account of the shortness of their leases, most of them expiring in the course of five or six years. The expense of dressing the land with lime is too great for the farmer to be paid in the course of so short a lease, having to carry it upwards of five miles, and besides to pay at the rate of 1 s. 2 d. the bushel, of which from 45 to 50 are required to an acre. These, though the great obstacles towards the improving their land at present, are not the only, the roads in the parish being in such a state as to be almost impassable with carriages of any kind; even the principal road is at times so, only a small part of it as yet being formed. Although other circumstances favoured, yet so long as the roads remain in their

present state, the farmer must labour under considerable difficulties. It must be allowed, that the funds of the parish that are appropriated to this use are but small, being not more than L. 15 yearly, which have hitherto been employed towards mending a few of the worst parts of the roads, and the forming a by-road, which runs along the S. end of the parish.

*Stipend, &c.*—The living is L. 60 a-year, together with a glebe, consisting of from 16 to 20 acres of land, about 4 of which are not arable. As for the manse, it is at present in a state of ruins, but orders have been given for a new one to be built.

*Antiquities, &c.*—In this parish there is scarce any natural or artificial curiosity that deserves being mentioned. Towards the N. E. side of it, there are two large stones that stand erect on a small eminence, on one of which is cut the rude figure of a cross, but I cannot learn that there is any tradition respecting them. There are also several small cairns to be met with in different parts of the parish, and upon removing the stones of some of them, urns have been found; which affords a confirmation of the present prevailing opinion respecting their having been burying places in former times,

*Hint for Improvement.*—This place seems to be advantageously situated for erecting a woollen manufactory, as a sufficiency of water may be had for driving a spinning-mill, being not more than five miles distant from the bay of Luce, where small vessels of 60 tons burthen, and upwards, may ride safe at anchor,

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and a half square, and is intersected by the Esk, which, allowing for some small windings, runs through it almost due south. It contains, exclusive of Halfmorton, about 14,320 acres; of which, 12,600 belong to the Duke of Buccleugh; 1500 to Mr Maxwell of Broomholm; 200 to the heirs of the late Mr Lothian of Stafford; and the remaining 20 to Mr Little, proprietor of a half of one of the 10 merk lands of Langholm.

*Soil, Climate, Diseases.*—The soil of this parish varies much in different places. Much the greater part of it consists of hills, beautifully covered to their summits with verdure, and let out in sheep farms at, from near L. 200 to L. 25 a-year. The land upon the banks of the Esk and the Ewes is flat, and in general consists of a light loam. In some places it is rather gravelly. All along the course of the Esk, the fields are well cultivated, and yield, or are capable of yielding, luxuriant crops of oats, barley, turnip, clover, and rye-grass, and also some excellent wheat, particularly the lands on the E. side of this beautiful river, which are well sheltered by woods and thriving

Morton in Nithdale, as is commonly supposed), in Annandale, was suppressed, and the half of it annexed to Wauchope, then a very small parish, which annexation still continues by the name of Halfmorton. The other half was united to Canonbie. Before the year 1743, Langholm, with the other four parishes in Eskdale, Ewes, Westerkirk, Eskdalemuir, and Canonbie, belonged to the Presbytery of Middlebie; but upon a representation to the General Assembly, of the inconveniencies which the clergy in this quarter laboured under, from bad roads, and their great distance from the Presbytery seat, &c. they were, by an act of that Venerable Court, May 21, 1743, disjoined from the 6 parishes in Annandale, viz. Annan, Hoddum, Dornoch, Middlebie, Kirkpatrick-Fleeming, and Gratney, and erected into the presbytery of Langholm, with the addition of Gaffletown, in the county of Roxburgh, which, previous to that period, belonged to the presbytery of Jedburgh.

thriving hedges. On the S. and W. side of the town there are also some small orchards, which, from their sheltered situation, are in good years very productive. In the gardens adjoining the town, all hortulan vegetables grow vigorously, and arrive at great perfection. Not only in this parish, but also in the whole district of Eskdale, it has been ascertained by accurate calculations, that more rain falls by a third than either at Hawick or Selkirk. This difference is imputed to the communication with the Atlantic by the Solway frith, from which, as being a much larger collection of water than the German sea, there must, of course, be a much greater degree of exhalation, which the attraction of the surrounding hills, acting as alembicks, condenses and discharges in rain. Our heaviest rains, consequently, are those from the S. W. which is exposed to the Solway frith. Notwithstanding, however, the consequent moisture of the atmosphere, the inhabitants, both in the town and landward part of the parish, are in general very healthy, and many of them live to a great age\*. Though  
in

\* Mr James Mouat, surgeon, a native of Aberdeenshire, died here about 17 years ago, at the reputed age of 120. Certain it is, William Garioch, M. D. (from the same county), preceptor to the late and present Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, and who died in the year 1768, at the age of 74, attended him as a scholar when he kept a school in Aberdeen about the end of the last century. In the year 1781, George Swan, cooper, died at the advanced age of 105, and was walking about a few days previous to his death. John Brown, dyer, died in the year 1776, at the age of 101, and his sons, who follow the same employment, enjoy perfect health, and carry on business with laudable industry, at the ages of 82 and 76. It is but fair, however, to say, that these two instances of longevity have no other vouchers than their own report when living, corroborated by the concurring testimony of their relatives, and of the parish at large. Prior to those periods, there are no regular registers extant, by which the time of their births can be ascertained. Since the induction of the  
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in winter the air is very penetrating upon the hills, yet in the vallies, where the inhabitants mostly reside, it is much milder than in less elevated situations. This, no doubt, is owing to the hills that environ and protect them from the piercing winds, which blow from the N. and E. and to the reflected rays of the sun. It may also deserve notice, that when the post-road, 10 miles northward, is rendered almost impassable by the snows, the ground here is scarcely covered, the quantity always decreasing as you approach the Solway frith.

*Minerals, Springs, &c.*—Lead has been discovered many years ago upon the farm of Westwater, belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh. A company from Derbyshire have lately contracted to work it, but they have not yet begun their operations. Some veins of the same metal have also  
been

present incumbent to this parish, August 11, 1791, three men have died, whose ages were 90, 89, and 83; and five women, whose ages were 88, 86, 84, and 79. William Nicol, a respectable tenant of the Duke of Buccleugh, is now living upon the farm of Cawfield, and enjoying good health at the age of 90, who, a few years ago, married his third wife, by whom he has a young family. He is still active and healthy, attends fairs and markets, and is very shrewd and accurate in all his transactions. In the town, and within a mile of it, 10 men are now living, whose ages are 90, 86, 85; 2 who are 83; and 3 82, 81, and 79; 6 women are also alive, whose ages are 88, 87, 85, 83, 82, and 81. Without detailing the ages of persons from 70 to 60, of whom there is a considerable number, the above instances of longevity may suffice to show, that though the climate be moist, yet it is not adverse to health. Indeed, there are seldom any epidemical diseases either in the town or country; few fevers occur; and when they do, they are rarely fatal; for these last two years, none have died of them. The prejudices against inoculation are, in a great measure removed, and people of all denominations have early recourse to this happy discovery, in order to avert from their children the dreadful effects of the small pox by natural infection. If we except the poorer classes of the people, who are, often from poverty and damp houses, afflicted with the rheumatism, there are no endemic disorders prevalent.

been discovered upon the estate of John Maxwell, Esq; of Broomholm, (the ingenious author of the " Essay upon Tune \*.") near the bed of the Esk; but though the symptoms in both places are said to be very promising, nothing yet has been done to prosecute the discoveries. On the same estate, there are also strong appearances of copper; small seams of coal have likewise been found there. In the western district of the parish, called Wauchopedale, there are 3 medicinal springs, 1 sulphureous, and 2 chalybeate; the first is resorted to with success, by patients afflicted with scrofulous and cutaneous disorders. The Grains Well is a very strong chalybeate, and could patients be accommodated near it, it would be much frequented, as many have felt its salutary effects in diseases  
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\* The Rev. Mr Martin, author of this valuable account of the parish of Langholm, having made mention of Mr Maxwell's Essay upon Tune, it may not be unacceptable, especially to the musical reader, to state in few words, what is the subject of that performance. The plan is beautiful and new: The object is to attain Perfect Tune, in contradistinction to what is called *Temperament*. From the key of C *natural*, in the Diatonic scale of 7 degrees, he has thence proceeded in a chain of reformation through every other key of the system, by means of tuning the ADJUNCT keys, exactly the same as the PRINCIPAL; and all this is effected in the simplest manner, by the insertion of *grave seconds* and *flat sevenths*, equally agreeable to the ear, as *acute seconds* and *sharp sevenths*. The author has farther extended his reformation to the Semitonic scale of 12 degrees, through all its 24 keys, both in the violin and organ; and still by the same means of *double seconds* and *sevenths*. With respect to the violin, he quotes passages from the works of the greatest masters, Tartini, Corelli and Giardini, which show that they were not sufficiently acquainted with the true tuning of the fiddle, and have written passages for that instrument, which cannot be executed.

Mr Maxwell's work is comprehensive, ingenious, and profound; but farther particulars, it would be unfitable, to a publication of this kind, to state. At the same time, there comes within the scope of it, a brief notice of discoveries, and of eminent men, in every parish.

for which such waters are prescribed. The other rises upon the glebe, and is only half a mile from the town. This is not so copious a spring as the other, but the water is said to be equally salubrious.

*Rental, Proprietors, Tenants, &c.*—The valued rent of Langholm, in the county cess-book, is 9321 merks Scots, the real, above L. 2000 Sterling; the valued rent of Halfmorton is 1650 merks, the real, L. 972. The real rent of the parish may at least be estimated at L. 3000 Sterling. Except two farms belonging to William Pulteney, Esq; Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, is the sole proprietor of Halfmorton. This district is about 4 miles square. By the intervention of Middlebie on the N. and Canonbie on the N. E. it is entirely separated from Langholm, to which, notwithstanding so strange and awkward a connexion, it has now been annexed for almost two centuries. The soil along the banks of the Sark, and the Logan, (a stream intersecting it from N. to S.) is rich, in some places, and yields good crops of oats, pease, rye, clover and rye-grass, barley, and sometimes wheat. The arable land is in general a mixture of moss and clay, which, in dry seasons, produces heavy crops. Besides a great quantity of oak, ash, alder, and underwood, with which the Sark and the Logan are beautifully overhung, there are likewise large and thriving plantations of various kinds of firs, also of ash, elm, &c. which, (being all carefully enclosed, and great numbers of them sold yearly for stakes used in the salmon fisheries upon the Solway frith), are no less beneficial to the proprietor, than ornamental to the country. The people in general are healthy, and subject to no diseases, but such as are peculiar to similar situations.

tions\*. In the centre of this district, there is a chapel where Divine service is performed every fourth Sunday by the clergyman of Langholm. From the increasing population, amounting, in June 1792, to 614 souls, it is now too small to contain the present congregation, who, in general, are not only sober and industrious in their several occupations, but decent in their manners, and regular in their attendance upon religious worship. It is soon, however, to be repaired and enlarged. It is 8 miles distant from the parish-church, 2 of which, after leaving the road from Langholm to Annan, were, in winter, or in rainy weather, almost impassable. This obstruction is now, in a great measure, removed by a new road, finished this harvest, (October 1793), and by others, carrying forward by Sir William Maxwell, and the voluntary contributions of his tenants, in order to open a more direct communication with Longtown, a small seaport on the Solway frith, Sarkfoot, Gratney, and other places adjacent. When Halfmorton was first united to Wauchope, it might then have been no great burden upon the clergyman of so small a parish to officiate there monthly; but regarding Langholm as the second town in the county, both in point of trade and population, containing, in May 1792, 1516 inhabitants, independent of the country part of the parish, which then contained 417, and considering how apt people are to neglect public worship, and other religious duties altogether, when they have so seldom

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dom

\* As a proof that this is not a vague assertion, in this and the two adjoining parishes upon the estate of Sir William Maxwell, there were, a few years ago, 8 persons living at the same time, each of whom was upwards of 90 years of age. Peter Hutchison, tinker, died in Halfmorton, about 3 years ago, who, from his own account, was 114; from many circumstances, he was certainly some years above 100.

dom an opportunity of attending Divine service, the loss the poor sustain in both places, particularly in Halfmorton, (where they have no poor rates), from the infrequent collections \*, and the little intercourse they can have with their pastor, for the performance of private official duties, such as marriages, baptisms, visiting the sick, &c. it will appear highly expedient, that it should either be erected into a Chapel of Ease, with an established preacher, or divided among the contiguous parishes. Of the 6 proprietors of Langholm and Halfmorton, 2 only are resident: For these 3 years past, the noble family of Buccleugh have resided annually a month or 6 weeks at Langholm Lodge. This handsome mansion, much admired by travellers for its elegant simplicity, and fine situation, stands in the middle of a delightful valley, about half a mile N. from Langholm. It was finished about 3 years ago, in a very complete manner. It is built of a fine white free-stone, from Langholm hill, of remarkable durability. The verdant hills beautifully skirted with wood, which shelter it on the E. and W.; the Esk †, "o'erhung with woods," gliding gently along, the town appearing through the intervening trees, and the hills and woods at a distance, (assuming a semicircular form), terminate this charming landscape; a landscape, of which, as containing an assemblage of rural beauty, and romantick scenery, it baffles the happiest efforts of imagination to give an adequate description. From Langholm to Longtown, the beautiful and picturesque scenery that every where captivates the eye, along the banks of the Esk, is the delight and admiration of every stranger. Exclusive of feuars, there are 18 tenants, who hold  
of

\* Not exceeding, (with 10 s. they receive when the Sacrament is administered at Langholm,) 30 s. annually.

