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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
*MINISTERS*  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME SECOND.

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

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EDINBURGH:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;  
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAING, AND  
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ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

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M,DCC,XCII.





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**A D V E R T I S E M E N T.**

**T**HE publication of the Statistical Account of Scotland, notwithstanding all the assistance that could possibly be procured, is attended with much greater difficulties, than can well be conceived. Yet, had it been the means, of producing alone, the valuable information, contained in the following pages, it is impossible, that any one, possessed of the least particle of public spirit, could have considered his time and labour misapplied. For, it is believed, that there is no work, now extant, which throws such light upon the actual state of human society, or furnishes so many useful hints, of the most likely means of promoting its happiness and improvement.

Among the other subjects of importance, which the reader will have the satisfaction of finding pretty clearly explained, in the course of the following papers, there is one point which merits to be particularly attended to, namely, the proofs, which they contain, that the Population of Scotland, within these 40 years past, has considerably increased. Though the progress of improvement in the country, might have  
 satisfied

satisfied every individual, of that fact, yet, such is the bias in favour of former times, that nothing, but a fair comparison, founded on accurate surveys, at different periods, could have produced full conviction, in the minds of many. It is a fortunate circumstance, therefore, that the late ingenious and learned Dr Webster, was employed, many years ago, in similar inquiries; and, that he drew up, in 1755, at the desire of the late President Dundas, for the information and the service of Government, an account of the number of people in Scotland. In his introduction to that account \*, he states, " that he  
" had

\* Dr Webster's report was never printed. There are, however, several copies of it, in manuscript, in private hands; and the most material parts of the information it contains, will be inserted, in the course of this work. It may be sufficient, at present, to give the following statement, drawn up by that accurate calculator, of the ages of the inhabitants of Scotland, in 1755.

| Age          | No. of persons. |
|--------------|-----------------|
| From 1 to 10 | 322,381         |
| 10 to 20     | 235,813         |
| 20 to 30     | 210,791         |
| 30 to 40     | 175,202         |
| 40 to 50     | 134,701         |
| 50 to 60     | 94,840          |
| 60 to 70     | 58,911          |
| 70 to 80     | 25,659          |
| 80 to 90     | 6,495           |
| 90 to 100    | 587             |

Total 1,265,380

‘ had established, in 1743, a general correspond-  
 “ ence, both with clergy and laity, for preparing a  
 “ scheme, which was afterwards ratified by Parlia-  
 “ ment, for a provision for ministers widows:  
 “ That he had improved that correspondence, for  
 “ the purpose of procuring lists, either of individuals,  
 “ or, of persons above a certain age, in the differ-  
 “ ent parishes of Scotland: That, when the lists  
 “ contained only those above a certain age, he cal-  
 “ culated the amount of the whole inhabitants, by  
 “ the proportion, which they might be supposed  
 “ to bear, to the number of souls, according to the  
 “ most approved tables, compared with the fact in  
 “ many parts of Scotland, where the ministers, at  
 “ his desire, not only numbered their parishioners,  
 “ but distinguished their respective ages: So that,  
 “ it is humbly apprehended, the account he has giv-  
 “ en, of the number of the people, is sufficiently  
 “ exact to answer every valuable purpose.” Doctor  
 Webster’s well known character for accuracy, and  
 the success, with which his calculations have been  
 uniformly attended, ought to satisfy every one, that  
 the report he drew up may be safely relied on; and  
 above all, he had every inducement to make the po-  
 pulation of Scotland rather large, than otherwise;  
 since the report was to be laid before the Govern-  
 ment at the time, in whose eyes, he would natural-  
 ly be inclined to place his native country, in as fa-  
 vourable and respectable a light as possible,

It

It is much to be regretted, that it was found impracticable, to include a greater number of parishes, in this volume. It contains, however, so many important districts, that the accounts could not, with any degree of propriety, be rendered more concise. There is reason, however, to believe, that, in future, every volume will contain from 80 to 100 parishes; so that, the whole work will be contained in about ten volumes. It now can hardly be doubted, that it will prove the completest survey of a kingdom, of which we have any knowledge; and, at the same time, will not exceed, either in price, or bulk, the topographical accounts given of many individual counties in England.

Nothing, therefore, is wanting, but a little farther perseverance and exertion, on the part of the clergy of Scotland, to complete a work,—which will be a monument of their own industry and abilities;—which will promote the improvement of their country, more rapidly than can be effected by any other means;—AND WHICH, BY GIVING MORE AUTHENTIC INFORMATION, REGARDING THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL SOCIETY, THAN EVER WAS KNOWN BEFORE, MAY VERY MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL HAPPINESS OF THE SPECIES.

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## CONTENTS.

| No. | Name of the parish. | Population in 1755. | Ditto in 1792. | In crease.  | Decrease.  | Page. |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| 1   | Torthorwald         | 584                 | 660            | 76          | 0          | 1     |
| 2   | Dornock             | 716                 | 738            | 22          | 0          | 14    |
| 3   | Kirkmahoe           | 1098                | 1200           | 102         | 0          | 30    |
| 4   | Lochrutton          | 564                 | 528            | 0           | 36         | 36    |
| 5   | Kirkeolm            | 765                 | 945            | 180         | 0          | 46    |
| 6   | Stonykirk           | 1151                | 1365           | 214         | 0          | 51    |
| 7   | Colmenell           | 1814                | 1100           | 0           | 714        | 57    |
| 8   | Galfen              | 1013                | 1577           | 564         | 0          | 71    |
| 9   | Kilmarnock          | 4403                | 6776           | 2373        | 0          | 84    |
| 10  | Machlin             | 1169                | 1800           | 631         | 0          | 109   |
| 11  | Eagletham           | 1103                | 1000           | 0           | 103        | 119   |
| 12  | Newabbey            | 634                 | 649            | 15          | 0          | 125   |
| 13  | Nielston            | 1274                | 2330           | 1056        | 0          | 141   |
| 14  | Renfrew             | 1091                | 1628           | 537         | 0          | 166   |
| 15  | Hamilton            | 3815                | 5017           | 1202        | 0          | 177   |
| 16  | Blantyre            | 496                 | 1040           | 544         | 0          | 213   |
| 17  | Stonehouse          | 823                 | 1060           | 237         | 0          | 223   |
| 18  | Libberton           | 708*                | 750            | 42          | 0          | 233   |
|     |                     | <u>23221</u>        | <u>30163</u>   | <u>7795</u> | <u>853</u> |       |

\* The minister supposes, that these were only examinables, and not souls; but it was Dr Webster's practice, when examinables

| No. | Name of the parish | Population in 1755. | Ditto in 1790. | Increase.    | Decrease.   | Page. |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
|     | Brought over       | 23221               | 30163          | 7795         | 853         |       |
| 19  | Kirkpatrick-Durham | 699                 | 1000           | 301          | 0           | 249   |
| 20  | Newton upon Ayr    | 581†                | 1689           | 1108         | 0           | 262   |
| 21  | Kirkintilloch      | 1696                | 2639           | 943          | 0           | 275   |
| 22  | Moffat             | 1612                | 1600           | 0            | 12          | 285   |
| 23  | Galashiels         | 998                 | 914            | 0            | 84          | 299   |
| 24  | Cockpen            | 640                 | 1123           | 483          | 0           | 317   |
| 25  | Crailing           | 387                 | 672            | 285          | 0           | 322   |
| 26  | Morham             | 345                 | 190            | 0            | 155         | 333   |
| 27  | Glencairn          | 1794                | 1700           | 0            | 94          | 339   |
| 28  | Whittingham        | 714                 | 655            | 0            | 59          | 345   |
| 29  | Largs              | 1164                | 1139           | 0            | 25          | 360   |
| 30  | Ecclefmachan       | 330                 | 215            | 0            | 115         | 367   |
| 31  | Dalserf            | 765                 | 1100           | 335          | 0           | 371   |
| 32  | Dunoon             | 1757                | 1683           | 0            | 74          | 383   |
| 33  | Wilton             | 936                 | 905            | 0            | 31          | 394   |
| 34  | Monimail           | 884                 | 1101           | 217          | 0           | 397   |
| 35  | Cults              | 449                 | 534            | 85           | 0           | 407   |
| 36  | Colleffie          | 989                 | 949            | 0            | 40          | 416   |
| 37  | Denny              | 1392                | 1400           | 8            | 0           | 420   |
| 38  | Burntisland        | 1390                | 1100           | 0            | 290         | 423   |
| 39  | Selkirk            | 1793                | 1700           | 0            | 93          | 434   |
|     |                    | <u>44536</u>        | <u>54171</u>   | <u>11560</u> | <u>1925</u> |       |

bles, or those about 8 years of age, were expressly returned, to make an addition, it is believed, in the proportion of about 9 to 11.

† In Dr Webster's report, the parishes of Monkton, Prestwick, and Newton upon Ayr, are said, in 1755, to have contained 1163 souls, one half of which, it is supposed, might belong to Newton upon Ayr.

| No. | Name of the parish. | Population in 1755. | Ditto in 1791. | Increase. | Decrease. | Page. |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
|     | Brought over        | 44536               | 54171          | 11560     | 1925      |       |
| 40  | Fortingal           | 3859                | 3914           | 55        | 0         | 449   |
| 41  | Blair-Atholl        | 3257                | 3120           | 0         | 137       | 461   |
| 42  | Careston            | 269                 | 260            | 0         | 9         | 483   |
| 43  | Kinnell             | 761                 | 830            | 69        | 0         | 491   |
| 44  | Craig               | 935                 | 1314           | 379       | 0         | 495   |
| 45  | Kirkden             | 563                 | 727            | 164       | 0         | 505   |
| 46  | Mid-Marr            | 979                 | 945            | 0         | 34        | 516   |
| 47  | Keith-Hall          | 1114                | 838            | 0         | 276       | 527   |
| 48  | Kilmuir             | 1572                | 2065           | 493       | 0         | 547   |
| 49  | Rofskeen            | 1958                | 1700           | 0         | 258       | 558   |
| 50  | Mid & South Yell    | 986                 | 1422           | 436       | 0         | 565   |
|     | Total               | 60789               | 71306          | 13156     | 2639      |       |
|     | Population in 1755  |                     | 60789          |           |           |       |
|     | Increase in 1791    |                     | 10517          |           |           |       |

### C A L C U L A T I O N .

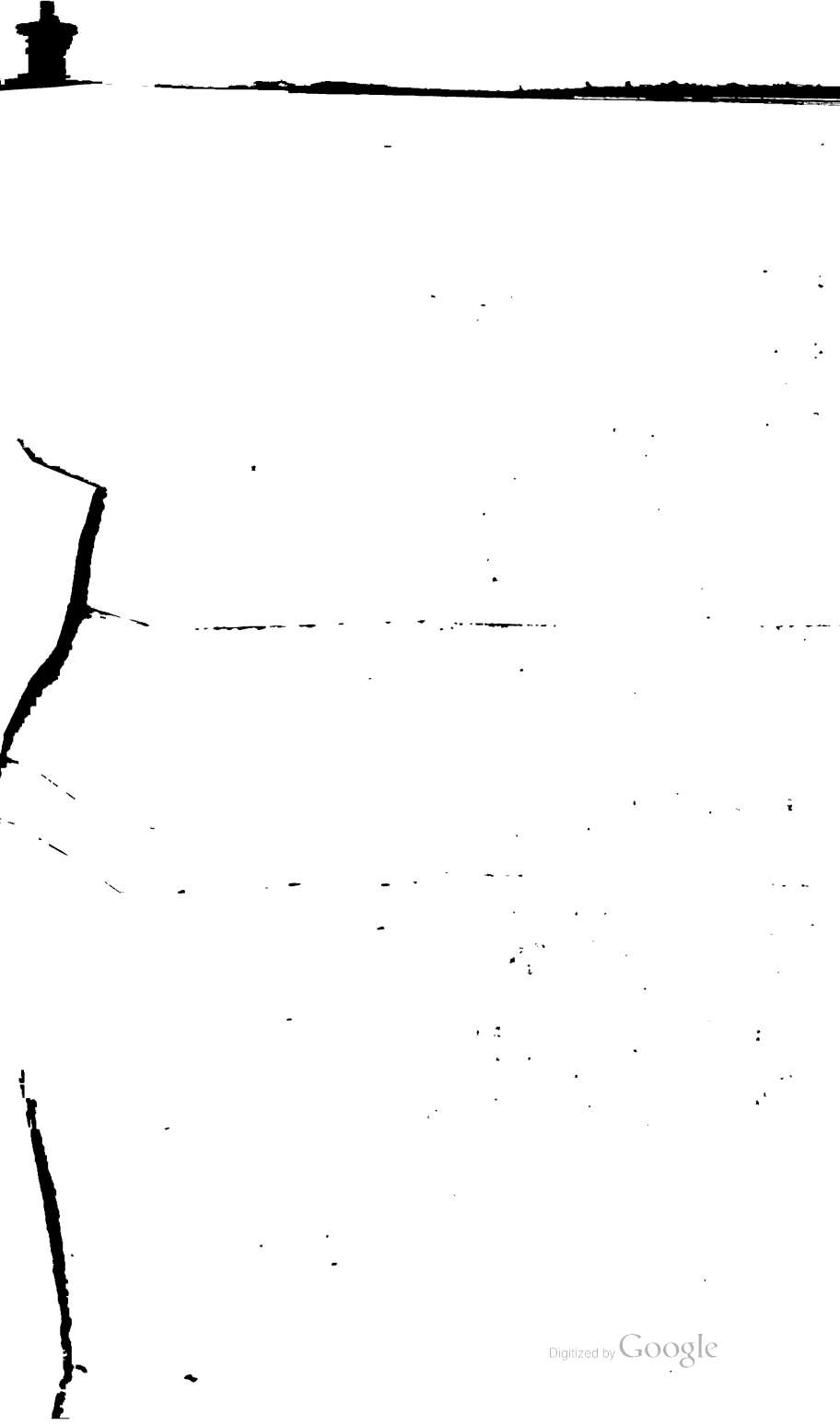
IT appears, on the whole, that in 50 country parishes in Scotland, taken indiscriminately, from one end of the kingdom to the other, there is an increase, since 1755, of 10,517 souls; which is at the rate of 210 to a parish, or 189,000 in the 900 country parishes of North Britain: And, as the great towns (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Aberdeen, Dundee, &c.) have probably increased to the amount of 210,000, the total increase in Scotland, in less than 40 years, will be about 400,000, and the total population about 1,700,000 souls.