† Dr Armstrong's Art of Preserving Health.

of the Duke of Buccleugh, and 4 who hold of the other proprietors. As the farms are estimated according to their holdings, as they are called, *i. e.* from the number of sheep and black cattle they can pasture, it is impossible to average their value by the acre. The land under tillage at present, may be upwards of 1000 acres. The arable land around the town lets at from 10 s. to L. 1 the acre. Some well cultivated fields bring from L. 1 to L. 3 the acre. It may be observed, however, that though the farmers still grow as much, and often more corn than maintains their families, yet tillage is much decreased of late years, and confined mostly to the vallies. It is in a great measure discontinued on the skirts of the hills, except in the immediate vicinity of the town, the tenants finding it more for their interest, from the high prices of sheep and wool of late, to pasture than to plough them. Houses in the town are rented at from 15 s. to L. 10 and L. 12 a-year. In New Langholm, (as it is called, a neat village, built upon a regular plan, consisting of about 100 houses, and most pleasantly situated between the confluence of the Esk and the Wauchope), the inhabitants, who are mostly trades-people, besides paying a small quit rent for their house and garden, if their house consist of one storey, have 2 acres; and if 2 storeys, 4 acres, at from 3 s. to 14 s. the acre, according to the quality and situation of the land, of which they have a lease from his Grace of 14 years. They have also a cow grazed at 18 s. a-year, in a common pasture, which, when this village was begun, in the year 1778, was taken off the adjoining farms, and appropriated to this purpose\*.

*Sheep,*

\* *Seed Time and Harvest.*—Oats are usually sown from the 10th of March to 10th of April; but they are sown earlier or later, according as the



*Sheep, Wool, Black Cattle, &c.*—The number of sheep in this parish is calculated at 8266. They are of the long white faced, or Cheviot breed, and at an average produce annually about 1100 stone of wool, which, of late years, has been sold at from 15 s. to 18 s. the stone. It has fallen this season near a third of the former prices, and the inferior kind has even fallen more. The farmers in this, and some of the neighbouring parishes, have lately begun to lay (or smear) their sheep with tar, mixed with palm oil, or African grease, instead of butter; and it is asserted by some of them, that after trying the experiment, they not only find it cheaper, but that it also improves the wool both in quantity and quality. The black cattle are calculated at 300 in Langholm, and 861 in Halfmorton. It may be proper to observe, that in Halfmorton, the number of sheep is only 266, and that being of the black-faced breed, their wool is omitted in the calculation, as being greatly inferior in quality to that of the white-faced kind. The horses in both places are about 300, viz. 141 in Langholm, and 159 in Halfmorton. Of these, about 15 are saddle, and 8 are carriage horses. All the rest are employed, either in agriculture or by carriers. The swine fed here, and in Halfmorton, may amount to 143. Bacon, of late years, has been a great article of commerce among the farmers in Annandale; and it has been calculated that 500 a-year has lately been received in Eskdale, though few swine are bred in this district, in proportion to the other districts of the county. The parish abounds in game of all kinds, and some

the seasons suit; barley, from the middle of April to the 20th of May; turnip, in June and July, and wheat in the end of September and October. Barley, wheat, and oats are cut in August, and the whole of the crops are generally got in by the 15th or 20th of October. The harvest, from the warm exposure, being earlier here than even in more inland districts

some pheasants, sent by the Duke of Buccleugh from Dalkeith some years ago, are increasing in the woods. Some of them have been shot 20 miles distant from their first settlement. The heath fowls are also in great plenty in different quarters of the parish. There are no migratory birds, but such as are common to other places. In summer, the woods which extend along the banks of the Esk, and which are supposed to occupy about 500 acres, are vocal with the tuneful warblings of thrushes, blackbirds, larks, linnets, &c. which, together with the cooing of the wood-pigeons, form a fine chorus to regale the ear of the delighted traveller as he passes through these enchanting groves.

*Antiquities.*—As the antiquities of this county are soon to be published by an ingenious and learned antiquary\*, it will be superfluous to say much on this article. The Roman road of communication between Netherbie and Castle-oer, or Overbie, in Eskdalemoor, can still be traced. It enters this parish at the S. E. corner, crosses the Esk a little above Broomholm, and continues its progress N. W. till it enters the parish of Westerkirk. About 10 years ago, some of Mr Maxwell's work people found some *denarii aurei* †, viz. 4 Neros, 2 Vespasians, and 1 Domitian, all in excellent preservation. They are now in the possession of Lady Douglas of Douglas. Upon the same line, at a subsequent period, 1 Otho, and 2 *denarii aurei* were discovered near Wauchope-bridge. They are now in the possession of the family of the late Mr Little, baron-bailie of Langholm. At the confluence of the Esk and the Ewes stands a small fragment of Langholm Castle, formerly the property of the Nithsdale family, the head of which

\* Mr Clapperton, surgeon, Lochmaben.

† In value about 16 s 4 d. Sterling.

which, at the beginning of the last century, was Lord of the regality of Eskdale, and first erected Langholm, in 1610, into a burgh of barony, designed in the charter *Arkinholm*. He afterward, in 1622, granted a new charter of erection to 10 cadets of the family, upon condition that each of them should build a house in the town, in which it is designed Langholm; along with the houses, of which 4 only were built, he granted to each of them a merk land; of these, Mr Maxwell of Broomholm still possesses five and a half. Wauchope castle, where the old manse stood, was the first residence of the Lindsays in Scotland. It appears from history, that they first came into this country from the manor of Lindfai in Essex, about the beginning of the 12th century, with Malcolm Canmore. Having ingratiated themselves with that prince, when in England, he brought them down, and conferred upon them the lands of Wauchopedale, &c. and from them it is supposed that the family of Crawford, and the other noble families of that name deduce, their origin. It is situated on a steep precipice, beautifully romantick, upon the river Wauchope, which, with its waters murmuring below among the pointed rocks, and the opposite banks finely shaded with pendent oaks and underwood, render the situation grand and picturesque. In those days it has been a place of great strength. The fosse, and other out-works of this ancient castle, are still clearly discernible. An old tower near Broomholm was taken down about 50 years ago, during the present proprietor's minority, which he still regrets. Mr Pennant, when in this country, was clearly of opinion, that the house of Broomholm, which is surrounded by the most enchanting scenery, stands in the heart of an old British town, and answers to Cæsar's description, "*oppidum sylvis paludibusque munitum quo,*" &c. (Cæf. de Bell. Gall.



made up Wauchopedale next spring, to shorten the communication between Langholm, Lockerbie, and Ecclefechan, and other places to the westward. There is a bridge of 3 arches over the Esk, where the road leading up into Eskdale begins, which unites the town and the village (or New Town) on the W. side of the river. It was built in the year 1775, by subscription. A little way N. there is another of 2 arches, upon the post-road over the Ewes. They stand nearly parallel, and are not above a gun-shot from each other, the two rivers immediately uniting between them. About half a mile S. of Langholm, there is another of 3 arches, which is supposed to be at least more than coeval with the current century. Besides several smaller arches, there are 3 other bridges, which do not merit any particular notice.

*Rivers.*—Having already had frequent occasion to mention the rivers in this parish, it needs only farther to be observed, that the Ewes, after intersecting the parish of that name, runs about a mile through this parish, and intermixes with the Esk, immediately before it passes below the bridge that communicates with the village or New Town, and that the Wauchope also joins it from the W. about a hundred yards below. After floods, excellent salmon are caught in the Esk; but the quantity, it is alleged, is much diminished by the obstruction they meet with from the mound across the river at Netherbie, that conveys water to Sir James Graham's mills; it may also be owing, perhaps, to the salmon-fisheries upon the Solway frith, to which, of late years, great attention has been paid, and which, of course, must diminish the quantity in the Esk, and in the other tributary rivers. Suffice it to say, that from the great quantities caught in both places, and sent to York and London, little of it reaches Langholm market.

When

When it does, it is often as high as 8 d. the lb. These 3 rivers all abound in excellent trout, but particularly the Wauchope. Those in the Tarrafs are larger than in the other rivers. The Wauchope and Tarrafs trout are of a more delicate flavour than those either of the Esk or the Ewes. No district in the S. of Scotland affords more amusement to a sportsman, either for fishing or fowling, than Langholm.

*Woods.*—After what has already been said in the preceding pages with regard to the extent of wood in this parish, it is only necessary to add, that it consists of some very venerable and valuable oaks, ash, birch, alder, and a variety of other trees, with which it is intermixed, such as beech and firs of all kinds, which are thriving, and adding much to the natural beauties of the place. There is a species of the fallow, known here by the name of the gray saugh, which grows to a large size, and is much prized by cabinet makers for its beautiful red colour, and the fine polish it is capable of receiving when applied to domestick purposes. The copse is finely diversified by a profusion of wild rasps, strawberries, blue (or blæ) berries, &c. &c. The Dean banks (through which the post road passes along the W. side of the Esk) and the woods of Broomholm on the opposite side, form a fine forest, consisting of many valuable, as well as beautiful trees.

*Poor, &c.*—The annual average of paupers in Langholm is about 35. The poor-rates\* were instituted in this, and  
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\* It has already been observed, that the poor-rates do not extend to Halfmorton.

in the other 4 parishes of Eskdale in the year 1773. In the landward part of the parish, the proprietors and tenants assess themselves quarterly, according to the exigencies of the poor, each paying a half of the sum assessed. No scheme has yet been adopted to meet the general approbation of the inhabitants of the town, (nor perhaps is it possible for human wisdom to devise one by which they can be all assessed exactly, according to each of their abilities), though the most respectable part of them cheerfully contribute their share, according to the assessment of sworn valuers. The quarterly assessments, which are made by the heritors, minister, and elders, have never exceeded L. 30; the average may be about L. 25. These assessments are paid to a collector, who also receives L. 1, 5 s. or L. 1, 10 s. quarterly from the kirk-treasurer, out of the weekly collections, which, with the fines levied from those who incur the discipline of the church, may annually amount to about L. 15. About L. 90, by different donors, have been bequeathed at different periods to the poor of Langholm, for the education of poor children, and other pious purposes, which the session, as guardians of the poor, have placed out at interest upon proper security. No poor are allowed to beg within the bounds of this presbytery. Though every person of humanity is happy to contribute his mite to the maintenance of those, who, by age, sickness, or infirmity, or other unavoidable calamities, become objects of compassion, yet, it is much to be regretted, that the worthless and the profligate, (and what town or district is without them), who are accessory to their own misery, look forward to this provision as a matter of right, not of favour; and having this resource in view, are too apt to indulge themselves in idleness and dissipation, without making any prudent reserve, either for themselves or their families, against the evil day. Of all the inventions of modern luxury, none have contributed

buted more to destroy that spirit of contentment and industry, that sobriety and decency of manners, which, not 20 years ago, so peculiarly characterized the peasantry of Scotland, than the unlimited introduction of distilleries. It is a painful reflection to every feeling mind, to every mind interested in the happiness of mankind, that the tradesman and the manufacturer, who, with the third, nay scarcely the fourth part, of the money they can now earn, then lived comfortably, and made provision for themselves and families against the days of adversity and old age, should now, from the immoderate use of distilled spirits, instead of being useful members of society, fall, too often, early victims to its baneful influence. Had all the fabled ills emitted from Pandora's box been realized, they could not have produced more deplorable effects, than when whisky, of all other liquors the most subversive of the health, the industry, and the morals of the people, became so cheap and so common as to supersede the drinking of beer, the good old wholesome beverage of our fathers. Religion, morality, health, and industry, are the dreadful sacrifices; and till the British Legislature, following the example of Ireland, shall interpose, by laying a tax upon it amounting to a prohibition, they will daily increase. The writer of these remarks, if he knows himself, is neither a bigot nor an enthusiast; is no enemy to the innocent pleasures of social relaxation and convivial enjoyment; but if, in the smallest degree, he could be instrumental in rousing those who are vested with power, to stand forth, and stem the torrent that threatens immediate destruction to human happiness, he will disregard the imputations. Among many other woeful instances of its rapid and alarming progress, it consists with his knowledge, not in one instance, but in many, that families clothed in rags, and ready to perish with hunger, have converted their first charitable do-



nation, either of money or meal, into that execrable poison ! into that unhappy instrument of their own ruin \* !

*Church,*

\* The willing may sneer at this, 'if he can, if his heart is so callous to every emotion of pity; but such a picture, and it is not a fancy piece, must excite horror in every thinking, in every benevolent mind. Every person who has any claim either to the character of a Christian, or of a man, will shudder at the direful consequences ! Tradesmen, some of whom at times have been able to earn a guinea a-week by the loom, &c. instead of living comfortably with their families, and saving a little for a reverse of circumstances, have not often on Saturday night wherewithal to subsist during the ensuing Sabbath ! Instead of associating on that day, a day devoted to rest and pious reflection, to sanctify and to reverence the sanctuary of Him who is the giver of all. by worshipping him as the God of their fathers, it is often spent in dozing over this deadly poison in some low tippling house or private dram-shop. It would be some consolation if these remarks were applicable to one parish, or to one district only. Reformation in that case might then be more easily accomplished. But every paltry hamlet, from Groham's Dyke \* to John o' Groats's, is feeling, and while it is permitted, will continue to feel, its woeful effects. It has engendered that depravity, that dissipation and profligacy of manners, which, like the destroying angel, is stalking forth, and with rapid strides, dealing destruction every where around it. The most contagious pestilence that ever desolated a country cannot produce more dreadful effects upon the natural, than it is now producing in the moral world, upon every public and private virtue. It is not only extinguishing that energy of mind, that praise-worthy spirit of industry and enterprise, which urges on to progressive improvement and happiness, but riot, contempt of lawful authority, that authority by which society alone can subsist, Licentiousness, under the sacred, though prostituted, name of Liberty, fraud, robbery, murder, insanity, and suicide, every where mark its fatal progress ! If such are its direful train, is it not high time for those in authority to step forth, and administer an antidote to this fatal poison, before the diseases it occasions become desperate, and baffle the utmost efforts of political skill to remove them ? Not a moment is to be lost. " Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation." Partial remedies may protract the malady, but will never operate a cure. The axe must be laid to the root of the tree.

† The boundary on the Carlisle road between England and Scotland



hill, which, in winter, renders it not only cold, but also, when the frost sets in, of difficult access. The manse was rebuilt this summer upon a very pleasant situation, and is now finishing. The offices are also to be rebuilt next year. It is a vice patronage between the Crown and the Duke of Buccleugh. The stipend, exclusive of the glebe, is L. 83 : 6 : 8 in money. The school and schoolmaster's house are at present ruinous, but they are soon to be rebuilt. As the present master is but newly elected, and has not yet opened school, the number of scholars cannot be ascertained. Many years ago, when the parish was less populous than at present, they often exceeded a hundred. The salary, including the interest of L. 50 bequeathed by John Read for the education of poor children, is about L. 13. A Burgher meeting-house was built a few years ago in the town. Above 25 heads of families belonging to the parish attend it; but such is the liberality of the age, that most, if not all of them, occasionally attend the church. They are in general peaceable subjects, and many of them are useful and valuable members of society. Their clergyman is paid from the seat-rents. There are 8 persons of the Episcopal persuasion, who also attend the church. It is gratifying to every liberal mind to observe bigotry and intolerance, among every denomination of Christians, giving place to that charity which is the bond of peace, and ranks highest among the Christian virtues.

*Marriages, Births, Funerals.*—The amount of marriages for ten years past is 125; of births, 820; of funerals, 333; of which, the annual average is 82 births, 12 marriages, and 33 funerals. As the Seceders have no register of baptisms, and as irregular marriages frequently occur, and many are buried out of the parish, whose names are not registered, the above calculations are rather below the real amount

amount than otherwise. It cannot at present be ascertained with greater accuracy, while Langholm church-yard, and the church-yards of Wauchope and Staplegordon are still used by many families to bury.

*Manufactures, &c.*—A branch of the cotton manufacture was established about 4 years ago in New-Langholm, which employed from 80 to 100 people; but by the late shock of commercial credit, which has deranged the Company's affairs, it has been at a stand since July last. There is every reason however to think, that from the many offers already made for a lease of the houses, utensils, &c. it will soon be resumed. Fortunately for the weavers, most, if not all of them, are now employed by Messrs Forrester and Fergusson, two respectable manufacturers in Carlisle, in weaving checks, &c. (so called, from being chequered or striped;) by which means, they are kept from emigrating into other parts of the country in quest of bread for themselves and their families. The manufacture of checks and thread has lately been begun in Langholm, and promises to succeed. During the last year, one man alone, Mr Carruthers, manufactured and sold above 20,000 yards of checks, and other coarse linens. Stockings have also begun to be manufactured, and such already is the demand for them, that the manufacturer cannot answer his orders. They are sold at from 2 s. to 5 s. a-pair. Considering all the advantages which Langholm enjoys, it is matter of surprise, that a woollen manufacture, upon an extensive scale, has not long ago been established. Inexhaustible mosses, within 2 miles of the town, furnish peat in abundance at 1 s. 6 d. the cart-load, and coal is sold at the pit at the same price, and delivered at Langholm, at the average of 4 s. or 4 s. 6 d. the cart. By the

the fine bridge thrown over the Esk this summer (1793) at Gilnocky, his Grace's coal-pit at Byreburn is only 5 miles distant, where there is a prospect of a plentiful supply by a large water-engine, and other machinery, constructed upon a new plan by the ingenious Mr Keir. Wool of the best quality, is the staple commodity of the country. Three rivers meet close by the town, upon which fulling mills, or other machinery might be erected to any extent, and the raw material, every where around, can be procured, without the expense of carriage. Solway frith, from which goods can be exported to any quarter of the globe, is only 14 miles distant. Uniting so many advantages, the establishment of such a manufacture in Langholm, cannot surely be far distant. Deprived of many of these advantages, Hawick and Gallaashiels are making great progress in the manufacture of carpets, &c. particularly Gallaashiels, the stockings and narrow cloths of which, by the industry of a few individuals, are now arriving at great perfection. Exclusive of cloths, grocery, and other goods sold in the shops, wood, Welsh slate, tar, grease butter, palm oil, (or African greese), are imported at Sarkfoot, and sold in Langholm, to the amount of L. 4000 and upwards. In short, there seems to be a spirit of industry and enterprise arising, which, if properly cherished, may ultimately lead to the introduction of different manufactures, particularly to that of the woollen, for which, every thing considered, Langholm, of all other places in Scotland, seems best calculated. This wished for event, so beneficial in its consequences, as keeping money in the country, and giving bread to the natives, is not however to be accomplished, but by people of capital, and of professional skill. Manufactures attempted, by associations of gentlemen alone, who are themselves ignorant of the business, and conducted

receive his stipulated salary, feldom or never succeed\*.

*Population, &c.*—From the many vestiges of old houses, it is evident, that in the landward part of the parish, population has decreased considerably during the present century. This may be owing, in a great measure, to the union of farms, many of the present tenants holding, in one farm, what was formerly about the beginning of this century, divided among 7 or 8. Waving the discussion of the advantages or disadvantages resulting from a monopoly of farms, it appears that the lands now occupied by 14 tenants, about the beginning of the current century, were divided among no fewer than 80 families, most of whom, people now alive, or lately deceased, remembered. This decrease, however, is more than supplied by the increased population of the town, which did not then perhaps contain above 150 or 200 souls, and which now exceeds 1500. In the beginning of October 1793, the population of Langholm and Halfmorton consisted as follows.

Of males, from infancy to 10 years of age,	359
Females, ditto,	366
Married persons,	746
Widows,	68
Widowers,	93

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Carry over, 1632

\* *Quere*, Would it not be an eligible plan for one or two of our country gentlemen, or respectable farmers, to send some of their sons to Huddersfield, Halifax, or to some of the great woollen manufactories in Yorkshire, as apprentices to each of the respective branches of the process. The idea does not appear either chimerical or irrational. A respectable manufacturer is, of all professions, the most useful member of society; and every profession is honourable in proportion, as it contributes to the welfare of the community.

	Brought over,	1638
Bachelors,	- . . . .	448
Maids,	- . . . .	508
		<hr/>
	Total,	2582 souls.
In June 1792, the parish of Langholm contained 2547 ditto.		
		<hr/>
Increase of population from June 1792 to October 1793,	- . . . .	35
		<hr/>
		2582
Population of Langholm, according to Dr Webster, in 1755,	- . . . .	1833
		<hr/>
	Increase since that period,	749

In the town are 2 surgeons, 2 attorneys or writers, (one of whom, Mr William Armstrong, is baron-baillie), 14 shopkeepers, 15 innkeepers and publicans, exclusive of some who keep private tippling houses and dram-shops, 6 manufactures in checks, thread and stockings, 1 tanner, 1 skinner, 1 clock and watch maker, 1 saddler, 2 dyers, 5 bakers, 5 butchers, 3 bleachers, and 3 barbers. In the town and country part of the parish there are, including journeymen and apprentices, 30 masons, 20 house-carpenters, 8 blacksmiths, 43 weavers, 11 shoemakers, (who make shoes with wooden soles, which are commonly worn by trades people and labourers in this part of the country;) 3 cloggers, 4 gardeners, and 15 tailors. The wages of masons a-day are from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. and upwards; of house-carpenters, nearly the same; of day-labourers, 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. 2 d. or 1 s. 4 d. in summer; women, from 8 d. to 10 d.; male servants employed in husbandry, and resident in the family, have from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year;

female

female ditto, from L. 3 to L. 5. Beef sells in Langholm market from 3 d. to 4 d. the lb.; mutton, from 2½ d. to 3 d. and 3¼ d.; fowls, from 8 d. to 10 d.; geese, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s.; butter, from 6 d. to 7½ d. the English pound; eggs, at 3 d. and 4 d. the dozen; meal sells at present at 2 s. the stone; it rose last season from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. 8 d. As it is all imported, either from Annandale, Nithsdale, or Tiviotdale, it is generally sold here at 3 d. the stone above the selling prices in these corn-districts. Last winter it happened, in one or two instances, that the town was in great distress for want of it, either from a monopoly in those who dealt in it, or from a sufficient quantity not being imported to answer the demand. This perhaps shows the utility of a public granary, in order to provide against any temporary scarcity, from whatever cause it may originate. There are 4 fairs in the year, of which the greatest is held about the 26th of July, called the Lamb fair. It is the greatest fair for lambs in Scotland.

*Concluding Observations.*—In the years 1781, 1782, and 1783, the inhabitants, both in the town and country, humanely interposed to alleviate the calamities of the poor, resulting from the almost total failure of the crops in this quarter, (which were blasted by premature frosts). Pease were imported from Newcastle and ground into meal, and oatmeal from Annandale and Nithsdale, by public subscription, and sold to the poor greatly below the current prices of the country. This beneficent plan not only relieved the indigent, but was also the means of bringing to market the meal, which avarice for a time concealed in the country, in order to gratify itself at the expense of the public calamity. A Friendly Society was instituted in Langholm about that season of scarcity, which has been productive of beneficial consequences. It consists at present of



150 members, who are admitted (not above nor below a certain age) upon paying 10 s. 6 d. and 1 s. quarterly afterward. Each member, upon his admission, subscribes to the rules of the society, by which he binds himself either to abide by them, or to forfeit his privilege. Habitual drunkennels, insolence to any of the office-bearers, or any gross immoralities of any kind, expels him from the society. In the year 1791-2, it expended about L. 40; and notwithstanding so great an expenditure, it was, by the addition of new members, L. 10 richer than in the year preceding. When any of the members falls sick, he is visited by other two; and upon the attestation of a surgeon that he is unable to work, he is entitled to draw 4 s. 6 d. a-week, if confined to his bed, and 3 s. 6 d. if able to walk about, though not to work; if his illness exceed a year and a half, he is then put upon the superannuated list, at the rate of 2 s. a-week during life. When a member dies all the other members (at least as many as can possibly) attend his funeral, and allow L. 2 out of the fund to defray the expense, besides paying each 6 d. to the widow or children of the deceased. Their annual meeting is upon the first Monday of May, when they walk in procession to church, and after sermon dine together, adjust their accounts, and elect a new preses, treasurer, &c. Their funds at present amount to about L. 150. There is also another much upon a similar plan, but its members are not so numerous. The Legislature has wisely sanctioned these societies, which are rapidly increasing in this country, and in all the northern counties of England, and which, if properly conducted, may in time reduce or abolish poors rates altogether. They raise a fund not for the idle and the profligate, but for the virtuous and the industrious, who may be overtaken by distress or infirmity, and to which they can have recourse, not as a matter of favour,



year 1760 by Mr Pulteney, at his own private expence, viz. from Irvine (where it leaves the great road between Edinburgh and Carlisle, and which was opened in the year 1765) to Springkell; and he was at the sole expence of that part of the road passing through his estate of Solway-bank, which was finished last harvest, in the district of Halfmerton; all the other roads in that quarter being made, and making at the expence of Sir William Maxwell, and the voluntary contributions of his tenants, as already stated.

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## NUMBER XXXIX.

## PARISH OF ECHT,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
KINCARDINE O'NEIL.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER HENDERSON.