## E R R A T A.

In some copies of the Tables of Mortality fronting the Title,  
 Table II. line ult. column 17, *for 10, read 9.*  
 Table III. line ult. column 17, *for 39, read 38.*  
 Small table annexed to Table I. line 7, *for 4, read 5.*

| Page | Line  |
|------|---|
| 50   | 14 <i>for 1705, read 1745.</i>                                      |
| 54   | 16 <i>for M'Donald, read M'Dowal.</i>                               |
| 162  | 26 <i>for extraordinary, read extraordinary.</i>                    |
| 177  | 5 <i>for pursued after, read pursued.</i>                           |
| 264  | 27 <i>for (in a few copies) Newton ca-stle, read Newton castle.</i> |
| 274  | 12 <i>for ly, read lie.</i>   |
| 336  | 31 <i>for 745, read 345.</i>  |
| 405  | 27 <i>for Markinck, read Markinch</i>                               |
| 508  | 14 <i>for 160 read 164.</i>   |
| 516  | 6 <i>for west, read north.</i>                                      |
| 541  | 22 <i>for ring, read rising.</i>                                    |





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STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.  
PART II.

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NUMBER I.  
PARISH OF TORTHORWALD.  
(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES M'MILLAN.*

---

*Origin of the Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**ORTHORWALD, the present name of the parish, is supposed to signify the Tower of Thor in the wood. The name is evidently of Saxon original, and derived from Thor, the Jupiter of the Saxon deities. It lies in the county, presbytery, and synod of Dumfries. It is bounded by the parishes of Moufwald on the S. of Lochmaben on the E. of Tinwald on the N. and N. W. and of Dumfries on the S. W. The western part of the parish is very low, being part of that extensive tract known by the name of Lochar Moss: Next to this are pastures and meadows, frequently overflowed: Then sandy ground of various breadth; to the east a fine till soil, about a mile broad: Then green and arable braes, banks, and hillocks, interspersed with wet clay grounds and moors. At the eastern extremity of the parish, the ground

rises in high black hills; one, called the Beacon hill, affords perhaps the most extensive view, round the horizon, of any rising ground in this part of the country, Criffel excepted. There are about 4400 acres, including 900 of moss, in the parish; the inhabited part of which, with the exception of a few scattered families, is a square of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, in the middle of which stand the castle, the manse, and the church.

*River and Moss.*—The river Lochar, which, for 7 miles, divides this parish from that of Dumfries, is about 25 feet broad at a medium; and so much on a level, in its course through Lochar Moss, that it has a descent of only 11 feet in that space, which measures 12 miles in a direct line. It contains pike, perch, trout, and eel; some of the pike weigh 20 lbs. some eels 3 lbs. and a few of the trout 5 lbs. Several otters frequent this river, and make great havock among the pike. Wild duck and teal abound here all the year round, and many wild geese visit this place in stormy winters. A few swans also come hither, and several bitterns and herons. In the adjacent moss and meadows, curlews, plovers, and moor-fowl breed. Lochar moss\*, it is well known, is a tract of 12 miles in length, and betwixt 2 and 3 in breadth, extending down to Solway firth. That this moss was once an arm of the sea, appears from several circumstances: Sea-sand and fleech are found at the bottom; and sometimes boats, almost entire, with anchors, cables, and oars. Tinwald isles, at the N. W. extremity of the parish, are said, in a Spanish history, to have been the best harbour in Scotland; and Dumfries, which lies at the back of the moss, has been translated by Latin historians, *Dorsum freti*, the back of the firth. There is a saying common here, that this tract was,

“ First a wood, and next a sea,

“ Now a moss, and ever will be.”

Oak,

\* See Vol. I. p. 159.

Oak, fir, birch, and hazel-trees, the latter with nuts and husks, are frequently dug up in many parts of the moor: Several of these trees are very large and fresh, and are applied by carpenters to various purposes of their trade. Fragments of the firs are cut in small pieces, and used for kindling fires; they burn amazingly, and are frequently carried to Dumfries for that purpose. This moor is bounded on the east by four parishes, Tinwald, Torthorwald, Moufwald, and Ruthwald, all terminating in *wald*, which in the Saxon signifies a wood. It is a tract of above 12 miles in length, generally fine land, about 2 miles broad, of a gentle western exposure, which must, from its good properties, have been early cultivated, and indeed it is reported to have been antiently the place of the greatest resort in the country.

*Climate and Diseases.*—From 1764 to 1790, a period of 27 years, 135 males, and 145 females, in all 280 individuals, have died in this parish, 54 of whom were between 70 and 80, and 46 above 80 years of age, so that the climate, it should seem, is very healthy, and favourable to longevity. In regard to the prevailing distempers, that will best appear from the tables of mortality, during the period above-mentioned, to be inserted in the appendix.

*Proprietors, &c.*—There are only two heritors, the Duke of Queensberry, and Sir Robert Grierson, of Lag, neither of whom reside. The rental of the parish in 1756, was L. 610 : 8 : 8; in 1790 it amounted to L. 1357; and in 1791 rose to L. 1850. The best croft land sets at 21s. 22s. and 23s. per acre, sometimes more; the second best at 15s. the third best at 10s. The rent of a common house is not above 10s. at an average; but then the tenants are bound to

uphold them. No houses are unoccupied. The land in general is better calculated for grain than pasture. A good deal of clover and rye grass is raised; but the mode of cultivation hitherto used, is rather of the old than of the new and most approved kind. Formerly the farmers were accustomed to pay their rents by their big or bear crops, and by felling peats in Dumfries; but, for 20 years past, they have in a great measure given up the sale of peats; and of late have taken to sowing barley instead of bear. Oats and barley are their chief grains; they raise but little wheat, pease, rye, and scarcely any turnips. A large quantity of potatoes is annually raised; and this is the only article by which the grounds are cleaned, fallow being very seldom practised. Till about 1770 the farmers of Torthorwald and Roucan had a considerable part of their lands at a distance from their dwellings; on this account the late Duke of Queensberry removed no less than 25 farmers from these villages to the more remote parts of the parish, where good farm houses were erected; for which, his Grace gave them considerable assistance, and at the same time inclosed almost his whole grounds with stone dikes and thorn hedges, at the expence of above L. 2000. The thorns have generally succeeded, but the stone of which the dikes were built, being of the slatey kind, they have fallen down very much.—The late Sir William Grierson, of Lag, was so attentive to have his lands clear of weeds, that he held *gool* (*chrysanthemum*) *courts* as long as he lived, for the purpose of fining the farmers, on whose growing crop three heads or upwards of that weed were found.

*Implements of Husbandry, and Manures.*—About 1750, there were very few carts in the parish, trail cars being then generally used for leading goods; dung was carried out in creels; hay led in trusses; and peats in large sacks, upon horses backs; but, for a considerable time past, carts have been used for all these purposes,

purposes, so that there are now 88 in the parish; there are also 44 ploughs of the ordinary kind, drawn by 2 horses each. Lime from Comlongan, 8 miles distance, is much used as a manure, and with good effect. Marle was formerly found on the edge of Torthorwald moor, but the pit is now exhausted.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—The present prices of provisions and labour are the same as in Tinwald and Holywood parishes.—In 1730 the common half yearly wages of a male house servant, were 22s. 6d. in 1739, they were 23s. in 1744, and for several years afterwards, 30s. and a pair of shoes.—The ordinary wages of a women servant, for the same space, were then 10s.—At these periods, including victuals, a wright's daily wages was 6d. a taylor's 4d. a labourer's 3d. or 4d. a mower's, 1s.—A hen sold for 4d. (now for 9d)—eggs 1½d. the dozen,—butter at 4d. per. lib. of 24 oz.—pork, 4d. per. lib. of 16 oz. (the same price it bears at present, because it was formerly very scarce)—an ordinary beef cow at Martinmas, 2 guineas,—a good leg of lamb, 7d.—an ordinary leg of mutton, 14d.—The best horse in the parish, in 1749, was sold for seven guineas.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Several in the parish employ themselves in spinning factory-yarn, both lint and tow\*.—There are four licensed alehouses in the parish, to which, for the most part idle and loose persons resort to drink whisky. These houses greatly hurt the morals of many, and in various respects deeply injure the interests of the country. Every effort of the legislature, should, therefore, be used to reduce their numbers, and to keep them under the strictest discipline.

\* *Factory yarn*, is from flax given out by the agent of any *manufacturer*, to be spun by the country people.



cipline.—The great military road from Gretna, to Dumfries and Port Patrick, passes through the south part of the parish, and a toll-bar was erected on it last year. A turnpike road from Dumfries to Lochmaben goes through the center of the parish, on which the first toll-bar set up in Nithsdale, was placed in 1789. The statute labour in this parish is commuted for L. 22 : 5 per. annum.—There are plenty of good springs and running water in the parish. A well in the moor of Torthorwald, supposed to be of the chalybeate kind, is reckoned salutary in scorbutic disorders, and in gravelly complaints.—There is abundance of peats in the parish, but no coal.

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, &c.*—The church, which was built in 1782, at the expence of above L. 400, will contain 500 persons, and is well executed. The manse was built in 1738. The stipend, as augmented in 1756, amounts to L. 70. per annum, including L. 3 : 6 : 8, for communion elements; and the minister has also a glebe of above 10 acres, valued at L. 11 per. annum. The duke of Queensberry is patron. The poor do not exceed 4, 5, or 6 in number, and are supplied quarterly at the rate of 5s or 6s each, in ordinary cases; but some of them occasionally get a great deal more. The collections for their support are about L. 7 per annum, with the interest of a fund of L. 150, which is increasing every year.—The annual salary of the parochial schoolmaster, including the interest of a capital of L. 210, is L. 17 : 14 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ , besides fees for teaching. There have been 80 scholars at one time, at this school in the winter season; but of late it has not been so full as usual, a private school having been set up in the village of Roucan.

*Population.*—The population has of late increased considerably, as appears from the following statements :

2

In

|                     | Below 8 years<br>of age. | Above 8. | Seceders. | Total. |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| In 1742, there were | 85                       | 440      | 15        | 540    |
| 1781                | 90                       | 450      | 25        | 565    |
| 1790                | 103                      | 523      | 30        | 660    |

Table of Births.

|                           | Males. | Females. | Total. | Yearly<br>Average. |
|---------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------------------|
| For 20 years, ending 1750 | 122    | 119      | 241    | 12                 |
| 1751 to 1770              | 131    | 134      | 265    | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| 1771 to 1790              | 149    | 129      | 278    | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
|                           | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>  | <hr/>              |
|                           | 402    | 382      | 784    | 13                 |

Table of deaths and marriages.

|   | Deaths. |          |        | Annual<br>Average. | Corp.<br>mar. |
|---|---------|----------|--------|--------------------|---------------|
|   | Males.  | Females. | Total. |                    |               |
| From 1734 to 1753<br>both inclusive }<br>1754 to 1773<br>1774 to 1790 | 86      | 90       | 176    | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$    | 55            |
|   | 88      | 97       | 185    | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$    | 64            |
|   | 85      | 95       | 180    | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 41            |
|   | <hr/>   | <hr/>    | <hr/>  | <hr/>              | <hr/>         |
|   | 259     | 282      | 541    | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$    | 160           |

TABLE

## Statistical Account

### T A B L E,

Shewing the number of deaths in 29 years, and the age at which each individual died respectively, in periods of 10 years, from 20 to 50 excepted.

|                                      | Number of Deaths. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| From their birth to 10 years of age. | 66                |
| 20                                   | 31                |
| 50                                   | 41                |
| 70                                   | 70                |
| 80                                   | 66                |
| 90                                   | 29                |
| 100                                  | 3                 |
| above 100                            | 2                 |
| Total 308                            |                   |

### Present State of the Population.

|                   | The Village of<br>Roecan. | Village of Tor-<br>thorwald. | Country part<br>of the Parish. | Total.         |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Individuals       | 143                       | 135                          | 382                            | 660            |
| Families          | 41                        | 34                           | 77                             | 152            |
| Average number in |                           |                              |                                |                |
| a family          | $3\frac{1}{2}$            | 4                            | 5                              | $4\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Minister          |                           |                              | 1                              | 1              |
| Surgeon           | 1                         |                              |                                | 1              |
| Schoolmasters     | 1                         | 1                            |                                | 2              |
| Farmers           | 11                        | 13                           | 44                             | 68             |
| Tradesmen         | 14                        | 13                           | 9                              | 36             |
| Apprentices       | 6                         | 1                            | 6                              | 13             |
| Blacksmiths       | 1                         | 1                            | 1                              | 3              |
| Mason             | 1                         |                              |                                | 1              |
|                   |                           |                              |                                | Wrights        |

|  | Village of Roucan. | Village of Tortborwald. | Country part of the parish. | Total.   |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Wrights  | 2                  | 2                       | 1                           | 5        |
| Miller   | 0                  | 1                       | 0                           | 1        |
| Shoemakers   | 5                  | 1                       | 2                           | 8        |
| Weavers  | 4                  | 4                       | 4                           | 12       |
| Taylors  | 0                  | 2                       | 2                           | 4        |
| Slater   | 0                  | 1                       | 0                           | 1        |
| Clogger and Cooper   | 0                  | 1                       | 0                           | 1        |
| Chapmen  | 0                  | 0                       | 2                           | 2        |
| Male-servants  | 3                  | 4                       | 21                          | 28       |
| Female do.   | 9                  | 5                       | 19                          | 33       |
| Labourers  | 2                  | 4                       | 9                           | 15       |
| Cottagers  | 13                 | 6                       | 26                          | 45       |
| Males born out of the parish                                       | 10                 | 15                      | 78                          | 103      |
| Females, do.   | 22                 | 23                      | 94                          | 139      |
| Farmers, do.   | 2                  | 6                       | 16                          | 24       |
| Antiburgh. Seceders  | 11                 | 2                       | 9                           | 22       |
| Cameronians  | 2                  | 1                       | 1                           | 4        |
| Presbytery of Relief   | 0                  | 0                       | 4                           | 4        |
| Married couples  | 15                 | 17                      | 46                          | 78       |
| Married persons  | 30                 | 34                      | 92                          | 156      |
| Men above 18, never married  | -                  | -                       | -                           | 90       |
| Women, do.   | -                  | -                       | -                           | 120      |
| Widowers   | -                  | -                       | -                           | 16       |
| Widows   | -                  | -                       | -                           | 30       |
| Persons under 18 years of age                                      | -                  | -                       | -                           | 248      |
| Males  | -                  | -                       | -                           | 313      |
| Females  | -                  | -                       | -                           | 347      |
| Persons above 80 years of age                                      | -                  | -                       | -                           | 14       |
| Average number of children to each marriage                        |                    |                         |                             | 4½       |
| Proportion of deaths to the whole population for the last 10 years |                    |                         |                             | 1 to 54½ |
| Population in 1755, according to Dr Webster                        |                    |                         |                             | 584      |

Of

Of married women, there are only three barren, two of whom are sisters. Since 1756, ten women have had twins, of whom seven lived in the parish of Torthorwald. Of the 14 aged persons in the parish, 3, *anno* 1790, were in the 80th year of their age, and the rest 80 and upwards. Of these, 5 were men, and 9 women. One of the men was born in February, 1697.