*Situation, Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.*

THE parish of Echt is situated about 10 English miles W. from Aberdeen. It extends about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  English miles from E. to W. and as many from S. to N. being in form nearly square. There is no exact measurement of the parish. It may contain from 10,000 to 11,000 acres. Of these, however, there is not one third part arable; and of the arable ground, scarcely one fifth part infield, the other four fifths being outfield, or low swampy grounds, called laighs. It may be called an hilly district, but the hills are not high. Many of them are of so gentle acclivity, that they are ploughed to the top; some of them are covered with heath, and a few of them are rocky. The soil is various. That of the infield is mostly a light loam, and some clay. The outfields in general are of a light

light sandy soil, and the low grounds are for the most part mossy. The climate, especially in a valley in the centre of the parish, called the How of Echt, is mild, and the parish in general is earlier than most places in the neighbourhood, and highly susceptible of improvement. The air is not unhealthy, and there are no local diseases in the parish, but such as are common to the country around. The most prevalent are rheumatisms and nervous fevers.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1277 souls. In the beginning of the year 1793, there were in the parish of Echt 963 persons, of whom there were 447 males, and 516 females.

Under 10 years of age,	-	-	201
Above 10, and under 20 years of age,	-	-	161
Above 20, and under 50,	-	-	388
Above 50, and under 70,	-	-	164
Above 70 and under 80,	-	-	41
Above 80, and under 90,	-	-	8

All are of the Established Church, except 8 Burgher Seceders, and 2 Episcopalians. The annual average of births for 20 years preceding 1793, is nearly, males 12, females 11; marriages 5.

*Division of the Inhabitants, &c.*—There are in the parish 1 residing heritor, 1 clergyman, 1 schoolmaster, 2 students at Universities, 3 merchants, 4 gardeners, 14 weavers, 2 shoemakers, 9 tailors, 4 millers, 6 blacksmiths, 1 wheelwright, 1 cooper, and 6 joiners and house carpenters. The rest of the inhabitants are farmers and subtenants, or cottagers and servants, employed by the farmers. The women, except in time of peat digging and harvest, are generally employed in knitting stockings for the Aberdeen manufacturers, who come to the country once a month, and at dif-

ferent houses of the parish, give out to t  
 ployed by them dressed wool, to be spun a  
 the time they next come round, and to tal  
 the stockings knitted during the preceding  
 the only branch of manufacture with whic  
 any way connected. There are 255 inh  
 the parish, of which 35 are inhabited by si  
 45 by two persons only.

*General Character.*—The people are in  
 gular, and industrious. They are econon  
 expensive, yet humane and hospitable. Th  
 manners, peaceable in their disposition, an  
 their behaviour. They enjoy in a reaso  
 comforts and conveniences of society, and  
 with their situation and circumstances.  
 ordinary stature, healthy, and strong enoug

*Crops, State of Agriculture, &c.*—The  
 raised in the parish are oats and barley.  
 pease, and, of late years, some turnips and  
 fed in the parish, and potatoes, cabbages,  
 ficient for the consumption of the inhab  
 method of farming is by far most generall  
 strict, and improvement is as yet just only  
 The ridges are crooked, and in many p  
 them raised more than two feet above the  
 rows. All the infield grounds are kept  
 in crop. The common, indeed it may b  
 rotation, is barley and oats. About  $\frac{1}{3}$  par  
 can be got dunged, is annually sown with  
 rest with oats. The only preparation for  
 a ribbing, after the field is dunged, and a  
 just before it is sown. As much of the

grounds as can be got ploughed, is also cropped with oats. The consequence of this treatment is, that the fields are scourged and over-run with weeds, and the farmer for his labour has often but a poor return. Within these few years, however, some of the more opulent of the farmers have begun to adopt a different plan, both with their infield and outfield lands. They have levelled, straighted, and cleaned part of their infields, and after liming and a turnip crop, have laid them out in grasses with a crop of barley. The turnips have been found to answer remarkably well; the barley crops have been plentiful, and the grain of excellent quality; and the hay crops not at all despicable. A few of the farmers have also limed some of their outfields, and laid them out in grasses. This they have also found greatly to improve their pasture. Scarce any of the infields have as yet been broken up after this treatment; but there cannot be a doubt, that they will turn out far more productive than they formerly were; and it is to be hoped, that the success with which the experiments already made have been attended, will encourage those who have made them to go on, enlarge their plans, and induce others to follow their example. Although luxuriant crops cannot be expected from the mode of cultivation above mentioned, most generally in use, yet there is more grain raised in the parish than is necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants; and the farmers send annually to the Aberdeen market a considerable quantity of meal and some barley. There are besides, several other articles of provision, such as butter, cheese, ducks, hens, eggs, &c. carried to the same market; and by it the prices of all these different articles are generally regulated in the parish.

*Number of Cattle, Sheep, and Horses.*—The number of black cattle in the parish may amount to about 950, of sheep

sheep to 1500, and of horses to 165. The cattle, sheep, and horses, are in general but of small size. There are in the parish 53 Scotch, and 5 small English ploughs, all drawn by six, eight, or ten oxen, or by four oxen and two horses, except 1 drawn by two oxen, 3 by two horses, and 5 or 6 by four horses. There are 74 carts, and 1 waggon.

*Rent of the Parish, and Number of Proprietors.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 2364, 15 s. Scots. The real rent is not known. There are four proprietors, of whom only one resides in the parish. The estate of Echt was long in possession of proprietors of the name of Forbes, and was sold by them about 60 years ago to the late Earl of Fife, who settled it upon his second son, the Honourable Alexander Duff, the present proprietor. He removed his place of residence in the year 1768, from the old house at Echt to Housedale, another part of the parish, about two English miles from the old house of Echt, where he has built a commodious house and offices, and made out a garden of 2 acres, a great part of which is surrounded with a stone and lime wall of about 12 feet high. He has also enclosed, and improved, from a barren moor, which produced nothing but heath, broom, and furze, about 80 Scotch acres, which he has laid down with turnip, barley, oats, and different grasses. He has likewise planted at Housedale about 150 acres of hill ground with different kinds of trees, such as Scotch fir, pine, larix, oak, beech, mountain ash, &c. and they are all at present in a thriving condition.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The living consists of 16 bolls of barley, 32 bolls of meal, at 8 stone to the boll, L. 46 : 13 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling in money, and a glebe of about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres. The Honourable Alexander Duff of Echt, the principal and only residing heritor, is patron. The church and manse  
are



are old ; a new set of offices have just been built.—The parochial funds for the maintenance of the poor arise from the weekly collections in the church, mortcloth-dues, &c. which, at an average, amount annually to about L. 11, 6s. Sterling ; from the interest of L. 260 Sterling, a sum accumulated from the savings of former years, except two legacies left for behoof of the poor, under the management of the kirk-session, amounting to L. 67 : 15 : 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling ; and from a small annuity, 10 merks Scots, left by the late Mr Duff of Premnay, for behoof of such of the poor as live in that part of the lands and barony of Culter, which lies in the parish of Echt. The number of poor at present on the parish roll is 20. They receive quarterly, or once every 3 months, from 2 s. to 6 s. each, as their circumstances and necessities require. Besides the poor upon the roll, other necessitous persons in the parish occasionally receive relief. The annual average sum distributed among them is about L. 19 Sterling. The Honourable Alexander Duff of Echt also bestows annually 4 bolls of meal upon the indolent poor belonging to his estate.

*Antiquities.*—On the top of the Barmekin, a conical hill, the highest in the parish except the hill of Fair, of which notice is taken in the Statistical Account of the parish of Midmar, there is an ancient fortification, about which tradition is silent. The remains of two dry stone walls, and of 3 ditches without these, are distinctly visible. The walls and the ditches are all circular\*.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* The inner wall appears to have been about 12 feet thick, the outer only five or six. The circumference of the inner wall is about 330 yards; that of the outer ditch about 560. The distance between the inner wall and the inner ditch is about 16 yards; between the inner wall and the outer

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Almost the peat and turf, both of which are got in part. The roads were originally made, and are in good repair by the statute-labour, exacted of the parish is enclosed, except Mr Duffdale above mentioned\*.

outer ditch about 36. There are five different entrances enclosed within the inner wall; one on the E. one on S. W. one on the W. and one on the N. All the same direction. The outer wall is said to be more regular, and to have been built of stones taken from the ruins of trees, which one of the proprietors of the estate in the last century on the summit of the hill, but of which no signs remaining. This seems not improbable, as it is higher than the inner wall, and besides there is no entrance into the inner area, although all the five entrances above mentioned are perceptible through the ditches and the inner wall. Barmekin, and at the distance of about two furlongs there is one cairn, or large heap of stones, and at a like distance. There are also three other cairns, and in different parts of the parish, and the remains of the

\* In the years 1782 and 1783, the parish of Duffdale was exempt from the general calamity. It suffered considerably of the harvest 1782, but less than many other parishes, owing to the earliness of the soil and climate, most of the corn was a good deal of the oats filled, and tolerably ripe, when frosts and snow came on; but the late-frost both of the corn and the grass was destroyed by the frost, and a considerable deficiency found in the crops. The exertions of the kirk-session, who bought a considerable quantity of corn, and distributed it among the poor upon the parish, and sold it out to other indigent persons in the neighbourhood. The parish received but a small proportion of the relief granted by Government in summer 1783 for the relief of the distressed districts of Scotland, viz. five bolls of meal, and the

## NUMBER XL.

## PARISH OF BORTHWICK,

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN CLUNIE.*

*Name, Extent, Climate, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HIS parish evidently derives its name from the ancient and once powerful family of Borthwick, concerning whose origin traditional accounts are very various\*.

Borthwick

\* Some say that they were descended from one Andreas, a son of the Lord of the Castle of Burtick in Livonia, who accompanied Queen Margaret from Hungary to Scotland in 1057, and having got possession of some lands in the W. or S. parts of this country, his posterity, with some small alteration in the spelling, assumed the surname of Borthwick, from the place of their progenitor's birth. Others are of opinion that the name is merely local. Be that as it may, certain it is, that, during the 15th, and following centuries, the Lords of Borthwick had immense possessions, and very great influence in this part of the country. The peerage is now dormant;

but

Borthwick lies about 12 miles S. E. from Edinburgh, and 1 mile N. E. from Middleton. Its limits are somewhat irregular; but, on an average, its extent from E. to W. is about 6 miles, and from S. to N. about 4 miles. The climate is various; but upon the whole, mild and temperate. In this tract of country there is considerable less rain than falls on either hand of us. The hills to the S. and N. W. break the clouds, and with the attraction of the frith of Forth on N. E. carry off the rain, and frequently preserve us dry, while our neighbours are threatened with a deluge. The air is pure; the inhabitants in general are healthy, and subject to no particular local distempers. Remarkable instances of longevity now and then occur; one man in particular, not long ago reached his hundredth year, and to live upwards of 80 years is not reckoned at all uncommon.

2

Borthwick

but those who wish to see at large the descent, noble alliances, and history of this once flourishing family, may consult Douglass's Peerage. What now constitutes this parish formerly belonged to the College Kirk of Crichton, which lies about a mile N. E. of this place. In April 1596, King James I. of England dissolved from the said College Kirk the prebendaries of Ardnalestoun (now Arniston) of Middleton first and second, and of Vogrie, of old called Lochquharret, and also two boys, or clerks, to assist in the performance of Divine Service, with suitable salaries annexed to their office. These prebendaries, with the hail vicarage of Borthwick, fruits, rents, manse, and glebe thereof, were then, by a Royal charter, erected into a distinct and separate charge, to be in all time coming called the parsonage of Borthwick. The year before this, the presbytery of Dalkeith had designed a glebe for Mr Adam Colt, the then officiating parson; but this they seem to have considered only as a measure of expediency, the parish having been constituted before the Royal Charter could be obtained. This deed must have been regarded at the time as a transaction of considerable importance; for, in 1606, the erection of the parsonage by the said charter was solemnly ratified in Parliament, and in 1609, confirmed by George Archbishop of St Andrew's, as the undoubted patron of said prebendaries; always reserving, however, the presentation and advocacy of all the premises, gifts, and benefices to himself and successors in office.

Borthwick itself stands in a pleasant valley, surrounded on every side by rising grounds of considerable height, but scarce so high, or of such rapid ascent, as to deserve the name of hills. The general surface is uneven, and when viewed from the church, very much resembles the waves of the sea. The soil is exceedingly various, but for the most part kindly and light. Some portion of it, indeed, consists of clay; some part of it is loamy; and the higher grounds rather cold, and somewhat marshy.

*Proprietors, State of Property and Cultivation.*—There are in this district six proprietors, all of whom reside in the parish except one, who has in it only a small farm. These proprietors retain in their own hands about one half of the property, and several of them have made, and are still making, on their estates most substantial improvements. In point of cultivation, indeed, this parish has long been thought considerably behind; but the present farmers, whether proprietors or tenants, are, by rapid strides, following their more skilful and industrious, and consequently more successful neighbours. Enclosing, partly by hedge and ditch, and partly by stone and lime walls, has been of great service; and the strips and clumps of plantation, which meet the eye in every direction, have beautified the country, and tend very much to warm and fertilize the soil. The rotation of crops, like the soil, must be various; but the introduction of green crops and summer fallow, have been of unspeakable advantage, both in cleaning the ground and in procuring plenty of nourishing food for black cattle and horses, and consequently in increasing the quantity of manure. There is in every corner plenty of lime, which in this part of the country is not now much used as manure, either because being so much within reach, it is not held in sufficient estimation, or what is more probable, because a  
grea

great part of the land has been so repeatedly limed, and so cruelly cropped after, that this most valuable species of manure now ceases to operate or produce any considerable effect. Here of late much has been done, and it is to be hoped that the proprietors and farmers will still go on, and avail themselves of the advantages of their situation. They have at command coal and lime, neither of which has yet been discovered farther south, in this direction at least, till you approach the borders of England.

The valued rent of this parish is L. 5600, 18s. Scots. From the present state of the property, its real value cannot be precisely ascertained, but must be very considerable. The rents are said to have been about doubled within these 30 years; and from various considerations, it is probable that at this day the tenants have better bargains than their predecessors had, previous to the period mentioned.

*Price of Labour, and Employment of the People.*—In this parish services of every kind are almost entirely abolished, and in general the farmer pays money \* for all. In the villages, of which there are four small ones in the parish, we here and there meet with a mason, a wright, a weaver, or a tailor, but the people are chiefly employed in husbandry. No manufactures or commerce of any consequence are in these bounds.

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One

\* A certain quantity of poultry, indeed, must still, in many instances, be furnished to the proprietors by their tenants, which the latter, when not allowed to give money in lieu of it, consider as a very great grievance. Here the price of labour is very high. A man-servant, who lives and eats in the house, is allowed as wages from L. 6, 10s. to L. 9, and a woman-servant from L. 3 to L. 4 a-year: a day-labourer earns from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a-day, according to the nature of his employment. The wages of both sexes in harvest are regulated weekly by what is given to those who hire themselves at Dalkeith each Monday morning.

One ingenious mechanick, indeed, we must not omit to mention. At the village of Ford, which lies on the eastern extremity of this parish, lives James Small, the best plough-maker in Scotland. In this particular department, indeed, he is perhaps second to none in the island. He makes 300, 400, and sometimes 500 ploughs in a year, and by his acknowledged and decided superiority, such is the demand, that had he sufficient stock, and chose to attend merely to his personal interest, he might make his own terms, and increase the sale of his ploughs to an incredible extent. His chain plough is now in general use, and well known. The man who holds, at the same time, with dexterity and ease, drives two horses, which, if stout, are perfectly able to draw the plough in almost any soil. The same tradesman some time ago suggested cast metal in stead of wooden sheath and mould-boards, which, upon trial, is found to be a most important improvement. He too has lately invented, for tilling steep or hilly ground, a plough, which has been inspected, proved, and recommended in strong terms by a most respectable Committee of the Dalkeith Farmer Society. This instrument has double coulter and mould-boards, and on such simple construction, that the ploughman shifts them with ease while he is turning the horses. By this device, in going along any declivity where it is necessary to plough always down-hill, instead of returning empty, as is common, a furrow is taken both ways, only it must be thrown from the left as well as from the right hand, which saves nearly one half of the time, and, by a little practice, can be done with equal ease for man and horses.

At Dalkeith there is every Thursday the greatest corn-market in Scotland, which is exceedingly convenient for dealers in grain. In this parish there is one bleachfield, one lint and two corn mills, at which last meal is made for the neighbourhood, but chiefly for the Edinburgh market.

At

At the village of Middleton is a very good inn, with a regular post-office, post-chaises, &c. and in the other quarters of the parish are 4 ale-houses, which are by no means favourable either to the health or morals of the inhabitants.

*Stipend, Schools, &c.*—The patron is Mr Dundas of Ar-niston, who is also the principal heritor. The stipend, besides the manse and usual appendages, is L. 100 : 3 : 10, all paid in money. About 40 yards from the site of the old one \*, and entirely without the burying-ground, stands the present church, which is nearly in the centre of the parish. It was finished in 1778, and, much to the credit of the heritor, and comfort of the parishioners, is neat, commodious, and substantial. Nothing like it, indeed, is to be seen in this part of the country. Part of the manse is very old; but by the repairs which were given about 4 years ago, it is now a good lodgeable house. The offices, garden, garden-wall, and pigeon-house, are most excellent. The glebe which is adjoining, consists of rather more than 12 Scotch acres, and is enclosed. About 7 acres is good arable land; the rest is marshy, but improvable.—There are two schools in the parish. The public teacher has, as schoolmaster, L. 5 : 3 : 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  of salary; but the heritors have thrown in his way several other emoluments. As session-clerk and precen-tor, which office is usually annexed to that of schoolmaster in country parishes, he is allowed from the public funds L. 1, 10s. a-year; and for collecting the poor-rates, and  
4 K 2 distributing

\* The old church, which was a Popish building in the form of a cross, was in May 1775 burnt to the ground. Two of the heritors had fire-places in it. The day before the accident happened, the fires had been lighted as usual, and sufficient attention not having been paid in laying off the coals, they gradually communicated with the wood; and on the following night, before it was observed, the roof had fallen in, and scarce a vestige of timber was to be seen.



distributing the money, L. 2. As collector of the statute-money, he receives L. 1, 10 s.; his perquisites for registering marriages, births, and burials, are; on an average, L. 1, 10 s. and school wages L. 5, 10 s.; so that the whole amounts to L. 17 : 3 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ , besides a small house and garden. This, though by no means one of the worst livings of the kind, never can be an object to a man who has got any thing like a liberal education. To one who is only tolerably well informed, or at all qualified to be useful, and who must dress, and is supposed to live a little above the common rate, it is only a sort of genteel starving. The average number of scholars is 30, and the small pittance which is drawn merely as school-fees, is indeed striking. But we shall cease to wonder, when it is observed, that although the wages of the very lowest of his employers have been doubled, and in many instances tripled, those of the schoolmaster have not been altered for a century\*.

### The

\* Here the fee for teaching to read English is 14 d.; for reading and writing 18 d.; and for reading, writing, and arithmetick, 2 s. a quarter. And even such trifles are in many cases but ill paid. Sensible of the disadvantages under which he labours, the session a few years ago, in order to take the odium off their schoolmaster, who in some measure must depend on the good opinion of the public, took upon themselves to regulate the school-fees, which they ordered to be raised considerably, and paid at entry. But the object of their attention, upon the people remonstrating, and threatening to send their children elsewhere, either wanted the resolution or the power to give effect to the well-meant scheme of his intended benefactors. Such a measure, indeed, could not then have been adopted with advantage, unless similar resolutions had been entered into by all the teachers in the neighbourhood. But in this point of view schoolmasters only share the fate of other annuitants, who must always suffer by the prosperity of their country, and whose situation hath been so feelingly described by many who have contributed to this important work.

The other school mentioned is in a village about two miles from the church. Here the average number of scholars is 28; the fees are, equally low, and still worse paid than those of the parish schoolmaster. The teacher indeed has L. 3, 1s. of salary, arising from a sum mortified by a Sir James M'Lurg. A school-house too has hitherto been furnished by Mr Dewar of Vogrie, as the institution seems to have been chiefly intended for the children of those who reside on his estate.

*Poor.*—For 20 years past the number of poor has, on an average, been about 18, and their allowance L. 2, 10s. the month, or L. 30 a-year. At present, indeed, their maintenance amounts to upwards of L. 20 more, owing to the session having charge of five poor orphans, who are educated, fed, and clothed at the expense of the parish. In the years 1775, 1776, and 1777, there was no accommodation, and of course little or no public worship at Borthwick. In that case, recourse was had to an assessment, which the parties concerned have never since got entirely rid of. A variety of circumstances concurred to render a partial assessment absolutely necessary; and although, after such mode of supporting the poor was found expedient, numbers thought proper to withdraw their collections at the church-doors, yet still our ordinary contributions are continued, and found to be of some consequence. They amount to about L. 10, 12s. a-year; the pall, or mortcloth money, is about L. 5 : 3 : 5, which, with L. 2, 10s. as interest of money laid out at 5 *per cent.* constitutes all the regular funds on which we can have any dependence. The L. 50 alluded to, the heritors and session broke upon in the memorable year 1782, but, by mutual consent, they embraced the very earliest opportunity of replacing it, that it might lie in reserve as a fund to which they could have recourse on any extraordinary emergency.

Four

Four of the heritors are elders, and do their duty as such. They take a kind interest in the poor, meet with the session regularly twice a-year, examine accounts, listen to new applications, make up the roll for the ensuing half year, fix the allowance of each pensioner as seems needful, and assess themselves and tenants to make up the deficiency of the supplies above specified. A discretionary power too is given to the minister, and any one elder, to attend to circumstances which cannot be foreseen or provided for at the stated meetings \*.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 910 souls. From an accurate list taken by the late incumbent about 4 years ago, it appeared that the number of the people had diminished considerably from the time that Dr Webster had calculated the population of Scotland. This decrease must here, as in many other situations, have been

\* Such provision, it has sometimes been alleged, has a tendency (by damping industry, and rendering the labouring part of the community less scrupulous in their applications for aid) to lessen the mortification of being assisted by the public charity of people like themselves, and so, in effect, to increase the number of poor; but similar objections may be brought against charitable institutions of almost every denomination. In this country there can be no great cause of alarm while the management is in such hands; and therefore, to compare our trifling assessments with the poor-rates in England in their operation and effects, is ridiculous and absurd. True, indeed, it would be most desirable that no assessment were necessary; and did heritors in general imitate those of the parish of Borthwick, the happiest consequences might be expected: But in many parishes not a single proprietor resides; and where he does, gives not himself the smallest trouble about the poor. The tenants naturally imitate their superiors, in relaxing in their attendance on public worship, and the trifling sums collected at church may be said to be half extorted from the very poorest of the community. On this account, therefore, as in many other instances, we must take mankind, not as what they ought to be, but as they really are, and so treat them accordingly.

been owing chiefly to the alteration in the mode of farming, and to the commercial state of the country. Upon two or more farms being thrown into one, and one man instead of two employed in managing the plough, the race of hinds or cottagers were no longer such objects of attention, and that useful body of men naturally repaired to manufacturing towns in quest of more lucrative employment. How far this may in the end prove beneficial or hurtful to the substantial interests of the country, time will determine. Since the year 1789, the inhabitants in this quarter have increased in number about 40, which cannot be accounted for in any other way, than that now two considerable farms are let, which were then in the hands of the proprietors. There are now in this parish 858 souls; 412 males, and 446 females; of these 154 are children under 8 years of age. The whole number of the people is divided into 204 families, so that something more than 4, or about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ , are supposed to be in each family. In the country parts of the parish the proportion is much higher; but in the villages are several houses that contain each a solitary inhabitant, which, when brought into the calculation, renders the average just mentioned pretty accurate. The Seceders of all denominations amount to 112, of whom only 6 are servants; but here we have included all the children of Seceders, and as a considerable number of them are not yet of age to choose for themselves, and it is much more common in this part of the country for the children of Seceders to attach themselves to the Church, than for the children of those who are in communion with the Church to secede, the proportion of Dissenters now stated must be too high. Some years ago a Relief meeting house was built in the E. corner of this parish, and a minister appointed with a small salary; but he and his hearers soon differing, he could not realize the trifling living promised, and was obliged to give

up his charge. Attempts have since been made to procure a successor; but either from want of funds, or from a difference of opinion in the choice of their pastor, or from both causes united, such attempts have hitherto failed, and the few who once were zealous in the support of this meeting, now go occasionally to the different churches from which they had separated themselves.—Here the average number of marriages in a year is 8; of baptisms, 20; and of burials, 15; but, although the registers are kept with care, no accurate conclusions can be drawn from them respecting population\*.

#### *Antiquities.*

\* According to a prejudice of very ancient date, the custom with us is to be buried with our fathers; and from the change of residence, which ever must take place among the great body of the people, and the fluctuating state of all human affairs, there are not above two farmers in these bounds who bury in this place. They carry their deceased friends elsewhere; and, in return, the dead are brought here from neighbouring parishes, and sometimes from a very considerable distance. The register of baptisms is not much to be depended on; for, in spite of the advice and remonstrances of their minister, the people frequently neglect to register the names of their children, and, what is to be regretted and condemned, the higher ranks are in this respect the most faulty. They seldom register either marriages or baptisms, which surely must proceed from inadvertency; but they ought to consider, that they thereby deprive the session-clerk of a very considerable perquisite, and render the records imperfect. True, indeed, 3 d. is, by act of Parliament, regularly levied for Government on each birth, marriage, or burial, when registered; but there seems to be no clause in the act compelling people of every description to register uniformly and without exception; or, if there be, in whom is the compulsory power lodged? and at whose instance is the prosecution to be undertaken? The session-clerk has neither time nor authority to prosecute; and if he had, the prosecution of one half of the delinquents would to him in many cases prove instant ruin. As the trifling sums levied can be no great object to Government, could all or such proportion of the threepences be allowed for the clerk's trouble, as would effectually unite his interest with his duty, hence would arise considerable emoluments to a needy but useful body of men, and parish-records be in every instance complete.