*Number of Horses, &c.*—There are, in the parish, 120 horses; 650 head of black cattle; 280 common, or small sheep; principally fed on the hills, (about 30 on the farm of Drummoor excepted), and small parcels of petteys, as they are commonly called, or half mugs, which run among the milk cows, greatly to the injury of the cow pasture, and to the ruin of the low stone dikes, and thorn hedges.

*Antiquities.*—This parish, was, it should seem, of some military consequence,

“ In ancient time, when Britain’s trade was arms,

“ And the lov’d music of her youth alarms:”

For it contained a castle, and two British camps, the vestiges of which are still conspicuous. The former, said, by tradition, to have been erected by a shoemaker, in the parish, named Skrimple, or Skriry-hard-scaes, by means of a treasure he found whilst digging his garden.—— It is still standing, though in a ruinous condition. The situation is beautiful, on the top of a small bank. It is supposed to have been built in the thirteenth century; and appears to have been very strongly fortified. The two camps are situated about a mile distant from each other, one to the west, and the other to the east of the castle, each being about 30 yards in diameter; surrounded in some parts with two, and in other places with three

three, large trenches. In Torthorwald moor there is a cairn; and a ring or circle formed of small stones.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The inhabitants of this parish are generally very sober, honest, and industrious; and live comfortably and at an easy rate. They feed much on potatoes and on pork. It is very common for the cottagers to buy a pig, which they fatten up for some months, and then kill. A few of the men are six feet high, and some above that stature; a considerable number are greatly above the common size; and their complexion is tolerable. None enlist in the army; but several enter into the navy. In 1750, five farmers emigrated from this parish to the isle of Bute, where they engaged in farms, but about 10 years afterwards, 3 of them returned to Torthorwald and the neighbourhood. This parish has produced 10 preachers of the gospel since 1762. Many young men have gone abroad in different lines, several of whom have been successful, and have done honour to the place of their nativity.

*Bills of Mortality.*—In forming the tables of mortality, (see appendix) it was intended, in as far as consisted with accuracy, to preserve the common names by which the diseases are known. Where these are either not sufficiently distinctive, or where one name is used to express more than one kind of disease, numbers are added expressive of the genus they belong to in Cullen's Nosology. No diseases are mentioned for children under one year of age, unless they have died of the small pox, measles, or chincough, and therefore they are put into one column. The column marked "Internal chronic complaints, &c." are cases where no other definite name could be thought of, and where they are in general thought to arise from obstructions.

of some of the viscera. Many of them under this head had been *bed-rid* for a long time before they died.

*Observations on the Tables of Mortality.*—It appears from these tables, that the asthma, which carried off 36 souls, has been the most prevalent distemper, and that 18 have died of rheumatic complaints, within the same period. The uncommon mortality of these diseases was occasioned by a great number of the inhabitants having been in the practice of employing the greater part of the summer, and even a good part of winter, first in making, and then in carrying peats from the moor to their own houses, and for sale in Dumfries. In this employment, besides being exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather, the labourers generally had their legs soaked in moor water almost all the day; and, as they performed this work, not for wages, but on their own account, they constantly wrought several extra hours, at a distance from their own homes, and without the convenience of warm victuals, &c. Under these circumstances, the frequency and malignity of the asthma and the rheumatism need not be wondered at; and the unhealthiness of this species of labour is a strong argument, in addition to many others that might be adduced, for abolishing the duty on coal; so as to render that sort of fuel, so destructive to the health, as well as to the industry of the people, no longer necessary.

In 1776, inoculation for the small pox was first introduced into this parish, and that practice has since been continued, always with safety to the persons inoculated, though fatal to those who were infected by it in the natural way from the inoculated. Hence in twelve years preceding 1776, only two persons died here of the small-pox, whilst in  
the

twelve succeeding years, twelve were carried off by that disease. This tends to prove the necessity of making the practice of inoculation as general as possible, where it is at all adopted, otherwise it may be productive of harm, instead of good.

NUMBER



## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF DORNOCK.

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES SMAILL.

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**D**ORNOCK is a small parish, lying in the presbytery of Annan, in the synod and the shire of Dumfries. It is two miles and a half in length, and in general about two and a half in breadth. It would be nearly square, were it not for a small detached part, consisting of three farms, almost quite unconnected with the rest of the parish, lying along the banks of the Kirtle. It is bounded by the parish of Annan on the west and north, by Kirkpatrick-Fleming on the north east, by Greta on the east, and by the Solway Firth on the south. Its name is probably derived from the oak woods, that formerly grew there. *Tor* or *Dor*, in the Celtic language, signifying, an oak, or wood, and *nock*, a know, or hill. The parish, however, is remarkably level, having no mountains, and few rising grounds 60 feet above high-water mark. The soil is in general fertile and produces very good crops when properly cultivated. But the greater part of the parish, consisteth of loam upon a stony clay, or brick earth. So close a bottom makes it rather a damp country in winter. The air is healthy, though rather moist and chilly. There are no local distempers peculiar to the district. Consumptions sometimes prevail, and occasional-

ly

ly fevers and the small-pox; the last of which is rendered much less fatal since inoculation has been so generally practised.

\* *Rivers, Fishings, &c.*—The small river, Kirtle, touches the north east point of the parish, and the Solway Firth, or Booness Wath, as it is called, is its southern boundary \*. In the Kirtle, there are some common trouts, eels, pike, perch, and the like; but these are not in such quantities as to be an object of much profit to the inhabitants. The fishings in the Solway Firth, however, are more considerable, and merit a more particular detail, both on account of the income they produce, and the singular modes of fishing, which are adopted; a description of which, may furnish useful hints to proprietors in other parts of the kingdom. The modes are four.—1. With *leisters*: a kind of four pronged fork, with the prongs turned a little to one side, having a shaft 20 or 24 feet long. These they run along the sand on their edge, or throw them when they see any fish. In this manner they often wound and kill great quantities. Some of our people are very dexterous at this exercise, and will sometimes upon horseback throw a leister, and kill at a great distance. This is also called *shauling*; as it is generally practised, when the tide is almost spent, and the waters turned shallow.—2. A second mode of fishing, called *baaving* or *hauling*, is standing in the stream, either at the flowing or ebbing of the tide, with a pock net fixed to a kind of frame, consisting of a beam, 12 or 14 feet long, having three small sticks or rungs fixed into it, one in the middle, and one at each end, about four feet long each; to these the net is fixed  
by

\* Wath seems to signify a ford, or place that may be forded or waded.

by a small line ; and with this frame they stand, having the mouth of the net, which is fixed to the frame, opposed to the stream, and the points of the rungs fixed upon the bottom, holding firmly the middle of the beam : so that, whenever a fish strikes against the net, they, by means of the middle rung, instantly haul up the mouth of the net above water, and the fish which lies caught in the pock or hollow of the net, they kill with an instrument kept for that purpose. A dozen or twenty men will sometimes go in, and stand a-breast in the stream, at this kind of fishing, up to the middle, in strong running water, for three or four hours together. A company of this kind is called a Mell. — 3. Another method is called *pock-net fishing* : This is performed by fixing stakes or stours (as they are called) in the sand, either in the channel of the river, or in the sand which is dry at low water. These stours are fixed in a line, across the tide-way, at the distance of 40 inches from each other, about 3 feet high above the sand, and between every two of these stours is fixed a pock-net, tied by a rope to the top of each stour. The under part of the net is made fast to a hank or ring, made of twisted willow or hazle, and slipt on to the stour on which it is moveable. These pock-nets are made of strong twine, and the mouths of them are about 3 feet wide both ways : They are of a wide mesh, so that the fish coming up rapidly with the stream, instantly run their heads into one of these meshes, where they stick, and so are unable to disengage themselves ; and as soon as the tide is spent, the fishermen go in and take them. Five of these pocks are called a clout ; and ten clout of nets are the quantity allowed to each fisherman, who has only one share in the fishing. They have also the distances regulated, so that one fisherman must not set his nets within a certain distance of another. — 4. The fourth method is called *raise-net fishing*. This is by far the most profitable mode, yielding a rent of from 2

to L. 300 a year, within the bounds of this parish. It is so called, from the lower part of the net rising and floating upon the water with the flowing tide, and setting down with the ebb. This is also called *lake-fishing*, from the nets being always set in lakes, or hollow parts of the tide-way, and never either in the channel of the river, or on the plain sand. The stakes or stours used for these nets, are in general, 10 or 12 feet long, and fixed in a row, across a lake, or hollow, at about 5 or 6 feet distance. After these are strongly fastened to the bottom, by being driven pretty deep into the sand, a strong rope is passed along, and fixed to the head of each stour; to this rope is fixed a net of about 9 or 10 feet deep, bound also at the bottom with a strong rope, but not fastened to the stours below. In the middle between every two stours, is fastened to the upper rope, a small stick about the size of those used by coopers for hoops to large vessels, and about 12 feet long. The other end of these sticks are fastened to the foot rope of the net which keeps it quite tight, the lower end of course, rises with the net, and floats on the water with the flowing tide: but, when the tide begins to turn, these sticks are pressed down to the bottom by the returning or back-going stream, and so take the net along with them, and prevent any fish getting down the lake, till the tide is spent or gone out, when the fishermen, or the persons to whom the nets belong, come every 12 hours to see what is left. But if the lake does not ebb quite dry, they have to draw the lake with a draught-net, to take out the fish. In this manner, great quantities of salmon, sea-trout, herrings, cod, flounders, surgeon, &c. are sometimes taken.

The fish caught here are instantly sold, and almost, always for ready money. Fish carriers are constantly waiting at the drawing of the nets, in order to buy and carry away the fish, as soon as they are taken. They carry them to the large manu-

facturing towns, in the north and west of England; and some of them are sent even to London. — The salmon is sold from 1s. per. lb. down to 2½d. according to the season of the year, and the scarcity of fish. The herrings and sea-trouts are sold in proportion, rather at a lower rate. Cod are generally sold at Carlisle and the neighbourhood, at about 1½d. or 2d. per. lb. The flounders are bought by the dozen, at from 4d. to 1s. according to their size and scarcity. In July, 1789, there was a considerable herring fishing, but we seldom have them in such quantities, as to merit much attention.

The Solway firth is navigable at high water, for vessels of 100 tons burden, five or six miles to the eastward of this; and vessels may ly in safety any where along the shore, being all flat sand, without rocks. The tides are pretty regular. Spring tides rise about 25 feet above low-water mark, and ordinary tides about 10 or 12. There are evident marks of the tides having been higher at some distant period upon this coast than they are at present, by at least 20 feet.

*Minerals.*—When the great military road was making through this parish, a great quantity of matter was dug up from a field, and used for gravelling the road, which had all the appearance of a vitrified substance or kind of lava. There are very good quarries of red free stone, and some muir or whinstone, which are used both for building dykes and houses. No lime-stone or coal has as yet been discovered in this parish; nor has any trial of consequence been made to discover them. The want of coal is truly distressing to the country in general, both in regard to agriculture and manufactures. As to lime, it can be obtained in the neighbourhood.

*Cattle, &c.*—A good many black cattle, (about 700 head in all)

all) are reared in the parish, principally of the Galloway breed, being reckoned more easily fattened than any other. There are about 145 horses, mostly of the draught kind. The sheep do not exceed 160 in number; and little or no pains is taken to improve the breed. There are about 300 swine, fatted annually. They are mostly salted, made into hams, and sent into England. There are, one year with another, about 960 acres in tillage; of which, about 200 are sown with barley, 600 with oats, 40 with pease and beans, 20 with wheat, 20 with rye, 60 with potatoes, 20 with turnip, and a few with lint. The only manure made use of, besides the dung produced by the cattle on the different farms, is lime, there being no marle. Some trials of slesch from the shore, have been made, but it did not seem to answer. From an acre of barley, there is generally reaped, about 40 Winchester bushels, of oats 36, of wheat 30, of beans 20, of peas 15, of potatoes 6 tun. There are about 100 acres sown with artificial grasses, chiefly clover and rye grass. About 790 acres in pasture, and 1000 acres of common, some part of which, however, is improved every year; so that, soon, there will be no waste land in the parish, excepting about 100 acres of moss, which must be reserved for fuel. The expence of peat, including casting, carrying out, winning and leading them home, may be about 9d. per cart-load. Such of the inhabitants as are in better circumstances, usually purchase, every season, some coals from Cumberland; for which, they pay at the rate of 1s. 6d. per single cart load, besides a journey, going and coming of 36 miles, in addition to the great inconvenience, and risk of crossing the firth at low water. Some English coal is brought by water, which, with the duty, costs about 9s. per ton. while, in Cumberland, at the distance only of two miles, they have the same coal, for about 3s. per ton. It has been long and earnestly wished, that this heavy and fatal ob-

stacle to the improvement of this, and of the neighbouring districts, could be removed.

*Labouring Poor.*—The expences of a common labourer, with a wife and four children, may be nearly as follow.

|   |      |    |    |
|---|------|----|----|
| House-rent, with a small garden or kail-yard                                      | L. 1 | 0  | 0  |
| Peats or fuel   | -    | 0  | 6  |
| A working jacket and breeches, about  | -    | 0  | 5  |
| Two shirts, 6s. a pair of clogs, 3s. 2 pair of stockings, 2s                      | -    | 0  | 11 |
| A hat, 1s. a handkerchief, 1s. 6d.  | -    | 0  | 2  |
| A petticoat, bedgown, shift, and caps for the wife                                | 0    | 9  | 0  |
| A pair of stockings, 1s. clogs, 2s. 6d. apron, 1s. 6d. napkin, 1s. 6d. for ditto. | -    | 0  | 6  |
| A shirt 2s. clogs, 2s. stockings, 1s. for each of the four children               | -    | 1  | 0  |
| Other clothes for the children, about 4s. each                                    | 0    | 16 | 0  |
| School wages, &c. for the four children   | -    | 0  | 10 |
| Two stone of oat meal, per week, at 20d. per stone                                | -    | 8  | 13 |
| Milk, 9d. per week, butter, 3d. per ditto.  | -    | 2  | 12 |
| Salt, candle, thread, soap, fugar, and tea  | -    | 0  | 13 |
| The tear and wear of the man and wife's sundry cloths                             | -    | 0  | 10 |
| Total outlays L. 17 14 4  |      |    |    |

At the rate of 6s. per week, for 48 weeks, in the year, the man may earn about L. 14 : 8 ; the expence of maintaining the family, will therefore exceed the man's annual earnings, about L. 3 : 6 : 4 *per annum*; but the deficiency is generally made

up

up by the wife's industry, by her working in hay-time and harvest, when she can earn about L. 1 : 10s. and by her spinning through winter and spring, when she may gain from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week, besides taking care of her family. The labourers usually get some potatoes set by the farmers who employ them, with any manure they can gather, which is a great help to their family, particularly in the article of oat meal. With that saving they are enabled to buy better clothes, and a little butcher meat for the winter. Indeed, such as are industrious, sober, and economical, live pretty comfortably, and are in general wonderfully well contented with their situation.