*Antiquities.*—About a mile and a half below this place, there is on the lands of Harviefton, beautifully situated by the side of the water, a ruin, which is said to have been the residence of the family of Borthwick, before they were created Peers, or had risen to such eminence in this country. About the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th century, lived a Sir William Borthwick, who, being a man of very great parts, was employed as an ambassador on several important negotiations, and concerned in most of the public transactions of his time. This William appears to have been created Lord Borthwick before the year 1430; for, in October that year, at the baptism of the King's two sons, several Knights were created, and among the rest William, son and heir of Lord Borthwick. He obtained from King James I. of Scotland, a licence to build a castle on the lands of Lochwarret, *Ad construendam arcem in illo loco qui vulgariter dicitur le motte de Lochwarret.* This grant was obtained by a charter under the Great Seal in the year 1430. A stately and most magnificent castle was accordingly reared, and afterward became the chief seat and title of the family. This amazing mass of building is yet upon the whole very entire, and of astonishing strength. There is indeed in the middle of the east wall a considerable breach; but whether this hath been occasioned by a flash of lightning, or by the influence of the weather, or by some original defect in the building, cannot now with certainty be determined. The form of this venerable structure is nearly square, being 74 by 68 feet without the walls, but having on the W. side a large opening, which seems to have been intended to give light to the principal apartments. The walls themselves, which are of hewn stone without and within, and most firmly cemented, are near the bottom 13 feet thick, and towards

the top are gradually contracted to about 6 feet. Besides the sunk storey, they are from the adjacent area to the battlement 90 feet high; and if we include the roof, which is arched and covered with flag stones, the whole height will be about 110 feet. In one of the low apartments is an excellent spring well, which, however, is now filled up with rubbish. On the first storey are state rooms, which were once accessible by a draw bridge. The great hall is 40 feet long, and had its musick gallery; its roof is lofty, and has once been adorned with lustres, painting, and tapestry. The chimney, which is very large, has been nicely carved and gilded, and in every corner may be traced the remains of fallen greatness. Here too was sheltered injured royalty; for a little before the battle of Carberry Hill, the Earl of Bothwell, with his fair consort, fled for refuge to this hospitable mansion. Its noble owners were uniformly men of great honour and loyalty, and before the use of artillery, their strong-hold would be deemed impregnable, so that all who were under their protection might be perfectly secure. The castle is surrounded on every side but one by steep ground and water, and at equal distances from the base are square and round towers\*.

### The

\* Strong, however, as this fortress was both by nature and art, it was not proof against the enthusiastic fury of the celebrated Oliver Cromwell. John, eighth Lord Borthwick, had, during all the civil war, remained firmly attached to the Royal cause, which was sufficient to draw upon him the vengeance of the Protector. Accordingly there is in the hands of Mr Hephurn of Clerkingtone, now proprietor of the castle and lands of Borthwick, an original letter, which, as a piece of curiosity and characteristic of the author, shall here be transcribed *verbatim*. It was written

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tribes of the uncivilized northern nations. Below, and all around the tumuli now instanced, have been discovered, and dug up numbers of earthen pots full of half-burnt human bones, and each of them covered by a flat stone. These have generally been found about a foot or a foot and a half in the earth, and sometimes so near the surface, that they have been uncovered by the plough. Some of these pots, with their contents, are very entire, and others considerably wasted. Most of them may contain about two Scotch pints. Specimens of them have been preserved, and are still in possession of the proprietor of the ground\*.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish hath produced several very great men. Among the Literati, one, to whom this place gave birth, will hold a distinguished rank, while a taste for literature remains in the world. The late Principal  
Robertson

\* All of them are of coarse but curious workmanship, and most of them are ornamented with various figures, from which, however, nothing can be drawn to enable us to ascertain with certainty, when or by whom they have been deposited. The spot on which they are found has, in all probability, been a military station; but whether Roman, Danish or British, we shall not pretend to decide. From the united testimony of travellers and historians, there seems to be little reason to doubt, that the practice of burning the dead did once prevail among some of the northern nations, and Dr Henry, who was indefatigable in his researches, and whose veracity hath never been called in question, observes, in his history of Britain, that “the ancient inhabitants of South Britain burnt the bodies of the dead, according to the custom of the ancient Gauls, from whom they were descended.” This the historian thinks evident, from the the great number of urns, of British workmanship, which have been found in various corners of the island, full of ashes and human bones, half burnt. Discoveries too, of a late date, tend to corroborate the circumstances which the Doctor brings in proof of his conjecture.

Robertson was born in the manse of Borthwick. He ever cherished an attachment to the place of his nativity, and to the latest period of life, talked of the scenes of his youth with a pleasing and interesting warmth. Such a shining character needs no panegyric. The figure which he made in the church is yet fresh in the memory of the order to which he belonged. The dignity of his manner, the strength of his arguments, and precision with which they were stated, the smoothness of his periods, and the clear but nervous language in which he at all times expressed his sentiments, but more especially on particular occasions, gained the attention of his audience, and commanded the admiration of such of them as had any taste for pulpit oratory. His talents for conversation and engaging manners were no less remarkable. His writings are known and read with avidity in every quarter of the globe; his subjects are interesting, and handled in a masterly manner; and in all the productions of his pen appear such a profound knowledge of human nature, such accurate discrimination, and such a power of eloquence, that his fame will live when the present and many succeeding generations are mingled with the dust.

In the law department, the Dundases of Arncliffe have made a conspicuous figure. Two of the heads of that respectable family were Presidents of the highest civil court in this country; and by their knowledge of law, and dispatch in business, as well as by their unwearied attention to the particular causes which came under their review, and the equity of their decisions, did credit to the choice of their Sovereign, and were of the highest importance to the civil interests of their country. From this family too are some living characters; who cannot in justice be passed over in silence. The Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Secretary of State, &c. is not only distinguished as a statesman

man over all Europe, but his well earned fame has extended beyond the Eastern and Western Oceans. His strong attachment to his native country is well known, and the essential services which he hath rendered it, true, in spite of the envy of his political enemies, be acknowledged by every candid and unprejudiced mind. The family from which he is descended by no means seems to degenerate. The younger branches, who now may be said to be only entering on public life, promise to do honour to the respective professions which they have chosen. Their mental abilities can only be surpassed by their steadiness in friendship, their strong attachments, and amiable winning manners. Of their present representative, the writer of this paper shall suppress the impulse which he feels, and forbear to say any thing particular, lest he should be accused of flattery, which he detests, or of partiality, by which, from certain circumstances, he may in this instance be biased.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—With truth, it may be said, that the parishioners of Borthwick are decent and exemplary in their external deportment. In every human society, certain irregularities must now and then take place, but here atrocious crimes are entirely unknown, and the people in general are orderly, peaceable, industrious and contented. Notwithstanding their diversity of opinion in matters of religion, they live in harmony and friendship with one another. The Seceders, it has sometimes been alleged, notwithstanding their professions of superior sanctity, are, in point of truth and integrity in their intercourse with the world, not quite so correct as could be wished. Charity binds us to believe, that the allegation is unfounded; and without attempting to offer a full vindication of their conduct in this particular, it may be asserted



## NUMBER XLI.

## PARISH OF BALMAGHIE,

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD  
OF GALLOWAY.)

*By the Rev. J. JOHNSTONE, Minister at Crossmichael.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**B**AL, in the Gaelic language, signifies a township or residence. For about 600 years previous to the year 1786, the family of Maghie of Balmaghie possessed extensive estates in this part of the country, and here they resided. Hence the etymology of the name of the parish is obvious. The district is quadrilateral; but as it has not yet been completely surveyed, its form cannot be accurately described. Its length may be about 8 or 9, and its breadth from 3 to 6 English miles. The general appearance of the surface is very far from pleasing the eye. A great part of it is covered with heath, and with rocks. There are some bogs or morasses, which are either incapable of being drained, or  
being

being made to yield a return adequate to the expence of such an operation. There are mosses too of great extent, which, if they are not more beautiful, are at least of more value, as they afford an abundant supply of fuel to the inhabitants, and serve to relieve the want of their neighbours. There are a few bleak rugged hills, which rise to a considerable height, and are incapable of improvement: But the parish in general cannot be said to be mountainous. Along the eastern and southern skirts of it, nature has been more liberal of her favours, and human industry has begun to give proofs of its power. Here are verdant and fertile meadows, which, before the use of artificial grasses was known, were let as high as the best arable land is at this day. The appearance and condition of the dry ground here, have been changed and improved by the application of lime imported from England, and of excellent shell-marl found in Carlinwark Loch. There is some natural wood; and a few plantations have been made, which are in a thriving state: But still there is too much reason to consider hedges and trees as rarities in Galloway.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—The Dee, (commonly called the black water of Dee), runs along the north side of the parish, and forms the line of separation between it and Kells. At the north-east corner of Balmaghie, the junction of this river with the Ken is formed. Here the two rivers, made one and indivisible, assume the name of the Dee, and proceeding in their course along the eastern, and a part of the southern border of this parish, disjoin it from Parton, Crossmichael, and Kelton. (For a more particular account of this great body of water, the reader is referred to the First Volume of this Work, Numbers XXI. and XXII.) There

are 5 lakes or lochs in the parish, in which anglers, who repair to them for amusement, find abundance of pike, perch, and trout. Grannoch, or Woodhall loch, is the largest in the district; it is about a quarter of a mill broad, and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles in length.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are at least 5 mineral springs, which, though they may vary in strength, seem all to possess the same qualities. The most remarkable is Lochenbreck well, situated in the estate of Woodhall, the property of Walter Sloan Laurie, Esq. of Redcastle. Of this the following account is given by Mr Eliezer Milligan, surgeon at Castle-Douglas, (*ci-devant* Carlinwark.) “It is a strong mineral spring, that for time immemorial has been frequented by numbers every spring and summer season, for behoof of their health; and its good effects have been sanctioned by every one of the faculty that knows its virtues. It is a chalybeate water, and perhaps one of the strongest of the kind in North Britain. Being chemically tried by many, it has been found to contain a strong impregnation of that ore. Persons afflicted with aguish complaints have always found relief from its use; and, even in obstinate intermittents, perfect cures have been made by it. In other complaints of the stomach, and in many female weaknesses, this water has been famously known to be most serviceable and restorative, even when patients have been given up by the faculty.” Some years ago, the proprietor built a small house, in which lodgings may be had; but still the want of proper accommodation, and of a road, prevent the benefit of Lochenbreck well from being extended to so many as might otherwise receive it. Leas, or building-leases, may be had on very moderate terms.

*Soil,*

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—In some places the soil is deep, strong, and fertile: In others, it is light, dry, and kindly; and in others again, it is so thin and rocky, as scarcely to admit of cultivation and improvement. Here, as in the west of Scotland in general, rains are frequent and heavy. They are most remarkably so about Lammas, or at least they are most pernicious at that season. The Dee, overflowing its banks, injures or removes the hay of the meadows, which is seldom cut so early as it ought to be. These floods are almost always accompanied with high winds from the west; of course, the produce of the farms here is more apt to be swept away, than that of lands on the opposite banks of the river. The air in the moors is rather piercing and cold; but the district, on the whole, cannot be considered as unfavourable to health and longevity. No epidemical diseases are prevalent. Malignant fevers sometimes appear in spring, and are most fatal to those who are most poorly fed and lodged. Several persons have attained to a considerable age. About 20 years ago, one woman died at the age of 113. Eighty-six and 90 are the ages of the oldest persons now alive.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 697 souls. The state of population seems not for some time past to have undergone any material alteration. The sheep-farms can never furnish employment and subsistence to a great number of people. The lands capable of improvement have neither been thrown into farms of immoderate extent, nor broken down into small possessions. *Cot-crofts* (as they were called) have been abolished; but the influence of this in promoting depopulation, has been sufficiently counteracted. The additional labour which improvements in agriculture occasion, has prevented any from leaving the place for want of employment, and has encouraged others



to settle in it. Such are either accommodated in the houses of the farmers, or, when they are married, have cottages built for them. Village-building is but little encouraged here. No manufactures have been introduced. The principal facts under this head may be stated in the following

## T A B L E.

Souls in 1793,	862	<i>Occupations.</i>	
Males in 1793,	433	The Minister,	1
Females ditto,	429	Schoolmasters,	2
No. of families,	152	Small heritor resident,	1
Average of persons in each,	5½	Farmers whose rents are from L. 240 to L. 30,	30
Male farming servants,	63	Do. renting below L. 30,	34
Female servants,	51	Servants and labourers on farms as above,	132
Labourers engaged by the year, called <i>benefit-men</i> , living in separate houses,	18	Blacksmiths,	2
		Millers,	3
		Shoemakers,	8
		Weavers,	12
<i>Agas.</i>		Masons,	7
Persons under 10 years,	208	Carpenters,	8
From 10 to 30,	251	Tailors,	8
30 to 60,	376	Boatmen,	2
60 to 90,	27	Dram sellers,	8
<i>Religious Persuasion:</i>		Families of the above,	604
Roman Catholicks,	11	<i>Place of Birth.</i>	
Children of ditto,	3	Ireland,	30
Antiburghers,	2	England,	1
Cameronians,	8	Galloway, &c.	831
Established Church,	838		

*Division,*

*Division, Rent, and Price of Land.*—The parish is divided among 11 heritors, none of whom at present reside constantly, except one, whose lands may be worth about L. 20 a-year. The valued rent of the whole parish is L. 3651 Scots, and its rent in reality L. 2640 Sterling. As all the gentlemen have not plans of their estates, their several dimensions cannot be given exactly; but, according to the nearest computation that can be made, they may be stated thus:

Estates.	Acres.	Rent. L.	Carts.	Ploughs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1	2900	758	25	14	48	400	340
2	4204	460	18	12	34	295	680
3	2400	420	11	7	24	300	400
4	955	480	17	8	26	200	40
5	960	278	10	6	24	200	60
6	2850	120	2	2	8	112	1060
7	1000	50	0	0	0	0	300
8	100	40	1	1	2	30	70
9	200	20	1	1	3	20	80
10	100	12	0	0	0	0	60
11	4	2	0	0	0	4	0
Glebe	14	0	1	1	2	4	0
<b>Total.</b>	<b>15687</b>	<b>2640</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>1565</b>	<b>3090</b>

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The horses are either reared in the country, or imported from Ireland. The cattle are mostly of the true Galloway breed, which is too well known to need a particular description. Several of the farmers deal in Irish black cattle to a considerable extent. These they frequently keep in winter to consume part of their fodder in the fields, and about Candlemas they send them up to the English markets. The sheep in the moors are of the common black-faced kind; those on the lower lands are of the white-faced half-mug species. A few Shetland sheep have been introduced lately, but are not in a thriving state. Live-stock of every kind has fallen very much in price in the course of last year. This is ascribed by some to the war in which this country is engaged. Others again, who speak with more caution on public affairs, ascribe it to the scarcity of money. Whatever be the cause, the effect is to many poor farmers a source of very serious distress. The best arable and meadow lands are let at 10 s. or 12 s. the acre, in farms of considerable extent. Some small enclosures yield at the rate of 18 s. or L. 1 the acre. Moor lands, let by the lump, are had for 1 s. the acre, and some even lower. As several of the estates are entailed, there has not of late been any considerable transference by sale. In the year 1786, the estate No. 1. containing 2900 acres, was purchased for L. 10,700; and soon afterward let at L. 758 a-year. About the same time the estate No. 3. containing 2400 acres, and let for L. 420, was bought for L. 9300.

*Agriculture.*—On the arable lands the modes of improvement and management are so similar to those in neighbouring parishes already described, that a particular account of them need not be given at present. It need only be observed, that such success has attended them, that the parish  
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not only supplies its inhabitants with the necessaries of life, but yields, at the same time, considerable quantities of grain for exportation. In some of the moor farms the practice of paring and burning is still pursued. Land so managed generally produces two or three good crops; but, in many cases, the soil itself must be thereby exhausted. Those, therefore, who have crops at such an expense, seem to be in the situation of a man, who, by spending his fortune, lives more fully than he could do by confining himself to the annuient of it; but will certainly be disappointed, if he expect to maintain himself so long. Great tracts of heath in the moors are set on fire in spring, to make young grass grow for the lambs. The length of the winters, and the rains which generally succeed them, seldom allow this operation to be finished so early as the law requires\*. The tenour of leases granted by landlords, (or, as they are frequently called, masters), is not in every respect calculated to encourage and reward the industry of the tenant. Personal services are still required. Assignees and subtenants are almost universally secluded. Some have begun to proceed further, expressly secluding the legal diligence of creditors; and declaring the lease to be irritated in the event of the statutory bankruptcy of the tenant, or sequestration of his effects. The Board of Agriculture lately established, would do well to consider what the effects of such a clause as this may

\* To the sportsman, this proves a source of the most serious alarm; as it sometimes prevents the multiplication of those animals which are, in his eye, of more value than any with which the earth is replenished. For this evil there seems to be but one remedy. As acts of human legislatures cannot accelerate or retard the revolution of the seasons, those who prefer moor-fowl to mutton, should keep their lands in their own possession; for while they are held in lease, the tenants must be allowed to use the means by which their rents may be paid, and their families supported.

may be. The laws of this country seem to have made ample provision for securing the rights of the landholder. It seems also to be the spirit of them, that those who cultivate the ground should not be prohibited from tasting the sweets of independence. It may be said, indeed, that such clauses are inserted with the consent of both parties, and that therefore they cannot be illegal or oppressive. So far as their own rights only are concerned, parties may contract on what terms they think proper; but the rights of third parties are not to be invaded without their knowledge and consent. But in the case stated this may be done. A tenant is possessed of a farm, and improves it on credit; his circumstances fail, before it has yielded the return he had reason to expect. That the just demands of his creditors may be satisfied, the law hath provided, that the lease may be transferred from him to them by a process of adjudication. But here the landlord interferes, and institutes a claim, not to the land only, but also to all the meliorations which it has received. The case is a new one, and it certainly merits attention. Nothing should be done by contract, which tends to place so useful a body of men in that precarious situation, from which acts of Parliament are intended to relieve them.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Religious controversy is at present little known here. Towards the beginning of the present century, this was by no means the case. Several ministers in the neighbourhood had adopted the tenets of the Cameronians. To these Mr John Macmillan of this parish adhered with such inflexible firmness, that the presbytery of Kirkcudbright found cause to depose him from his office. Such, however, was his influence, and the spirit of the times, that the people retained their attachment to him, and resisted every attempt to eject him from the manse and church.

church. Mr William Mackie, though legally inducted to the charge, was obliged to hire a house for himself, and to officiate in a barn to those who were willing to acknowledge and attend his ministry\*.

*Church,*

\* When some of his adherents went to plough the glebe for his behoof, those of his competitor rose up against them, cut the reins in pieces, turned the horses adrift, and threw the plough-share into the adjoining lake. Some threatened violence to the minister's person. An infuriated female actually attempted the execution of it, and would probably have effected her purpose, had he not interposed his hand between his throat and a reaping sickle, with which she was armed. His fingers were cut to the bone. The glove which he wore was carefully preserved, as a memorial of the providential escape he had made. Another woman who was present, exclaimed, *shed no blood*, and her advice was followed. It was remarked by the country people, that the intending assassin never prospered afterward, and that by her own hand she terminated a life which she felt herself unable to endure. At length, after the struggle in the parish had continued about 12 years, Mr Macmillan retired voluntarily, and became an itinerant preacher, and founder of the sect of the Macmillanites, or modern Cameronians, who assume the designation of the *Reformed Presbytery*. By prudent conduct, and ministerial faithfulness, Mr Mackie entirely overcame the aversion of his people, and lived long among them respected and useful. Some indeed retained, and some still retain, a predilection for principles, in defence of which they have considered their fathers as having suffered unjustly. But of the Dissenters in Scotland in general, it may with truth be said, that they are as industrious and as peaceable members of society, as their fellow-subjects who belong to the Established Church. Perfect unanimity on speculative points is never to be expected, and attempts to produce it by the application of force, are both foolish and unjust. The policy which extends toleration to all who invade not the rights of their neighbour, is worthy of an enlightened age, and its wisdom and utility are justified by the experience of man.

*Church, Stipend, Schools, Poor, &c.*—The church, at present almost ruinous, is about to be rebuilt. The manse was built in the year 1764, and has since been repaired at considerable expense. An agreement has been made for a complete set of new offices. The stipend, as augmented in the year 1786, amounts to 2 chalders meal, 1 chalders bear, L. 700 Scots in money, and L. 40 Scots for communion-elements. The whole living, including a glebe of 14 acres, may be worth L. 112 or L. 115 Sterling a-year. Mr Philip Morison is the present incumbent. Thomas Gordon, Esq; of Balmaghie is patron.—The legal school-salary is 200 merks Scots, or L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling a-year. As if this were too much for one man to enjoy, the parochial schoolmaster was restricted some years ago to L. 8, 2 s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. of the salary, and the balance, L. 3, was allotted towards the maintenance of another teacher. The former keeps school near the centre of the parish. He may have on an average in winter 40 scholars, whom he instructs in English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, book keeping, and the principles of religion. His income, including salary and fees, may amount to L. 16 a-year. The other schoolmaster, (living towards the foot of the parish), has about 16 pupils, and an income not exceeding L. 6 a-year.—At present only 5 persons receive alms. The funds for their support are the collections in the church, about L. 10, 10 s. yearly, and the interest of L. 80 formerly saved. Hitherto the funds received by the session have been adequate to the necessities of the poor: But there is reason to apprehend a diminution of these funds, as the heritors have ceased to reside in the parish. They may, indeed, and it is hoped they will still consider the poor, and contribute towards their support. In no country are they maintained at so little expense as in Scotland; but surely it is by no means

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Here lyes David Halliday, portioner of Meifield, who was shot upon the 21st of February 1685, and David Halliday, once in Glengape, who was likewise shot upon the 11th of July 1685, for their adherence to the principles of Scotland's Covenanted Reformation.

Beneath This Stone Two David Hallidays  
 Doe Lie, Whose Souls Now Sing Their Master's Praise.  
 To Know If Curious Passengers Desire,  
 For What, By Whom, And How They Did Expire,  
 They Did Oppose This Nation's Perjury,  
 Nor Could They Join With Lordly Prelacy.  
 Indulging Favours From Christ's Enemies,  
 Quench'd Not Their Zeal This Monument Then Cries,  
 These Were The Causes Not To Be Forgot,  
 Why They By Lag So Wickedly Were Shot;  
 One Name, One Cause, One Grave, One Heav'n Do Tie  
 Their Souls To That One God Eternally.

Such productions of the unletter'd Muse are not unworthy of being preserved. They are not indeed to be considered as monuments of taste and genius; but they serve a better purpose, while they perpetuate the memory of those public measures, which in the last century rendered a Revolution necessary; and awaken in the minds of the people, those sentiments of satisfaction and gratitude, with which they ought ever to contemplate that great event, which completely supersedes the necessity of another, and to which, under God, we ascribe our glory as a nation and a church.

## NUMBER XLII.

## PARISH OF GLASSARY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ARGYLE, PRESBYTERY OF  
INVERARY.)

By the Rev. Mr DUGALD CAMPBELL.

*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**G**LASSARY seems evidently to be derived from the Gaelic *Glastra*, which signifies a Grayish Strath, and this is particularly descriptive of the lower end of the parish, when the crop is separated from the ground, which, for the distance of 3 miles, is a level country, exhibiting a grayish white surface. The parish is 22 miles in length, and 12, for the most part, in breadth; bounded by Glenaray and Lochfine upon the E.; by Dalavich and Lochon upon the N.; by Kilmartin and North Knapdale upon the W.; and by South Knapdale and Lochfine upon the S. Its form is nearly a parallel, contracting a little at both ends, and rising gradually from both sides, and in the height, forming an extensive tract of moor-land, neither very steep or rocky, interspersed with a few farms, which,  
in

in former times, served as sheelings to some of the low grounds upon each side.

*Rivers.*—The Ad is the greatest; it has its source in a marsh in the north extremity of the parish, and in its course through the moor-lands, from the junction of several rivulets, forms a great body of water, by the time it comes to the low grounds; and in its windings and curves, it exhibits a beautiful object through the whole strath; but is very destructive by overflowing its banks in rainy seasons. It discharges itself at Crinan, and abounds with sea and moor trouts, salmon, flounder and eel. There is a salmon-fishing upon it, and the fish is sold at 2 d. the lb. English to the neighbouring inhabitants, but the quantity sold is inconsiderable. They fish during the summer months, and till September; and did the proprietors of the fishing attend more to the preservation of the fish, when they come up the river to spawn, it might turn out more beneficial; and this will be the case when there is a regular market for said article in the country, which period is fast approaching. There are several more inconsiderable rivers, all of which abound in trout; but the next in size I mention, is one that runs due N. which is not very common; it takes its rise from a lake in the glen of Glasfary, 3 miles S. from Lochow, where it discharges itself. There are several lakes in the moor, all abounding in trout. Into some of those that are now good trouting lochs, that species of fish has been introduced within our own memory.

*Soil and Climate.*—The soil in the parish is various. That upon the banks of the Ad consists partly of a deep rich light loam, partly of a deep clay, and some gravelly; upon the E. side of the parish, by Lochfine, it is all a light gravelly soil; and upon the N. side, it is generally a

black loam, lying upon limestone. The banks of the Ad are all cultivated, and most part, tolerable crops of oats, but they are often injured from the river, occasioned by the wet seasons. The soil is moist, and the climate rainy, which renders the cultivation very precarious, and often unprofitable. It otherwise might turn out to very good and capable of raising any of the ordinary crops by proper cultivation; but the spirit of improvement, when his industrious efforts, attended with success, are repaid, with a crop laid level with the soil, comes to the time of filling, and consequently does not arrive at any perfection; therefore, the soil may be capable of producing, the soil is adapted for green crops.