*Climate, Character of the People, &c.*—Though the soil is rather damp in winter, and the air moist and chilly, yet this district is rather healthful than otherwise. There are several instances of longevity. Some persons above 80 years of age, now living, are able to go about their ordinary occupations, and even, some about 90 and above it. There is one man 93, and a very respectable old woman, 96, who is still remarkably cheerful and amazingly recollected. Another old woman died about a month ago, that was 93 or 94. — On several monuments in our church-yard, there are inscriptions, asserting the deceased to have been upwards of 100 years of age, one or two in particular, said to have been 104, if not more. — The inhabitants are in general above the middle size, of clear complexion, agile, and active, and not deficient in mental qualifications: Several of them are above 6 feet high, some about 6 feet, 3 inches. They are inclined to be industrious; but have no manufactory of any consequence to employ them. It is thought by some, that the fishing hurts their industry, both in the manufacturing and farming lines. The people are not very fond of a sea-faring life, though some individuals occasionally go



to sea. Such young men as enter into the army, seem to give the preference to the artillery.

*Village, &c.*—Dornock is the only place that can be called a village. It is pleasantly situated upon a gentle eminence about a mile from the sea, and has a very commanding view of the Solway firth, &c. It consists of about 25 or 26 dwelling houses, scattered along the side of the military road, which runs through it. But the manse, and two other dwelling-houses, inhabited by the proprietors, are the only ones two story high, or covered with slate. The rest are all mud houses and covered with thatch.

*Mud-houses.*—The farm-houses in general, and all the cottages are built of mud or clay; yet these houses, when plastered and properly finished within (as many of them are) are exceeding warm and comfortable. The manner of erecting them is singular. In the first place, they dig out the foundation of the house, and lay a row or two of stones, then they procure, from a pit contiguous, as much clay or brick-earth as is sufficient to form the walls: and having provided a quantity of straw, or other litter to mix with the clay, upon a day appointed, the whole neighbourhood, male and female, to the number of 20 or 30, assemble, each with a dung-fork, a spade, or some such instrument. Some fall to the working the clay or mud, by mixing it with straw; others carry the materials; and 4 or 6 of the most experienced hands, build and take care of the walls. In this manner, the walls of the house are finished in a few hours; after which, they retire to a good dinner and plenty of drink which is provided for them, where they have music and a dance, with which, and other marks of festivity, they conclude the evening. This is called a *daubing*; and in this manner they make a frolic of

of what would otherwise be a very dirty and disagreeable job.

*Rent, &c.*—The parish is mostly let in small farms, from L. 3:12s. up to L. 120. *per. annum*, but the greater part of them are under L. 30. The best arable and meadow grounds, let for about 20s. or a guinea per acre, that of an inferior quality, at an average, about 1s. The valued rent of the whole parish, is only 2620 merks Scots. The land rent paid by the tenants, is about L. 1480 sterling; the fishing rents about L. 220.; and house-rents, may be from L. 60. to L. 70 a year: total, about L. 1760. None of the greater proprietors, who are 6 in number, reside in the parish. There are 6 feuers who have small portions of land of their own, who live in the village of Dornock. It is certainly unlucky for this district, as well as for many others in Scotland, that the property of the soil has fallen into the hands of great proprietors, who draw their rents annually away, and spend them either in London or in foreign parts. Whereas smaller proprietors, living and residing on the spot, would lay out their rents at home, and uniting their stock and influence with men of activity in business, in promoting manufactories, commerce, and improvements of every kind, would soon prove of essential service both to the district itself, and to the kingdom in general.

*Roads.*—The great road from Carlisle to Portpatrick, runs through the middle of the parish. It was made at the expence of government, but is kept in repair by money collected at a toll-bar, lately erected upon it for that purpose. Some of the cross-roads in this parish were formerly made, and upheld by the statute labour; but, in consequence of an act of parliament obtained for that purpose, the statute labour is now commuted, and paid in money at the disposal of the commissioners  
of

of supply for the county. Little or none of the money that has been collected for that purpose, has, however, been laid out in this parish for these five years past.

*Antiquities.*—From the situation of the parish, it is natural to suppose, that it has frequently been the scene of action in the contests between the two nations. But the particulars of these predatory incursions, are now in a great measure lost. One tradition, however, still remains, of a battle, said to have been fought upon a muir in the neighbourhood, between a party of the English, commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale and Lord Crosby, and a body of Scots, commanded by Sir William Brown of Coalston; in which the English were defeated, and both their commanders slain. They are buried in Dornock church-yard. The stones that are placed over them, are about six feet and a half long, two feet broad below, and raised in the middle like a coffin, but somewhat higher; and upon the sides of these tombs are cut hieroglyphics, like broad leaves of plants, and other antique figures, quite unintelligible. They seem to be of considerable antiquity, but have neither letter nor date. A spring-well on the muir where the battle was fought, still bears the name of the sword-well, probably from some of these weapons being found there after the battle.

There is the remains of a druidical temple, still to be seen near Woodhead, though some of the stones, of late, have been carried away.—And there is also an entrenchment, near Dornock wood, where about an acre of ground has been surrounded with a fosse, of considerable depth, called the stank; but for what purpose it has been made, is not certainly known. The fosse is now drained and mostly filled up.—There is also at Stableton (now belonging to the Marquis of Annandale) a strong square tower, built of hewn stone, vaulted below,

three stories high, with battlements on the top; said to have been built by a gentlemen of the name of Edward Irvine, evidently for a place of safety against the depredations of the English borderers. — The stone in which a wooden cross formerly stood, also, still remains: It was called St. Marjory's cross, to whom, tradition says, the church itself was dedicated. — The names of places seem mostly derived from the Anglo-Saxon, or old English, as Butterdale, Todholes, &c. and some may be derived from the Erse, as Robgill, Gillfoot &c. — The language spoken here is the English, or lowland Scots; but from the intercourse with Cumberland, a little of that dialect, is naturally imbibed.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is rather on the decline, owing, perhaps, to the increasing manufactures in our neighbourhood, particularly Carlisle and Annan, which has induced some of the people, to go and settle there; and partly to the accumulation of many possessions into one; several instances of which have lately happened. Some young people also go into England, as servants, for higher wages, and some as itinerant merchants or pedlars. By the examination roll taken about six or seven years ago, this parish contained 780 inhabitants; and about eight or ten years before that, nearly the same number; but by the roll taken in March, 1790, there were only 738 then living, so that the decrease amounts to 42. The number, however, in 1755, according to Dr Webster, was only 716.

Present inhabitants according to their ages.

|                       |   |   |   |     |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Under 10 years of age | - | - | - | 145 |
| From 10 to 20         | - | - | - | 143 |

---

Carried over 288

|               |              |     |
|---------------|--------------|-----|
|               | Brought over | 288 |
| From 20 to 30 | -            | 118 |
| 30 to 40      | -            | 86  |
| 40 to 50      | -            | 67  |
| 50 to 60      | -            | 62  |
| 60 to 70      | -            | 53  |
| 70 to 80      | -            | 46  |
| 80 to 90      | -            | 16  |
| Above 90      | -            | 2   |
|               | Total        | 738 |

|                                      |   |     |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----|
| Of whom there are married            | - | 190 |
| Unmarried, though marriageable       | - | 178 |
| Widowers                             | - | 10  |
| Widows                               | - | 24  |
| Male-servants                        | - | 30  |
| Female-servants                      | - | 28  |
| Day-labourers                        | - | 46  |
| Seceders (of the Burgher persuasion) | - | 30  |

Of tradesmen, there are 5 joiners, 4 blacksmiths, 10 weavers, 5 taylors, 5 apprentices, 1 shopkeeper, 1 miller, 1 tide-waiter, 4 public house-keepers, 8 fishermen, who do little else, and about 20 others who fish occasionally.

The average of baptisms for the last 5 years is 15, of marriages 4, of burials 8; but since the late taxes laid on these articles (which are heavily complained of) they have not been regularly entered in our parish records.

*Patron, Church, &c.*—The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The value of the living, including the glebe, is about

L. 90 sterling. The manse was rebuilt in 1778. The church is small and inconvenient.

There is a school-house, and a very good schoolmaster. His salary is only 100 merks Scots, paid by the heritors; which, with the school-wages, may amount to L. 18 or L. 20 a year: a poor pittance to live on, for any man of education and parts, which even a country school-master ought to be. The number of scholars, summer and winter, may, on an average, be from 50 or 60. They are taught reading English, writing, arithmetic, geometry, accounts, and a few even Latin.

The number of poor at present upon the list, are 18. There are no funds for their maintenance, but the Sunday collections, which, will scarcely amount to 3s. a week, together with the small sum of 10s. yearly, left them by an heritor.

*Agriculture, &c.*—There are 60 ploughs in the parish, 66 carts, and 48 wheel-cars, or tumbrils. The ploughs are all of the English make, with the curved mouldboard, and drawn by two horses without any driver.

The parish is partly inclosed with hedges and ditches, and partly with earth and stone dikes. The farmers, in general, are very sensible of the benefit of inclosures, but are not always inclined to take proper care of their hedges after they are planted. More provisions are raised in the district than is equal to its consumption. The annual exports may be nearly as follow.

|   |   |   |   |              |     |     |   |
|---|---|---|---|--------------|-----|-----|---|
| 3500 Winchester bushels of barley, at 3s per bushel | - | - | - | L. 521       | 0   | 0   |   |
| 1000 do. of oats, at 2s. 4d.                        | - | - | - | 133          | 0   | 0   |   |
| 100 do. pease, 4s.                                  | - | - | - | 20           | 0   | 0   |   |
|   |   |   |   | <hr/>        |     |     |   |
|   |   |   |   | Carried over | 674 | 0   | 0 |
|   |   |   |   |              |     | 100 |   |

|   |              |        |       |   |
|---|--------------|--------|-------|---|
|   | Brought over | L. 674 | 0     | 0 |
| 100 do. beans, 5s   | -            | -      | 25    | 0 |
| 60 do. rye, 4s. 6d.   | -            | -      | 13    | 0 |
| 180 head of young cattle, L. 2 : 10s each                                     | -            | -      | 450   | 0 |
| 20 cows, L. 6. per head   | -            | -      | 120   | 0 |
| Cheese made after the Cheshire manner, and of<br>very good quality            | -            | -      | 200   | 0 |
| Butter (about) 100 firkins, L. 2 : 8s. per firkin                             |              |        | 140   | 0 |
| 300 swine fatted, at L. 3. per head   | -            | -      | 900   | 0 |
| Fish, rather uncertain, but may be rated ( <i>commu-<br/>nibus annis</i> ) at | -            | -      | 400   | 0 |
|   |              |        | <hr/> |   |
|   | Total        | 2922   | 0     | 0 |

When from this sum, the land and fishing rents are deducted, together with the expence of servants wages, and of day-labourers, there will only remain a surplus of about L. 648. for enabling the farmers to purchase iron and other implements of husbandry, necessaries for their houses, cloths for themselves and their families, additions to their stock, &c.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of this parish are, its situation on the Solway firth, and its ready access to the English and other markets by water carriage. The military road between Carlisle and Portpatrick also, runs through it, and the mails pass and repass every day; so that the communication by land to any part of the three kingdoms is easy and expeditious.

On the opposite scale, the following circumstances may be placed, to wit, the moistness of the climate; the violent gusts of wind from the west and south west, even in the summer season, by which the crops, particularly those of the tender kind,

are.

are greatly injured ; the great scarcity of timber ; the want of water-falls to drive machinery ; and, above all, the fatal duty upon coals ; to which, may be added, the want of persons of capital and spirit to provide employment for the poor, who suffer much from neglect, no provision being made for their support, while the rents they raise are spent by their landlords in distant parts of the kingdom.

*Character of the People.*—The people in this parish are naturally sober, active, and industrious. They are greatly more civilized than they were 20 or 30 years ago, particularly since all intercourse of a contraband nature with the Isle of Man has been broken off. They are in general, contented with their situation, though desirous of improving it ; and so strict in their conduct and behaviour, that, not only during the incumbency of the present minister, but from time immemorial, not one individual among them has been convicted of a capital crime.



## N U M B E R III.

## P A R I S H O F K I R K M A H O E .

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. MR. LAWSON.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the shire, presbytery, and synod of Dumfries. Any origin that can be assigned for the name is merely conjectural\*. Its form is not easily described, its length and breadth being so various. It is surrounded by the parishes of Closeburn, Kirkmichael, Tinwald, Dumfries, Holywood, and Dunscore. — The northern and eastern parts are hilly, but there are no mountains of any note. Where this parish joins Tinwald, there are many little rising grounds interspersed with morassy grounds at the bottom, which, when out of tillage, are soon covered with furze and broom; but, when plowed (as they are of a light kindly soil) they produce pretty good crops of oats. Some of them were never plowed till within these few years past. The more hilly parts of the parish produce heath and coarse grass, fit only for sheep. There are two considerable sheep farms in these hills, one of which

\* It is supposed from some faint called *Mahoe*, or some such name, to whom the church was dedicated.

which maintains about sixty, and the other from twenty to thirty score. The wool is said to be uncommonly good, and usually sells at the best price of any in the neighbourhood. — The other high grounds, also, feed a considerable number of sheep; but being in many hands, the number cannot be so well ascertained. They probably, however, amount to, at least, twenty score more.

*Progress of Improvement.*—When the present incumbent was ordained, An. 1750, improvements were not commenced. There was not a cart in the parish but two; and these were merely for the purpose of supplying the families to whom they belonged, with water for domestic uses. About that time the estate of Carnfalloch was purchased by the late Mr Johnston. He was the first, in this part of the country, who made any considerable exertion in draining, inclosing, and planting; which soon altered the aspect, and increased the value of his estate. By his means, in a great measure, the use of carts was introduced; the number of which, increased so rapidly, that, in a short time, even the poorest tenants were provided with one, and many with two or more. — The neighbouring gentlemen soon followed Mr Johnston's example. Great improvements were made both in the low lands, and on the rising grounds; and thus the parish, instead of being almost in a state of nature, or, at least, comparatively unproductive, became remarkable for its cultivation. Planting also, became an object of attention, and there are several hundred acres covered with different sorts of trees, which greatly adds to the beauty of the country.

*Husbandry.*—Some years ago, it was a rare thing to see fewer than four horses in a plough. Three in a yoke, was a matter of wonder. But, for a great while past, two horses, generally

generally speaking, do the same work with equal facility. This, however, is greatly owing to the breed being improved.

*Dalswinton.*—The estate of Dalswinton is by far the largest in the parish. It was there where the Cumings in former times had one of their chief seats. It was a large Gothic building, reared on one of the highest eminences in the neighbourhood. In 1750, and for some time after, large portions of the old walls were standing; and, from these ruins it appeared to have been a large fabric, and of considerable strength. These stones were afterwards used for building a mansion-house and offices, immediately below the eminence. The mount where the castle stood, and the grounds adjacent were planted with fir and other trees to a considerable extent. A large orchard also was made, which, for many years, yielded a rent of 50 guineas *per annum*. Within these few years this estate was purchased by Patrick Miller, Esq. who has already with taste and much judgement, and with wonderful rapidity, improved great part of the estate, and has made Dalswinton one of the finest seats in the south of Scotland. He is in a likely way of preventing the river Nith from making such depredations upon the rich holm lands, as it had formerly done; and is effecting many other alterations and improvements of equal importance. He has now built, on the mount where the old castle stood (and as near to the old foundation as was consistent with the safety of the building) one of the best and most commodious dwelling houses, for its dimensions, of any in this part of the kingdom. From its top, there is one of the most extensive and pleasing prospects any where to be met with.

*Population.*—The inhabitants of the parish amount to about 1200. In 1755, according to Dr Webster, the number was  
1098.

1098. Baptisms for some years past, have been upwards of 40. Marriages about six, seven, or eight, and seldom more. Deaths, much in the same proportion, as in the neighbouring parishes, according to the number of inhabitants. For upwards of 40 years back, there has been no epidemical disease, but the small-pox; excepting a fever, which, about 30 years ago, raged for some time; and got, from the village where it first appeared, the name of the *Duncow* fever. But only a few were cut off by it.

*Villages.*—Besides a new and regularly built village on the estate of *Dalhwinton*, for the accommodation of 15 families, and upwards, there are four others; the smallest of which contains about 100 inhabitants, and the largest (*Duncow*) between 150 and 200.

*Roads and Bridges.*—There are, perhaps, few public roads kept in better repair, than those in this neighbourhood. By the surplus of the parish funds, also, some excellent cross-roads, little, if at all inferior to the principal ones, have been lately made. Besides three bridges upon the principal high-road, two of them over pretty rapid rivulets, there are four others in the parish, well executed, and of the greatest benefit to the inhabitants.

*Manse, Stipend, and Glebe.*—The manse is one of the oldest in this part of the country. It was built about 1723, but has had partial repairs at different times since. The church, which is an old one, has been for some time in a good condition. The stipend amounts to L. 83 : 6 : 8, communion elements included. But as a part of it is paid in victual, it has produced for some years rather more. The glebe is small : what

is properly glebe indeed, not exceeding four acres; but the grass and arable land united, may be from seven to eight acres.

*Heritors.*—There are four heritors who have considerable estates in the parish. Of the rest, to the number of fourteen, the greater part of them have only small properties; and are commonly distinguished by the name of portioners. They have of late got their lands, which formerly lay in runrigg, divided and set apart, which has occasioned very great improvements.

*Rent.*—The valuation of the parish is 7234 $\frac{1}{2}$  merks Scots. The real rent cannot easily be ascertained. It probably amounts to about L. 3000. sterling. As lands are rising, and as there is a very great track of fine holm, and other ground of an excellent quality, and still capable of much improvement, it is not easy to conjecture to what sum the rental may soon rise. Some land now lets at from L. 1. 10s to L. 2. per acre. Every sort of grain produced in the neighbourhood; also potatoes, turnips, &c. are raised to very great perfection.

*Poor.*—The poor, who, for 40 or 50 years back, have been about 20 in number, have always been maintained by the public collections in the church, together with some dues on particular occasions, and the interest of some mortified money. In this way, by distributions four times annually, and some small donations occasionally given amongst them, there have never been any complaints. Some of the poor, too, are pretty industrious, and endeavour, in a great measure, to maintain themselves; by which means, more can be given to others, who are old or infirm, and unable to do any thing.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—There is one legal school and schoolmaster in the parish. His salary, together with some mortified money, amounts to L. 8 : 7 : 8 ; and by the common school wages for teaching, his income may rise to more than double that sum. There are other schools in some of the villages ; one in particular, on the estate of Dalwinton, to the support of which Mr. Miller generously contributes. There are few or none in the parish, any way advanced in life, who are not capable of reading English, and in general, who have not learned a little writing and arithmetic.

*Alc-houses.*—Within these few years the number of alc-houses has greatly diminished. By the additional taxes upon malt, and the more rigid exactions of excise-men, people do not find it worth their while to sell ale : There were at any rate, but few in the parish. Of late, selling whisky and other spirits, has chiefly prevailed. This must, at times, produce the common effects attending the use of spirituous liquors. The people, however, are in general sober and industrious.

## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF LOCHRUTTON.

(STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

*By the Rev. MR. GEORGE DUNCAN.**Origin of the Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**L**OCHRUTTON derives its name from a lake or *loch* in the centre of the parish. The meaning of *loch* is well known, and the word *rutton* is supposed to signify, in the Gaelic language, the *straight road*. As the great road to Ireland, through the stewartry and the county of Galloway, passes close by the loch, it seems to have received the name of *Lochrutton*, or the loch upon *the straight road*, from that circumstance. The name was afterwards transferred to the whole district in the neighbourhood. The parish is situated in the county or stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and is one of the ten parishes belonging to that stewartry, which is incorporated with the presbytery and synod of Dumfries. It is of an elliptical form and may be computed to be four miles and a half long, from east to west, and three miles broad from north to south. It is bounded by the parishes of Newabbey and Troquire on the south and east, Terregles and Irongray on the north, and Urr and Kirkgunzeon on the west.

*Surface,*

*Surface, Soil, and Climate.*—From the town of Dumfries, which is distant about four miles to the eastward, the country rises gradually, more especially throughout the whole extent of this district. In the lower and upper extremities, and towards the south, the country is hilly; but the rest of the parish lies in a valley consisting of arable land, interspersed with knolls, mosses, and meadows. The whole prospect forms a kind of amphitheatre. The soil is various, but, in general, is composed of light shallow loam, either on white granite, or on a gravellish, and in many places a cold, springy bottom: a species of soil, which is neither very barren, nor very fertile. The climate is rather colder in this district, than in some of the neighbouring parishes, being much elevated above the level of the sea, and having in it a large lake. But as refreshing breezes are seldom wanting, even in the hottest weather; and as, at other times, there are frequently sharp and high winds, the air is greatly purified by these means; and, on the whole, it is accounted healthy.

*Lake, Island, &c.*—The lake or loch, from which the parish derives its name, is a mile in length, and, at an average, about half a mile in breadth. In the middle of it, there is a small island, about half a rood in extent, of a circular form. It seems to have been, at least in part, artificial: Over its whole surface, there is a collection of large stones which have been founded on a frame of oak planks\*. There are both pike and perch in the lake; and formerly eels were caught, in great quantities, by means of wicker baskets, and sometimes of a large chest placed in the sluice, at the foot of the lake, with openings

\* The sea-gulls frequent this island in summer, and cover it all over with their nests.



penings at the bottom, which let the water pass, but retained the fish. The fishing, however, now turns to very little account. From the lake there issues a small stream, in which trouts are found.

*Mineral Spring.*—There is a mineral spring in the parish, called Merkland well, of the chalybeate kind: a very effectual remedy in agues, complaints of the stomach, and all nervous disorders; but fatal in consumptions. It is exceedingly light, very diuretic, and an excellent restorer of the appetite. Though the accommodation has been always very indifferent, yet this water was formerly resorted to, during the summer months, by persons of rank and fortune, as well as by numbers of inferior note. Of late years, its reputation, among people of superior station, has rather declined; partly, because there is a whim and fashion with respect to what are called, watering places; and, because, though the accommodation is much improved, this improvement has by no means kept pace with the luxury of the times.

*Minerals.*—Lime-stone has been found upon upon the estates of Mr Constable of Nithsdale, and Mr Irvine of Griston. A quantity of the fossil was lately obtained for a trial, but when fire was applied, instead of being reduced to a calx, it cemented. This may discourage farther attempts, especially as it must be difficult or expensive, while the duty on coals continues, to procure, in this part of the country, a sufficient quantity of fuel to carry on the process.

*Antiquities.*—The vestige of a druidical temple is to be seen upon a hill at the eastern extremity of the parish. This spot goes by the name of the *seven grey stones*; though in fact there are nine stones, surrounding a rising ground, and forming a circle

circle of about 170 feet diameter. This place was excellently situated for astronomical observations, commands a fine opening to the east, and one of the richest and most extensive prospects in this part of the country.—There are vestiges also, of several of those towers used antiently, both as places of residence and of defence, in times of hostility; some of which appear to have been surrounded with a fosse. One tower remains yet entire, and is mentioned in a Scots chronicle, published in the reign of James VI. by the name of the Castle of Hills. The are before the entrance is inclosed, and, over the gate, a porter's lodge was erected. When this tower was built is uncertain; but, upon a corner stone of the lodge, which seems to be of a more modern construction, the year 1598 is inscribed.

*Population.*—The population has not materially varied for sixty years past. In 1728, the farthest period to which it can now be traced, the number of souls were 480. In 1755, according to Dr Webster, 564.

In 1790, as follows.

|                                  |   |   |   |   |     |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Number of souls                  | - | - | - | - | 528 |
| — of males                       | - | - | - | - | 240 |
| — of females                     | - | - | - | - | 288 |
| — of souls, under ten years      | - | - | - | - | 100 |
| Average of births, for ten years | - | - | - | - | 12  |
| — of deaths, do.                 | - | - | - | - | 9   |
| — of marriages, do.              | - | - | - | - | 4   |

Proportion of annual births to the whole population, taking the number at 495, being the average for ten years past

- - - - - 1 to 41  
Proportion

|                         |   |   |          |
|-------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Proportion of marriages | - | - | 1 to 123 |
| —— of deaths            | - | - | 1 to 55  |

It must be observed, that an exact register of births, marriages, and deaths, has not been kept; though, it is believed, the above statement is very near the truth.

|   |   |   |           |
|---|---|---|-----------|
| In 1790—Number of farmers   | - | - | 50        |
| —— of their families  | - | - | 302       |
| —— of weavers, taylors, mafons, &c.                               |   |   | 22        |
| —— of labouring servants  | - |   | 50        |
| —— of students, attending the univerfity                          |   |   | 1         |
| —— of cottagers, and their children, the children of weavers, &c. |   |   | 103       |
|   |   |   | <hr/> 528 |

There are 15 Cameronians, 24 Antiburgher feceders, and 3 Roman catholics.

|   |   |   |                 |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Number of inhabited houfes, or more properly fpeaking, of feperate families | - | - | 123             |
| Perfons, at an average, to each houfe                                       | - | - | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Number of black cattle  | - | - | 1040            |
| —— of fheep   | - | - | 300             |
| —— of horfes  | - | - | 125             |
| —— of ploughs on the model of the Scots and Englifh conjoined               | - | - | 46              |
| —— of carts   | - | - | 77              |

*Number of Acres.*—The hilly part of the parifh was originally covered with heath, but as the greateft part of it is now under

der tillage, the heath has, in a great measure, disappeared.— There is no map of this district; but, on examining the general appearance of the country, it is supposed there may be,

|   |   |   |   |   |      |
|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| Of acres lying waste and uncultivated, most of which are capable of cultivation                     | - | - | - | - | 500  |
| Of acres in woods and marshes   | - | - | - | - | 350  |
| — in mosses   | - | - | - | - | 350  |
| — in the lake and rivulets  | - | - | - | - | 250  |
| — in arable and meadow land   | - | - | - | - | 5550 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 7000 |
| Total number of acres corresponding to the extent }<br>of the parish, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ miles |   |   |   |   | 7000 |

*Productions, crops, &c.*—The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but, there is exported to England, or disposed of elsewhere, a number of young cattle, and a considerable quantity of barley. Upon these articles, the farmers principally depend for the payment of their rents. A great proportion of oats, too, when made into meal, is sold in Dumfries market, and bought up to supply the miners at Leadhills and Wanlockhead, or transported to the west country.—Oat-seed, if the season answers, is begun to be sown on the second or third week of March, barley towards the end of April, and turnip towards the middle of June. Wheat has been tried, but not with much success. Early sowing, is looked upon as of considerable advantage; the harvest being in general late, and indeed often later by three weeks, than many places in the neighbourhood.

*Shell Marle.*—Within these fifty years, shell marle has been discovered; and has operated as a very considerable source of improvement. Before that fortunate discovery, the species of

oats, commonly cultivated, was of the grey kind ; but, in a few years after, it entirely disappeared, and gave place to the white oats. The marle is far from being yet exhausted, and where it begins to fail, lime is substituted in its place. Indeed, marle was observed to produce such wonderful effects, that those farmers, who had not access to it, were soon induced to have recourse to lime, imported from England, and to carry it even ten or twelve miles by land carriage. It has been observed, that, whenever the land has been once enriched with lime or marle, and afterwards laid down into pasture, that the ground, early in the spring, is covered with daisies, which are succeeded, in the beginning of summer, with a plentiful crop of white clover.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly made use of is peat. There are several mosses, from which, the farmers are allowed the privilege of taking what they require. Some of these contain marle, under 3 or 4 feet of moss. There is one large moss, which not only furnishes fuel to the families residing upon the estates of the gentleman, whose property it is, but to others in the parish and neighbourhood. Some is sold at the rate of 2s. each cart-load ; but this by way of favour or connivance.

*Heritors and Rent.*—The heritors, or owners of land in the parish, are seven in number. One of them, proprietor only of a small estate, resides in it.

The land rent of the parish, twenty years ago, was L. 900. it is now, L. 1540. To give an idea of the rise of rents, it is said, that three farms, which together yield, at present, L. 100 *per annum*, were possessed, towards the end of last century, upon condition of paying the public burdens upon the estate  
of

of Nithsdale, in the parish, which could not, at that time, exceed L. 12. sterling.—The best arable land, may be valued at 15s per acre, the inferior at 6s or 7s. But, as there is scarce a farm, that has not a great proportion of barren land, this can give no idea of the rent per acre. Some farms are rented from L. 60. to L. 100. others as low as from L. 10. to L. 20. but the general run is about L. 40. The farms are divided from one another, by march dykes, but few of them so subdivided as to encourage a proper plan of improvement.

*Church, Patron, Poor, &c.*—The church was built in the times of Popery; it was last repaired in 1786. The manse was built in 1739; and repaired in 1777. The value of the living, including the glebe, is estimated at L. 90.—The patron is the Duke of Queensberry.—The annual amount of the funds for the relief of the poor, is *per annum*, about L. 20, out of which, eight persons receive a quarterly allowance. Others receive alms occasionally. None of the poor beg from door to door; but scarcely a day passes, that the parish is not visited with vagrant poor, from neighbouring parishes, or from Ireland.—In 1782 and 1783, when there was a general scarcity over the country, the crops in this district were, at least, as good as usual; and though the harvest was late, the crops were got safely in. The farmers were so grateful for the plenty they enjoyed, and were so sensible of the hardships a number of families might suffer from the high price of provisions, that they stored up a considerable quantity of oat-meal, to be sold to such of their neighbours as stood in need of a supply, at 1s. 8d. per stone, though at that time the market price was 2s. 4d.