*Union of Farms.*—As the climate is not any other than green crops, and the farms of the most adventurous of the inhabitants, began each to take farms, which were occupied by 4 tenants, and to turn the rearing and jobbing of black cattle; and after, 2 of the heritors introduced a few who rented sheep-farms in their own hands, brought up in the profession of shepherds, who introduced them were not very successful, as I believe the most of them were and self fugitated from home; and then soon after their entry, put a stop to the plans, bankrupted them effectually, and the lords; but they left their art, which was a great and rapid augmentation of grass-land in 15 years; for, the more discerning na-

served the ease of managing, and advantage of keeping a sheep stock, took up the business, and consequently, since the commencement of last peace, including the farms taken up by the low countrymen, which, for the most part, continued, as left by them, under a sheep-stock, there have been several junction of farms in the parish, and indeed the farms stocked with sheep are more calculated for them than any other kind of stock. This no doubt tended to lessen the population of the parish when it took place; but I am apt to imagine, that upon the whole the decrease has been small, if any, these many years; as there are two villages in the parish inhabited by 284 souls at present, which, 40 years ago, consisted only of three or four families.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 2751 souls. The number of souls in the parish, (December 1792), stood as follows :

Under 10 years of age,	-	-	-	665
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	-	476
Between 20 and 30,	-	-	-	227
Between 30 and 50,	-	-	-	169
Between 50 and 70,	-	-	-	17
Widows or widowers,	-	-	-	132
Married,	-	-	-	882
				—
				2568

There were of the above number 5 between 90 and 100 ; 44 between 80 and 90.

*Occupations.*—There are 6 principal, and 12 small heritors ; 3 of the former, and 4 of the latter reside constantly

ly in the parish. There are 2 tenants, who pay above L. 250 Sterling of yearly rent, 1 who pays L. 200 Sterling, 4 who pay from L. 120 Sterling to L. 130; 3 who pay from L. 90 Sterling to L. 100, 3 who pay from L. 70 Sterling to L. 80, 2 who pay from L. 50 Sterling to L. 60, 5 who pay from L. 40 Sterling to L. 50, 5 who pay from L. 30 Sterling to L. 40, 16 who pay about L. 30 Sterling, 200 and upwards, who pay from L. 30 Sterling, so low as L. 6 Sterling. There are 5 blacksmiths, 32 weavers, 6 shoemakers, constantly employed within the parish, besides a number of inferior shoemakers, who, during the winter months, and half of the spring, are employed by the small tenants, and afterward earn their subsistence at road-making, fence-building, ditching, or herring-fishing. There are 30 boats annually employed by the small tenantry living upon Lochfine side in the herring-fishing; each boat requires 4 hands, and from what I can learn, every one, on an average, clears from L. 20 to L. 25 Sterling, free of all charges. They fish from July to Christmas. About 40 more of the young men go to the north herring-fishing. There are 2 masons, 6 millers, 6 tailors, 3 boat-carpenters, 3 joiners, 2 wheelwrights, 2 tide-waiters, and 2 surgeons, and the rest are employed in farming and herding\*.

VOL. XIII.

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*Diseases.*

\* *Births, Marriages, &c.*—The number of births for the yearly average of the 10 years, ending 1st October 1793, as taken from the parish register is 92. The number of the marriages taken, as above, is 26. The burials cannot be ascertained, there being 6 different burying places in the parish; and owing to the frequent removal of tenants, there are great numbers buried in the different burial grounds, who were residents in other parishes, and, *vice versa*, which is the case through all the burial grounds in the county.

*Diseases.*—Coughs, and rheumatifms are frequent, particularly among the lower class of people when advanced in years; which is not surprising, when the huts in which they for the most part live, and the climate are considered. The small-pox in former times used to carry off a number of the children; but since inoculation generally prevailed, which has been the case for upwards of 20 years, the disease is neither much dreaded, nor very mortal. There are sometimes very bad fevers among the lower class, commencing generally in the spring months, which are spread and continued by their visits and intercourse with one another, and often prove very mortal.

*Rents.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 2532 Scots; the real gross rent for the year 1793 about L. 5700 Sterling. There is only a small portion of the parish surveyed, so that the rent the acre cannot be ascertained. The heritors have been very active for the last 20 years in meliorating their property with march-walls, and enclosures, which have greatly enhanced their value; for the tenants pay without a grudge  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for any money expended in these improvements; which clearly point them to be the best mode of improving their country. I must do them the justice to say, that some of them have been very attentive to beautify the parish by planting, for there are several considerable belts, and clumps of various kinds of timber, planted on different parts thereof, which at present exhibit a beautiful and agreeable variety to the traveller, and will be a future fund of profit and advantage to the estates wherein this improvement was adopted\*.

*Crops.*

\* When I mention this with pleasure respecting some of the estates, I cannot but regret the effect of entails upon two of the principal properties,  
from

*Crops.*—Oats, barley, and potatoes, are the general crops. Part of the farms occupied by the principal heritors is laid down with clover and rye-grass. Oats are sown from the middle of March to the end of April; barley from the 12th to the end of May. The oats, if a dry summer, are ripe by the 20th August, and barley by the 5th; but if a wet season, barley takes to the 20th August, and oats to the 1st September before they are ready. The oats and barley produced are inconsiderable in proportion to the extent of the parish, but there are great crops of potatoes: The two former are very inadequate to the consumption of the people; but with the aid of the latter, they subsist themselves for eight months of the year.

*Stock.*—There are 490 horses, 3200 black cattle, 12,000 sheep. I cannot ascertain the yearly sales with any precision; but so far as I can learn, the average prices of the horses reared in the parish, taking good and bad, for the six years ending 1792, were from L. 6 to L. 6, 6s. each; that of the black cattle from L. 2, 15s. to L. 3 Sterling; the lambs brought from 3s. to 5s. Sterling; the hogs from 7s. to 10s.; the aged widders from 10s. to 13s.; and the aged sheep, or black ewes, sold at the fall of the year from 5s. to 7s. Sterling. The kind kept is what

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from which the best lands in the parish are left in their original state, without any improvement, and valuable woods neglected, and allowed to decay, particularly on one of them, as the proprietors never resided upon either; but from their neglected state they have been no object of desire to the grazier or jobber, who might otherwise monopolize a part of them, and therefore the small tenants have mostly hitherto remained unmolested, from which they are the most populous in the parish; and I have to remark with regard to the gentleman who is a proprietor of one of those estates since the 1783, that he has uniformly shown a predilection for small tenants, even to his hurt in a few instances; a worthy trait in his character.



we call here the Galloway sheep; they are black faced and black legged, strong and hardy, but rather coarse in the wool. There are still a few of the small white-faced sheep, the original stock of this country, whose wool is far superior to the present stock; but their weight is so inferior, that they are much on the decrease, and only kept by some of the smaller tenants. The white wool sold for the six years preceding Whitsunday 1793, at 7 s. 6 d. the stone in wholesale; the laid wool at 5 s.; but what was retailed (probably  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the whole) sold from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. higher the stone. Six, and often five fleeces of the laid wool make a stone; from eight to ten go to a stone of the white.

*Price of Labour.*—A male servant bred to common labour, and fed by his employer, draws from L. 5, 15 s. to L. 6, 6 s. yearly; a female servant bred and fed as above, from L. 3 Sterling to L. 3, 10 s. and scarcely to be had for the two years ending Whitsunday 1793 at these wages; a common labourer without victuals from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d. the day, from the middle of March to the 1st of November; a tailor and shoemaker from 8 d. to 10 d. with victuals; a joiner, when employed for a temporary job, and not by the piece, 2 s. the day; and a mason 2 s. 4 d. A married workman employed through the year by the farmer, gets a house, kail-yard, peats, two cows grafs, potatoe land, a stone of meal a-week, and L. 1 Sterling, amounting in all, *communibus annis*, to L. 12 Sterling.

*Church, Stipend, School, &c.*—There are three places of worship, and but one church in the parish; the incumbent should be absent every third Sunday from the mother-church, at the distance of six and twelve miles alternately; but the climate, and want of churches, render his attendance, particularly

particularly in the winter season, very irregular\*. The manse was built in 1763; its situation is damp; and though reckoned a good one when built, (there being at the time few manses built in the country), it was neither substantially built nor finished, and now requires a repair. The living consists of 80 bolls of meal, 9 bolls small oats, L. 45 Sterling, with a manse and glebe, consisting of six acres arable Scotch measure, and a servitude of 8 founns grass upon the adjacent farm; value, *communibus annis*, L. 120 Sterling. Mr Campbell of Knockbuy, one of the principal heritors, is patron.—There is a parochial school, which 30 or 40 years ago was good and respectable; but since private education became fashionable, it is on the decline. There is a catechist, with a salary from the Royal bounty, in the braes of this and the neighbouring parish; and in the lower end there is a sewing and knitting mistress, with a salary from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and the incumbent expects against May to have a school upon Lochfineside, with a salary from the Society, a place in which there was one formerly, and is still very necessary for the good of the parish.

*Poor.*—The poor have no other fund than the Sunday collections; a fund very inadequate to supply their wants,  
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\* Though the incumbent mentioned the attention of the heritors to the melioration, and beautifying of their estates, he cannot pay them the same compliment with regard to the church, for they seem to have absorbed every ecclesiastical consideration in improving their properties, and augmenting their annual income. The church when built was among the best in the county; but it has the fault of all old churches, that of being long and narrow, which renders it very inconvenient. It was twice partially repaired within these 30 years, and stands now in need of a thorough one, owing to the economy of the heritors upon these occasions.

not exceeding L. 15 Sterling yearly; but people of all ranks, particularly the small tenants, are hospitable, humane, and charitable to the poor, according to their ability; from them they experience real sympathy in their distress. There are 36 upon the list, who receive a supply once a-year conformed to their respective situations, so far as the fund will admit at the time, and the most needy get a small interim aid through the rest of the year.

*General Character.*—The people are generally active, humane, and hospitable, middle-sized, and capable of bearing cold, wet, and hunger to a great degree; they are not given to drinking, though, from their social disposition, when a number of them occasionally meet, they are apt to take a sitting together.

*Language.*—The language mostly spoken is the Gaelic; though, from the frequent intercourse of the people with the low country, and the advantage of a more general education, which has been the case for the last 20 years, the greatest number of them speak and understand a little English. The names of the places are all derived from the Gaelic, and are expressive of their local situation, surface, some particular object in, or near them.

*Antiquities.*—The only vestiges of antiquity are the remains of three kinds of forts, built upon the summit of three hills in the W. end of the parish, which, from their situation, seem evidently to be watch towers for alarming the country in case of an invasion, as they are so placed, that from the lowest, which commands the landing from the west coast, an alarm might be given to the second, and from the second to the third, and so to others, in the  
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in proper repair, though in the course of a few years these mortgages will be extinguished, the by roads finished, and both kept in high order.—The most of the bridges were executed in the same way, by the heritors advancing the payment to the undertakers, till such time as the funds admitted of their being reimbursed; but their trouble and outlays were in some measure compensated by the enjoyment of these roads, and the beneficial effects of them to the district, which they saw and experienced.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish has been considerably meliorated by the roads. The fuel mostly used is peats, which, though plentiful in general, are very scarce in some places, and in others quite exhausted; so that the parish is much obliged, and will be highly benefited by the strenuous and spirited exertion of Mr Dundas in bringing about the repeal of the duty upon coals carried coastways. Were the duty upon salt also taken off, it would contribute to the general advantage. The tract of the intended canal between Lochgilp and Crinan runs a considerable way by the west skirt of the parish; whatever may be the advantages of this arduous undertaking to the public, it is probable, that during the execution of the work, this and the neighbouring parishes may reap some benefit.

END OF THE THIRTEENTH VOLUME.

APPENDIX to NUMBER XI. p. 129.

Containing some additional information, received after the account of Abernethy and Kinchardine was gone to Press.

LIST of VESSELS built at Kington Port, or Speymouth, of Glenmore Timber, by Messrs Dodsworth and Osbourne, since the year 1785.

			Tons.
The brig <i>Glenmore</i> , burden	-	-	110
The ship <i>Duchefs of Gordon</i> ,	-	-	330
The brig <i>Kingston</i> ,	-	-	140
The ship <i>Essay</i> ,	-	-	350
The sloop <i>Success</i> ,	-	-	54
The ship <i>Sally and Ann</i> ,	-	-	200
The brig <i>Speedwell</i> ,	-	-	120
The ship <i>Yucatan</i> ,	-	-	260
The schooner <i>Dispatch</i> ,	-	-	34
The schooner <i>Neptune</i> ,	-	-	70
The schooner <i>Good Intent</i> ,	-	-	95
The sloop <i>Harriot</i> ,	-	-	25
The sloop <i>Friendship</i> ,	-	-	54
The ship <i>Lord Alexander Gordon</i> ,	-	-	350
The <i>Lady Charlotte Gordon</i> ,	-	-	180
The <i>Marquis of Huntly</i> ,	-	-	380
The <i>Duke of Gordon</i> ,	-	-	500
The <i>Collingwood</i> ,	-	-	300
The sloop <i>Jane</i> ,	-	-	70
			<hr/>
		Tons,	3582

Attested by Thomas Seal, clerk to the Company.