*Roads.*—The great military road to Portpatrick, runs through the whole length of this parish.

Cross-roads are also making, by the statute labour now commuted, though they have not in general been brought into proper order.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The rich beds of marle, dispersed over this district, are the most material advantages it enjoys over some other places in the neighbourhood; but this is counterbalanced by many disadvantages, in particular, the extraordinary expence of cultivation; the fields being stony, interspersed with knolls, and most of them lying on an ascent. The climate, and comparative poverty of the soil, also retard the progress of vegetation; so that grass and hay are by no means luxuriant, and the crops of oats, barley, &c. are of an inferior quality; and, in an unfavourable season, when the harvest is late, exposed to wind, rain, and frost.

*Means of farther Improvements.*—The inhabitants may be said to enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society: there are means, however, by which their condition might be improved. The coldness of the climate, and the lateness of the harvest, have been mentioned as peculiarly disadvantageous. These disadvantages might, in a great measure, be remedied, by planting, draining, and raising stone and thorn hedges. Were the proprietors to turn their attention to these objects, and to pursue them with spirit and perseverance, the climate itself would be changed, cultivation would rapidly advance; and, whilst they enjoyed the heart felt-satisfaction of augmenting the happiness of their fellow creatures, their exertions would be amply rewarded, by an increase in the value of their estates.

states. If such a plan were adopted, one may venture to affirm, that, this part of the country, which, at present, has a bare and bleak appearance, would become, in the course of fifteen or twenty years, distinguished for warmth, shelter, and fertility.

**NUMBER**



## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF KIRKCOLM.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES M'CULLOCH.**Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE name of this parish is derived from St. Columbus, to whom the church was dedicated.—It is situated in the county of Wigton, the presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway. It is a little peninsula of itself, detached from every other parish, except Lefwalt, which forms its boundary to the south. On all other sides, it is surrounded by the sea. It is, on an average, about four miles in breadth, and it extends in length, along the west shore of Lochryan, from five to six miles. On this coast, partly formed by the shores of Kirkcolm, is a beautiful basin, called the *Wig*, large enough to afford a safe retreat for a great number of small craft in bad weather; and in other parts of the bay of Lochryan, there is a sufficient depth of water for ships of any burden, and either good anchoring grounds, or a soft beach, as may be most convenient: And, as there are no shoals or sunken rocks near the mouth, to obstruct the entrance, it is questionable, whether a more convenient harbour is to be found between the two head-lands or Mulls of Kintyre and Galloway.

—Beyond

—Beyond a small point of land, called the Star, there is a fine bank of most excellent oysters, small indeed, but highly flavoured, and of a most delicious taste. It is believed, that if persons, skilled in managing dredge-nets, were to ply in deep water, oysters would be got in greater numbers, and of a larger size, than by the present mode of taking them off the beach, with the hand, when the tide is out; and, instead of being stinted to a day or two about the new or the full moon, they might dredge for them at all times with success.——  
 In regard to fresh waters, in so narrow a peninsula, any large stream cannot be expected; and accordingly there is but one small rivulet, which very scantily supplies water sufficient to serve a corn mill, the only one in the parish.

*Surface, Crops, &c.*—The surface of the parish is rather plain and level, than hilly, and the rising grounds have so easy and gentle an ascent, that they may be, and actually are, cultivated with the plow even to the very summit. The soil is various. Round the shore it is thin, sandy, or gravellish; in the more inland parts, it is in some places a rich loam, in others a deep clay; and in others, a mixture all these soils.

The crops principally raised are oats and barley, or bear, with rye grass and clover. They have not yet engaged in the culture of field turnips or cabbages. Small quantities of grey pease, and smaller quantities of horse beans are sown by some for their own private use, but none for sale; and much the same may be said in regard to wheat. The spirit of improving land began some years ago; but it was confined to a few individuals, proprietors of the land they cultivated. The common tenants thought such operations were too expensive for them to embark in; but now that spirit has diffused itself greatly, and, indeed, almost universally, among farmers of all descriptions.

*Manures,*

*Manures, &c.*—The manure chiefly made use of is lime; great quantities of which are imported from Whitehaven, in the north of England, and still greater from Loch-Larne, in the north of Ireland. Considerable quantities of shells, which are found not far from the surface, in several places of the parish, are also used. Another manure, much run upon at present, is a soft sea sand, either taken from within the flood-mark, or dug in lands that have been formerly covered by the sea. This last manure is not thought to be so strong in quality as the former, but by spreading it a little thicker, it is found to answer equally well; and is in great request, as it costs nothing; but the labour of bringing and laying it on. It has not yet been ascertained how long the virtue and efficacy of this manure will continue; but several have found the good effects of it for four, five, six, and seven years; and when the source whence it is taken is considered, we may venture to pronounce it an inexhaustible fund of wealth to the district.

The quantity of grain produced by means of these manures, is very considerable, and increasing every year. About twenty years ago, it was thought a very extraordinary crop, if about 200 bolls of bear and oats, after reserving what was sufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants, could be exported. But within these ten or twelve years past, the export has risen from 200, to 400, to 600, to 800, to 1000, and in 1790, to 1200 Galloway bolls, each boll, containing twelve bushels, Winchester measure. Nay, it is believed, by the most judicious and intelligent farmers, that the quantity exported will go on increasing for many years to come. The grain is carried to Ayr, Greenock, Glasgow, and other places on the Clyde. These improvements in husbandry have also mended the breed of cattle, the farmer being enabled by the greater quantity, and the better quality of food to rear them in greater numbers,

numbers, to raise them to a larger size, and to greater perfection.

*Population.*—The report made to Dr. Webster, in 1755, of the population of this district, was 765 souls.

|                               |   |   |   |     |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| The number now is             | - | - | - | 945 |
| Of these there are males      | - | - | - | 518 |
| Females                       | - | - | - | 427 |
| Under ten years of both sexes | - | - | - | 298 |
| Births at an average          | - | - | - | 26  |
| Burials                       | - | - | - | 24  |
| Marriages                     | - | - | - | 7   |

*Rents, Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The rents of the parish exceed L. 3000 *per annum*, which is more than double the amount seven years ago. There are only five proprietors; of whom the Earl of Galloway, who is also patron of the church, and titular of the tiends, is by far the most considerable. The stipend has not been augmented for more than sixty years; and amounts to four bolls of bear, twelve bolls of meal, Wigton measure, L. 53 in money, and a glebe of about nine acres. —The poor are chiefly supported by the collections at the church doors, which produce about L. 10 *per annum*. With this small sum, and the occasional charity of the well-disposed part of the inhabitants, the poor, to the number of sixteen, are not only preserved from starving, but are, in a great measure, prevented from straggling to beg in other parishes in the neighbourhood.

Till within these three years, there was not the least vestige of a village in the parish; but, since that time, about thirty houses, contiguous to each other, have been built. They are, in general, inhabited by tradesmen, but some of

them by common day-labourers. Unfortunately, however, more than one third of these houses may be called gin, or rather whisky shops, as they all sell that pernicious liquor. What effects this must have upon the morals of the people, not only in the village, but in the neighbourhood, may be easily foreseen.

*Air and Climate.*—The climate is mild and temperate, and the air salubrious. Many of the inhabitants live to a very considerable age. The ministers of Kirkcolum have, in particular, been distinguished by longevity. In 1643, Mr James Bell was settled minister, and held the cure, with some interruption when Episcopacy was established in Scotland, until the year 1700. His successor, Mr. Marshall, possessed the charge until 1705, when the present incumbent was admitted; who, in April 1791, was on the verge of eighty.

There are no mineral or medicinal wells in this parish; and the holy wells, that, in times of ignorance, were such objects of superstitious veneration, are now treated with contempt and ridicule.

*Antiquities.*—This parish furnishes no antiquities, but the ruins of an old building, which has been large and capacious. Tradition has not so much as preserved the name of the founder or its inhabitants. It is only certain, that it has not been habitable for above a century. —It may be proper to add, that, in digging among the ruins some months ago, a small cannon was found, seven feet long, and about three inches in the bore. This circumstance tends to prove, in addition to the thickness of the walls, that it was built as a place of strength for the protection of the neighbouring country.

NUMBER

## NUMBER VI.

## PARISH OF STONYKIRK.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.)

*By the Rev. MR. HENRY BLAIN.**Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Stonykirk, more properly Stephenkirk, composed of the united parishes of Stonykirk, Clashank, and Toscarton, in Stranraer presbytery, lies in the county of Wigton; and is bounded by the bay of Luce on the east, Kirkmaiden parish on the south, the Irish channel and Portpatrick parish on the west, and by the parishes of Inch and Glenluce on the north. It contains about 17,000 acres; of which, 700, lying along the bay of Luce, are of a sandy soil, hardly capable of improvement. The soil of the rest of the parish is, in general, light and dry; and favourable to an early harvest.

*Proprietors and Rent.*—In the parish there are five heritors; the two most considerable of whom reside in it. The valued rent is L. 4924 Scots; the real rent, services, &c. included, is estimated at L. 3169 : 2 : 7 sterling; but a considerable rise may soon be expected.

*Manure.*—There has been, for some years past, a vast quantity of lime, for manure, imported from Whitehaven; and delivered to the farmers, at 1s. 2d. the Carlisle bushel, or herding barrel. A south east wind brings plenty of sea-weed to Balgreggan head, in the bay of Luce, which is constantly applied as manure; and is found to yield one luxuriant crop, if put on wet clay land, particularly if the following summer is dry and warm. In consequence of the great alteration made by these articles, the value of land has increased considerably. The tenants find their account in improving, and pay their advanced rents with greater facility than before; so that, Galloway, (as these improvements are now becoming general) may, with great propriety, be called a corn country.

*Produce, Exports, &c.*—More grain is exported from Stonykirk, than from any parish in the west of Galloway. It is computed, that, after supplying the inhabitants, the export amounts to 1800 bolls of oats, 900 bolls of bear, and about 100 tons of potatoes, *per annum*. There is more flax raised here than in any other parish in the neighbourhood. That crop has been particularly attended to since the commencement of the late American war. About L. 2000, on an average, is annually received for black cattle. For some years past, it has been the practice to rear a number of swine, which were sold for slaughter; but it is now found to answer better to kill them at home, and to send the carcases to the London market. That article brought about L. 200. in 1790. All the sheep, reared in the parish, are consumed in it. The mutton of such as feed on the sea coast, is reckoned remarkably high-flavoured.

*Prices of Provision and Labour.*—Beef, mutton, and lamb, sell at 3d.—and pork at about 2½ the pound;—a goose sells

for 1s 3d.—and a hen for 8d. or 9d. each;—eggs at 2d. the dozen;—rabbits, (of which, there is a good warren on the bay of Luce) 5d. the pair;—butter 8d.—and common cheefe 3d. the pound of 24 ounces. The average price of well dressed oats is rather below L. 1. per boll, of 12 Winchester bushels;—of common bear, about L. 1 : 1;—and of two rowed barley, generally L. 1 : 6, per ditto. A day labourer, if he finds his own victuals, receives 1s. per day;—carpenters and masons from 1s 6d. to 1s 10d. Were it not for the influx of the Irish, the price of the labour would have become insupportably high.

*Services*.—There are various services performed by the tenants, to the resident heritors, such as cutting peats, and carrying them to the manor house, cutting down corn, and sometimes ploughing and harrowing. Baillie work, as it is termed, is common over the whole county of Wigton.

*Manufactures*.—Some years ago, salt was manufactured at two places in this parish; but the practice is now discontinued, probably, because it was found easier to smuggle that article from Ireland. This business, however, might be revived with advantage to the public and to the undertakers, particularly if the fisheries should prove successful. There is some kelp made here every year, and generally exported to Ireland. The coarse yarn spun by the old women, is usually brought to the fairs, of which two are held every year, in this parish, and there readily bought up to be made into osnaburghs for the West Indian market. There is in this parish a bleachfield, and four mills for dressing flax, also a very excellent mill for making pot or pearl barley, constructed by an ingenious mechanic from Edinburgh, with a view of preparing that article for the Liverpool market.

*Fisheries.*



*Fisheries.*—There is a tolerable good cod fishery in the Irish channel, which is pursued with various success through the whole season; but none is exported. About Lammas, abundance of mackerel are taken in the bay of Luce. The salmon fishery might be carried on with some success, but has been very much neglected.

*Roads.*—The parish roads, formerly made and repaired, by statute labour, are now kept in order by a conversion of 15s. for every L. 100. Scots, of valued rent, payable by the tenants, *pro rata*; and each householder, not a tenant, pays at the rate 1s. 8d. *per annum*.

*Stipend, Schools, &c.*—The stipend is L. 640. Scots, including L. 40 for furnishing communion elements, 60 bolls of meal, 32 bolls of bear, Linlithgow measure, with a manse and glebe. The patronage of the church lies in the Crown, and Mr. M'Donald of Garthland, *per vices*, the former for Clashank and Toscarton, and the latter for Stonykirk. There are two schools in the parish, both in wretched order as to houses; and the salary only 100 merks. There may be above 130 scholars at them, for four months in the year, but after the 1st of March, the number dwindles down to 20 or thereabouts. There are, at present, about 15 poor on the funds; the collection for their relief, amounts, at an average, only to 7s 6d. *per week*.

*Population.*—The population is as follows.

On the lands of Ardwell.

|                       |   |   |   |   |      |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| Individuals           | - | - | - | - | 460  |
| Under 10 years of age | - | - | - | - | 82   |
| From 10 to 20         | - | - | - | - | 106  |
| — 20 to 50            | - | - | - | - | 192  |
|                       |   |   |   |   | From |

*of Stonykirk.*

55

|                                     |   |   |   |   |     |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| From 50 to 70                       | - | - | - | - | 58  |
| — 70 to 100                         | - | - | - | - | 28  |
| Farmers                             | - | - | - | - | 36  |
| Their families                      | - | - | - | - | 156 |
| Mechanics                           | - | - | - | - | 24  |
| Apprentices                         | - | - | - | - | 8   |
| Household servants, male and female | - | - | - | - | 40  |
| Inhabited houses                    | - | - | - | - | 104 |

*In the remainder of the parish.*

|   |   |   |   |   |     |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Individuals                                 | - | - | - | - | 852 |
| Males                                       | - | - | - | - | 384 |
| Females                                     | - | - | - | - | 468 |
| Under 10 years of age                       | - | - | - | - | 176 |
| From 10 to 20                               | - | - | - | - | 175 |
| — 20 to 50                                  | - | - | - | - | 353 |
| — 50 to 70                                  | - | - | - | - | 126 |
| — 70 to 100                                 | - | - | - | - | 22  |
| Additional list of different ages and sexes | - | - | - | - | 53  |

*In the whole parish*

|             |                                      |                  |   |                              |      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|------|
| Individuals | -                                    | -                | - | $460 \times 852 \times 53 =$ | 1365 |
| Ploughs     | -                                    | -                | - | -                            | 98   |
| Carts       | -                                    | -                | - | -                            | 103  |
| Marriages   | } for six years from 1785 to 1790, { | } both inclusive | } |                              | 70   |
| Births      |                                      |                  |   | 164                          |      |
| Deaths      |                                      |                  |   | 130                          |      |

The inhabitants, upon the whole, enjoy good health, and live to an advanced age: one man died two years ago 96 years old.

*Antiquities.*—In the parish there are three beautiful earthen mounds,

mounds, formed like a sugar loaf. The most remarkable of them, near Balgreggan-house, is 460 feet in circumference, at the base, the perpendicular height 60 feet; and there is a curious excavation on the top. It is defended by a large circular fosse. On the lands of Garthland, is a square tower, 45 feet high, with the date 1274 on the battlements, formerly the residence of the Thanes of Galloway. Here are some fine trees, ash, birch, elm. A few of the former measure  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet in girth. The bay of Float, in this parish, is so called, from the circumstance of some vessels of the Spanish Flota being wrecked there; and at Money-Point, near it, many dollars were found. On the lands of Ardwell, are some remains of druid temples, and Pictish castles. There is also a chalybeate spring; and a cave, near the bay of Float, called the Good Wife's Cave, which has a very remarkable echo. Two gold lacrymatories, weighing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ounces each, were found in 1783, on the estate of Garthland.

NUMBER

## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF COLMONELL.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES MOCHRIE.**Origin of the Name.*

**C**OLMONELL or Calmonell, is presumed to be of Gaelic derivation, as the names of many places in this parish undoubtedly are \*. Some, who pretend to knowledge in that language, alledge the word signifies a turtle dove, or wood pigeon, with which, there is reason to believe, the parish formerly abounded, and still many of these birds harbour in woods on the banks of the river Stinchiar. Or, if conjecture might take place where no certainty can be obtained, the name may be derived from St Coleman, one of the popish saints. There is a parish in the presbytery of Kintyre, of nearly the same name, Kilcolmonell; where, as the Gaelic language is better understood, more certain information, as to the etymology and signification of the name, may perhaps be obtained.

VOL. II.

H

*Situation,*

\* As Dagarroch, Dalreoch, Bellickmurrice, Knockdolian, &c.

*Situation and Extent.*—The parish is situated in that district of the county of Ayr called Carrick. At the first settlement of presbyteries in Scotland, it was proposed, according to Calderwood's history, to make it the seat of a presbytery; but this not taking place, it was first placed in the presbytery of Ayr, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr; but was afterwards annexed to the presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway, united to which it now remains. As Stranraer is very distant, and the presbytery of Ayr, perhaps, at present, too numerous a body, the erection of a new presbytery in Carrick, for the seat of which Girvan or Dailly would be pretty central and commodious, has been suggested. It was originally of uncommon large extent; but when the parish of Barr was erected, all the lands of Ardmillan, extending three miles along the shore, and about two miles inland, were disjoined from Colmonell and annexed to Girvan. A very large parish, however, still remains; its greatest length from west to east, being about fourteen computed miles, and its average breadth about six.

*Surface, Soil, and Climate.*—The surface varies in different parts of the parish. From the sea, towards the inland parts of the country, it is very hilly for about four miles. The rest of the parish, though more elevated above the level of the sea, is flat. The soil is in general thin and light, seldom above the ordinary depth of a plough furrow, mostly upon a tilly bottom, and pretty much encumbered with stones. The flat land, however, upon the sides of the river, is a heavy soil, mixed with sand of a good depth, and particularly well calculated for fruit trees.—There are seven gardens, or orchards in the parish, all of whom produce apples, pears, plumbs, cherries, and the smaller fruits in the greatest perfection.—In regard to climate, there are few places in Ayrshire, or in the south west

2

of

of Scotland, where the air is milder or more wholesome than in the village of Colmonell, and all along the banks of the Stinchiar.——The weary and impatient traveller, chilled and benumbed with the pinching cold he has experienced on the adjacent mountains, feels with peculiar pleasure, the genial warmth of the valley into which he descends.——The inhabitants, in general, are not only long lived, but healthy in their old age. There are a good number upwards of 80, now alive; among whom, there is a woman in the 98 year of her age, who reaped corn last harvest, and a man about 90, who mowed hay.

*Rivers.*—Stinchiar is the principal river in the parish. It has its source in the parish of Barr, about twelve miles above the village of Colmonell. Its water is most clear and transparent, so that a fish lying at six or eight feet deep in it, can be distinctly seen from its banks. It produces salmon and trout; but the quantity caught is only sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. Several streams or rivulets, fall into the Stinchiar, particularly the Afshell, the Dusk, the Muick, and the Feoch.

*Woods.*—It is universally believed, from traditional authority, that, in former times, there was a continued wood from Knockdolian hill, to the kirk of Barr, an extent of ten miles: and it may be stated, as an additional proof in support of that idea, that, in mossy grounds, large oak trees are often found in that part of the country. There is also still a great deal of wood in the neighbourhood. The banks of the Stinchiar are adorned with natural woods, almost the whole length of its passage thro' the parish. There is also much wood upon the Muick; and for an extent of three miles at least, upon the Dusk. The timber growing in these woods, is oak, ash, elm, birch; and there are also

great quantities of hazle nuts, wild strawberries, and wild apples in them. These trees grow naturally on banks and steep grounds, which could be turned to any other purpose equally profitable. The price of wood here twenty or thirty years ago, was a mere trifle, as there was then very little consumption for it in the country, and no good roads to convey it to other places; but now it gives a better price. Good oak and ash, will fetch from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cubical foot. The home consumption is greatly increased, by the building of better houses, and by better implements of husbandry, particularly carts, of which, thirty years ago, there were only two in the parish, but now there is scarcely a farmer who has not one, two, three, and some even more in his possession.

*Hills.*—Carleton hill rises with a very steep ascent and is situated so near the sea, on the bay of that name, that at full tide, there is little more than room for the traveller to pass, without being in danger from the rocks that threaten to tumble upon him. It rises 518 yards above the level of the sea. Knockdow and Knocknormon are equally high, but being farther removed from the shore, and standing near more elevated grounds, they do not so much strike the eye of the traveller. But the most remarkable is Knockdolian, whose height is 650 yards above the level of the sea; and as it rises in a conical shape, it is both a most beautiful object to the traveller by land, and of singular service, as a conspicuous land-mark, to vessels at sea, when they enter the Firth of Clyde.

*Number of Farms, &c.*—The lowest rent paid for any farm in the parish, is L. 7; the highest about L. 200.

The number of farms may amount to - - - 116  
 ----- of ploughs (chiefly of the light Scottish sort) 106  
 The

|                       |   |   |   |        |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| The number of horses  | - | - | - | 232    |
| _____ of black cattle | - | - | - | 2900   |
| _____ of sheep        | - | - | - | 12,000 |

The wool is in general coarse, the carcase being principally attended to. Upon an average it takes about 12 fleeces to the stone, which sells at from 10s. to 12s. Little or no attention is given to have sheep with fine wool, though there are some in the district.

To the north of the Stinchiar, and along the shore, there is a great deal of land fit for fattening both sheep and black cattle, and to that use several farmers appropriate their ground. But the breeding of cattle is a more general object in this part of the country. It is supposed, that nearly one fifth part of the parish is arable land, or capable of being made so. Agriculture, however, has been less attended to, as within these twenty or thirty years, the price of sheep and black cattle has been more than doubled, whereas the value of corn has continued nearly the same. Such encouragement also is given to importation of Irish grain, as tends greatly to depress the husbandry of this neighbourhood.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 5945 Scots; the real about L. 3000 sterling. Within these twenty years past, the rent has been doubled, almost universally, and in some instances, more than trebled. A farm in the vicinity of the village of Colmonell, paid, twenty years ago, L. 25 sterling. The possessor, at the expiry of his lease, went out a beggar. It was let on a new lease at L. 80 sterling, and is evidently now a lucrative bargain. It was too large for the former tenant to manage with propriety. His successor made several sublets, but reserved to himself a good portion of the land, with a very small share of the rent. All his subtenants have made money



ney upon their respective possessions. This is mentioned to prove the hazard of putting too much improveable land, in the hands of one person. The rent per acre varies; but in the near neighbourhood of the village, there are some single acres let to tradesmen, from 20s. to 40s. per acre.

*Crops.*—Oats, pease, bear, or barley, and potatoes, are in general the crops in the parish. Of oats there is usually given from seven to eight Winchester bushels per Scots acre of seed, and the crop yields, from three to four returns on ordinary land. But when the ground has been rested for some years, and enriched with dung and lime, from six to nine returns may be expected. The oats in the fertile parts of the country, will yield from eight to nine stone of meal per boll. But the oats, in the upper or muir grounds, which includes by far the greatest part of the parish, is of a much inferior quality. The boll will not yield above six stone of meal and seldom above three seeds are reaped. In these hilly grounds, little bear is sown, or pease; but some rye, which answers much better than any other crop. Where the land is in any tolerable good heart, four bushels of barley is reckoned sufficient seed for an acre. Of common bear a larger allowance is requisite. The barley will weigh from forty-eight to fifty pound per bushel. The common bear weighs less, by eight, ten, or twelve pounds. The season for sowing corn and pease, is any time in the month of April, when the ground is dry, and in proper condition to receive the seed: that of bear and barley about Whitfunday. Harvest usually commences about the middle of August; and is generally over by the end of September. In 1782, when much damage was sustained in other places by an early frost, the crops upon Stinchiar were generally cut down before it appeared.—Great quantities of potatoes are raised in the parish, and answer very well, even in the wildest parts, where other crops

trops do not. They are the chief means of subsistence to the poorer classes of people, for at least three quarters of the year. No one who has land in his possession, refuses a potatoe rigg to a poor person; and very often they have both land and dung given them, for nothing.—They have lately got into the method of setting potatoes with the plough. The ground is plowed twice or thrice, and perfectly cleaned of weeds: It is then dunged, the dung is plowed in, and the land is harrowed. The plowman than begins at one side of the field, and makes a furrow. A number of people follow him dropping in the seed, so that the row is set as soon as the furrow is drawn. As he returns with the plough, he covers the potatoes with a light furrow, and follows the same plan, till the whole field is gone over. The seed potatoes are set at six or eight inches, and the rows are placed at three feet distance from each other. To dung the whole field is judged better for the land, and for the crop that is to follow, than to lay the dung only in the furrow, when the potatoes are set. Besides the work is much more expeditiously carried on. The distance of the row admits a horse and plow to lay up the earth to the potatoes, so often as may be necessary.—A crop of wheat has been tried after the potatoes set in this manner, and has turned out very well.

The crops produced in the parish, are of late years, more than sufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants. The towns of Girvan and Ballantrae, have received the surplus. It is only of late years, that the farmers have had any encouragement to raise more grain than was necessary for the consumption of the neighbourhood; remote from any good market, and no cart road by which it could be conveyed to a distance.

*Roads.*—While the making and repairing of roads depended only upon the statute-labour, nothing to purpose either was, or could be, done in this part of the country. An act

act was therefore applied for, and obtained, to convert the statute-labour into money. The conversion is at the rate of 25 shillings sterling for each L. 100 Scots of valued rent. In the act, the several roads that were judged most necessary, were described: One by the shore from Girvan to Ballantrae, and thence to the confines of the county, by Glenap. This one is already formed, and has lately received some improvements; but there are still some arduous and difficult pulls in it, which are hardly to be avoided.—The other from Girvan, by the village of Colmonell. Upon the credit of the act money was borrowed, and the work was begun. But it was soon found, that any sum which could be raised on that fund, would be very inadequate to the purpose. Some assistance having been obtained from Government, the work was gradually carried on through the parish of Ballantrae. But a difference of opinion as to the direction of these two roads, in the parish of Colmonell, having taken place, an engineer was employed to make a particular survey of the whole country, and to draw out the plan of a road, which should be, on the whole, the least expensive and exceptionable. The plan he formed was universally approved of; and will be completed in the course of the year 1791.

*Improvements.*—Whatever progress may have been made in other places, yet in the parish of Colmonell improvements are still in their infancy.—Till of late, there were very few inclosures indeed; but now the farmers are all striving with one another who shall have their grounds first inclosed. In some instances, the proprietor incloses the ground, and charges the tenant six *per cent.* or upwards, of interest for the expence he lays out. Sometimes, however, the tenant himself is at the expence; the proprietor being obliged to refund him the value of the dykes at the expiration of the lease, if he then quits

quits the possession of his farm. There are few in the lower part of the parish, who have not their arable and meadow land separated by dykes from their pasture; and many have their whole farms inclosed and divided.—The practice of inclosing is gradually extending itself over the parish; and is judged to be the most profitable species of improvement, that the nature of the country in general will admit of.—The dykes are commonly built with dry stone, and are usually about five feet high, about two feet wide at the foundation, and ten or twelve inches at the top.—But this practice of inclosing, together with the increase of rents, has occasioned the dismissal of herds and cottagers; and, of consequence, has materially affected the population of the district. Many persons of that description lived in the parish; and their services were particularly necessary while the ground was open. They had from their masters a house and yard, a small piece of land, grass for one or more cows, &c. the value of which was accounted trifling, while the rents were low: But when they came to be doubled or trebled, the farmer began to calculate the cost, and to estimate what the grass of every cow was worth, &c. and thus they were spurred on to inclose their grounds, that they might not have occasion for such a burden in future. But however profitable this expedient might be to the farmer himself, it has evidently proved inimical to the population, and perhaps to the real improvement, of the country. About twenty years ago there was hardly a tenant who had not one or more of these cottagers on his farm, whereas now there are very few of them in the whole parish.—The cottages were the nurseries of servants; but their inhabitants have now been removed to towns, and having bred up their children to other employments, farm servants have become exceedingly scarce throughout the whole country.

In the lower parts of the parish, the improvement of arable land has of late years been principally carried on by lime, which turns out to exceeding good account. There is great plenty of good limestone; but coals lie at the distance of fourteen miles.

*Antiquities.*—There are several remains of antient buildings in this parish. The castles of Carleton, Knockdaw, Kirkhill, Craigneil, Pinwhirry, Kildonan, &c. and also a number of cairns, or large heaps of stones in different places, which are certainly antient enough; but for what purpose they were collected, is not certainly known.

*Heritors.*—There are seventeen proprietors of land, only two of whom reside in the parish.

*Manufactures.*—A tan-work was set up about a twelve-month ago; it is at present on a small scale, but will probably be enlarged.—An woolen manufacture would be the most proper one for this part of the country.—There are in the parish 24 weavers, 7 of whom reside in the village; 13 shoemakers, 13 taylors, 7 wrights, 10 mafons, 5 blacksmiths, 5 millers, and 2 clothiers, all employed in working for the neighbourhood. There are also 5 corn mills, a barley mill, and a lint mill.

*Church, &c.*—An inscription upon a stone above the old church door bears date 1591. The church was taken down and built new from the foundation in 1772. It is in good repair; but not being in a central situation, it has been customary for the minister of Colmonell once a month to perform divine service at a place called Barrhill, five miles distant from it. The manse was built in 1762; and has since been repaired. The stipend amounts to 99 bolls, 1 firiot of victual,

L. 213,

L. 213:6, Scots, in money, and 30 merks for communion elements. The glebe consists of eight acres pasture and arable, worth 20s the acre. Mr Hamilton of Bargeny is patron.

*Population.*—The return to Dr. Webster, about 40 years ago, was 1814 souls. There are now only about 1100 in the parish; all of whom are of the established church, excepting 56 Seceders of the Antiburgher denomination, and 6 Cameronians.——No authentic account can be given of births, deaths, and marriages, as no full record of them has been kept here, since Government imposed a duty upon them, which few of the parishioners chuse to pay; and the parish clerk is forbid to record any for whom the duty is not paid.—The population has been gradually decreasing for these 30 years past; partly owing to the union of farms; but principally, to the dismissal of cottagers. There is now often but one family, where formerly there were three or four.—In the village there are 34 dwelling houses, all thatched, except the manse; 4 shopkeepers, who supply the neighbourhood with grocery, hardware, &c. 2 inns, with very indifferent accommodation for so frequented a road, as this is likely to become; and 4 public houses, for the lower ranks of people; particularly during the four great fairs, which are held here the first Monday of every quarter, at which a good deal of common country business is transacted.

*School.*—There is an established schoolmaster at the church, with a school-house, sufficiently large, and a dwelling house for the master: but the extent of the parish renders it impossible for him to be useful to a fourth part of the inhabitants. It is very usual, therefore, for three or four farmers in the country to join in hiring a private teacher, to instruct their  
I 2 children,

children. The school-master's salary is 2 merks from each L.100 Scots of valuation. There is also a small farm, which was mortgaged to the heritors and kirk-session, for the benefit of the school, the yearly rent of which is L. 16 sterling; one half whereof goes to the schoolmaster, and the other half to poor boys in the parish, of a particular description.

*Seceders.*— Their meeting-house for public worship is within a quarter of a mile of the village. Their congregation, though collected from the parishes of Ballantrae, Girvan, Barr and Colmonell, is after all but small. They have never been able to make any great accession to their interest in Carrick, owing very much to the prudence and moderation, with which the settlement of ministers, on the establishment, in this part of the country, has been conducted; an example which ought to be imitated, by all who wish well to society, and to the interests of religion.

*Poor.*— There are few common beggars, or persons totally destitute, belonging to the parish, but a considerable number of people who require occasional supplies. The number upon the list at present is 24. The only fund for their relief arises from the collections made at the church doors, and the interest of a small sum saved in a course of some years. The money annually distributed, on an average of three years, ending 1790, was L. 20 : 14 sterling.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*— The inhabitants, in general, are sober and industrious. They pay a proper regard to their religious duties, and, in particular, are attentive to the dictates of justice, humanity, and charity to their brethren. A number of them, though they have received but a very common  
and

and ordinary education, yet possess a degree of judgement and knowledge, both in spiritual and temporal matters; exceeded by few. They enjoy life very happily, and are seemingly pleased with their situation. Till of late years, their dwelling houses were very uncomfortable; but now they are making great improvements in them, particularly when they receive any assistance from their landlords to excite, or to enable them. One great bar to improvement is the shortness of leases. They are seldom given for more than nineteen years; and, in many cases, (where the lands are strictly entailed) cannot be granted for a greater length of time. This affords but little scope, and less encouragement, to extensive or expensive exertions.

Another disadvantage is, the want of more cross roads for the purpose of carrying manure, &c. particularly one up the river Dusk, to join the shire of Ayr to that of Wigton, and the stewartry of Kirkcudbright\*.

The last great bar to improvement is, the custom universally prevailing through the country, of landlords binding their

\* In the planning, and the laying out of the public roads, very great improvements have taken place, in this neighbourhood.— The road from Girvan, down the north side of the water of Stinchiar, by the village of Colmonell, and thence by the southside of Knockdolian hill, to the bridge of Ballantrae, is in a line of sixteen English miles, through a hilly country, and yet so conducted that there is not a single pull in the whole of it; whilst, at the same time, it is carried through a most beautiful country, diversified with wood and water, hill and glen, and every species of scenery, that can delight the eye of a traveller.



their tenants to carry all their grindable grain to particular mills, or to pay a stipulated multure, which frequently is as high as the tenth part carried to the mill; in some cases it is even higher, and they are besides obliged to perform indefinite mill-services, according to what is called use and wont.

## NUMBER VIII.

## PARISH OF GALSTON.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE SMITH.

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*Origin of the Name, Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

SOME have imagined that the name originated from a small number of the Gauls, having made a temporary settlement in the village. But the derivation cannot now be ascertained\*. It lies in that division of the county of Ayr called Kyle, in the presbytery of Ayr, and synod of Ayr and Glasgow. Its length is thirteen measured miles, and it is from four to five miles broad. The surface is very different. Towards the eastern boundary, there is a good deal of moor, muir, and heathy ground. The soil, at the head of the parish, next Strathaven, is light and gravelly: But in the lower and more cultivated grounds, there is rich clay, and in some places

\* Many names of places in the parish are derived from the Celtic, as *Achenbart*, or the field of the bards, *Lenfien*, the descent of the hill, &c. *Gall*, in that language, signifies stranger, but *ton* seems to be of Saxon original.

places loam. The bottom is, in general, a blue or red clay, and in some parts rather inclined to till.

*Rivers and Fish.*—The Irvine, which rises a little above Loudoun hill, runs on the northern boundary of the parish, and is joined by many rivulets in the neighbourhood, in particular by the Glen, the Gower, the Burn-Anne, and the Cessnock.

All these streams have very good trout, and the Irvine, at times, a few salmon. The Burn-Anne trouts, though large, are rather soft, as the stream comes from mossy grounds; those of the Irvine, and of the Cessnock in particular, are little inferior to char. Liming the lands has diminished the number of the trouts, from the noxious quality of that article to fish. But their greatest enemy is man. The few salmon that get over the mill-dams, are destroyed by means of hand nets and harpoons. Scarcely one salmon in a season can be caught by the rod, where 20 or 30 years ago, any skilful person, might, for his amusement, have killed scores of them.

*Lochs.*—There are two lochs in the parish; one Loch Gait, at its eastern extremity, is a sheet of deep and clear water, abounding in trouts and very large eels. It is the chief source of the water of Even, or Aven, which joins the Clyde below Hamilton, and gives name to the parish of Strathaven, or Aven-dale. The other is Brunt-wood loch, towards Mauchlin. It breeds an immense number of wild ducks; and, in severe winters, great flocks of swans frequent it for the benefit of the springs. A bird, which the people here call a hether blutter, perhaps it is the bittern (it makes a loud roaring noise) built its nest on the island in the loch, about eight or nine years ago, but as some superstitious people suggested that its loud and un-

common

common cries forboded no good, soon either destroyed or banished.

*Air, Climate, Hills, &c.*—The air may be called rather moist, but it is not unhealthy. —In common with all the western coast of Scotland, there are frequent rains, and high winds; the latter of which are supposed to contribute much to the general health of the inhabitants. Sometimes, even in summer, and autumn, the rain falls in considerable quantities, and in large drops. —The most remarkable hills are Cairnsaigh, which, in the Celtic, signifies, *The Hill of Peace*; where probably, in former times, some truce or other agreement was made between two neighbouring clans, regarding their boundaries; and thus the large dykes, and cairns of stones, on the top of Cairnsaigh may be accounted for. Mol-mount (*Mollis Mons*) is arable to the top. The view from this hill is delightful; a great part of Carrick, most of Kyle, and all Cunningham being seen from it. In the neighbourhood, there is under view, the antient seats of Cessnock Tower and Loudoun Castle, with their extensive woods and plantations, the thriving village of Galston, the turnings and windings of the Irvine, &c.; and, with regard to distant objects, in fine weather, the island of Arran, (which serves as a barometer to this country), and even Ireland itself, may be clearly distinguished.

*Antiquities.*—There are the remains of a druidical temple on the top of Mol-mount-hill, of a circular form, and of about sixty feet diameter. A great part of the circle has of late been destroyed, and the stones taken away.—Some years ago, in Mr Brown's grounds of Waterhaughs, an antient burial place was dug up; an account of which was published at the time by Dr. Lawrie minister of Loudoun. —At Claymore, about ten years ago, an urn, containing some silver and other coins was

found, and in the garden of Waterhaughs, 22 silver coins of 5 different sorts were discovered. They were sold for the price of bullion, and brought only about L. 3. The inscription on one of these coins, which still remains, is,

ARCHI. AVST. DVX. BVRG. BRAB.

And on the reverse,

PHIL. IIII. D. G. HISP. ET. INDIAR. REX. 1622.

Among other antiquities there may be mentioned, several small hills, called Laws, on which there are cairns of stones. Also a place call *Beg*, above Allinton, where the brave Wallace lay, in a species of rude fortification, with only 50 of his friends, yet obtained a complete victory over an English officer of the name of Fenwick, who had 200 men under his command. This gallant hero, it is well known, had several places of retirement towards the head of this parish, and in the neighbourhood, some of which retain his name to this day; Wallace-hill in particular, an eminence near the Galla-law, and a place called Wallace-Gill, in the parish of Loudoun, a hollow glen, to which he probably retired for shelter when pursued by his enemies.

*Sheep* — There are some sheep farms in the parish, in which about 2500 sheep, of the black-faced or Lammer-muir breed are grazed. The pasture is exceedingly healthy, and there is seldom any loss by disease. In the lower grounds a few English sheep are also kept. The wool of the muir sheep is coarse, and it takes from eight to nine fleeces to the trone stone.

*State of Agriculture.* — There are about 100 farmers, but only 80 ploughs; two farmers sometimes joining to keep one plough. Allowing 30 acres to every plow, the number in actual tillage would be 2400; and, as the tenants are in general allowed to plough only one third of their farms, hence the whole

whole arable land in the parish may be calculated at three times as much, or 7200 acres; of which one-third is ploughed, another pastured, and the remainder cut for hay.

After six years rest, and liming the land at the rate of 100 bolls of slacked lime per acre, it is usual to take three successive crops of oats. The lime is spread upon the green swaird before plowing, sometimes not many weeks before the ground is plowed, which must occasion much of the lime being lost at the bottom of the furrow; yet it is astonishing what large crops are produced in this way.—Very little bear or barley is sown. Pease, beans, &c. thrive extremely well, and should certainly intervene between the crops of oats; though there is a great deal of difficulty in preserving them, owing to frequent rains in harvest.

The produce is chiefly oats; and, for these two or three years last past, a small quantity of wheat.—Potatoes are raised in great quantities, both by the farmers and by the inhabitants of the village; the last renting the land nearest them, at 3d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 4d. per fall, and manuring and dressing the crop for themselves. And though the tradesmen might certainly buy their potatoes as cheap from the farmers, yet this practice tends much to promote their health, and amusement at bye-hours, when otherwise they would be idle, and ought therefore to be encouraged.

One great article of produce is cheese, made after the Dunlop manner, and equally good\*. It is sent to Kilmarnock, Paisley, Glasgow, and Edinburgh.

The farmers, in general, raise their own stock of black  
K 2
cattle.

\* The parish of Dunlop, was the first, in this part of Scotland, that took the lead in making excellent cheese for a distant market. They resemble in taste some of the better sorts of English cheese, though not yet brought to equal perfection.

cattle. Many calves in the spring are fed for the Edinburgh market; and a few horses are bred in the parish.—More grain is raised within the bounds of the district than what is necessary for its consumption, and the surplus is carried to the great manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood:

The harvest of 1782 was remarkably late, a great quantity of snow having fallen before the crop was cut; and the corn was picked out from among it, in the best manner it could. In several fields the grain was covered with frozen snow, and hardly any part of the crop was to be seen.

The soil, particularly next Straven, is well adapted for turnips, but little of that root has as yet been raised. From 20 to 30 acres are generally sown with flax, and the produce is dressed by a water-mill in the village. The quantity of flax manufactured there, is from 900 to 1000 stones avoirdupoise, and about the half of that quantity is heckled. Little flax is dressed in any other manner; though, by the hand, is by far the safest method, and subject to much less waste, than when water mills are employed. Clover and rye-grass, especially the latter, is sown for hay, when the land is allowed to rest.—White clover is, in most places, the natural product of the soil.

*Proprietors and rent.*—There are about 50 heritors great and small; of whom Miss Scot of Scotstarvet is by much the most considerable, having purchased, in 1787, the extensive baronies of Cessnock, Hainingross, and others.—The valued rent of the parish is L.4644:3:10, Scots; the real rent from L.5000 to L.6000 sterling.—The greater part of the land is inclosed. Good land lets for about 20s per acre, and near the village at double the sum.

*Woods*

*Woods and Planting.*—There is a great deal of fine old planting, many very large Scots firs, and some copse wood round the house of Cessnock. Within these 20 years, very extensive plantations have been raised by Mr Brown of Water-haugh, and other proprietors in the parish. Near old Barr castle, there is a very remarkable old elm, which measures 24 feet round, has 12 feet of trunk at the top, and spreads itself into 24 branches, many of which, are themselves large trees. A tree called the Maiden-Oak, was lately sold for about L. 13. By the oldest leases on the Barr estate, the tenants were bound to plant, at least twelve ash yearly. This accounts for the beautiful appearance of the farm houses on that property, which are in general furrounded by trees.

*Fowls and Birds.*—There are here all the common tame fowls of the country. The muirs yield plenty of grouse, and partridges abound in the low grounds. Within these 13 or 14 years, some wood-larks have been seen in the plantations of Cessnock; and about the same time bull-finches first appeared; and have now increased to a very considerable number. They do great damage to the blossoms of the plumbs, and small fruit; a loss which is scarcely compensated by their destroying, at the same time, some grubs and caterpillars, and filling the neighbouring woods with the music of their pipes. Woodcocks, in the winter and spring are to be found in great numbers; and within 5 or 6 years, pheasants have bred in the parish, but have been, in a great measure, destroyed by poachers.

*Minerals.*—Miss Scot has a valuable coal, now working, within a quarter of a mile of the village; and also an exceeding good lime quarry, which sufficiently serves all the tenants on this part of her extensive domains.—It is worthy of remark, that within these 40 or 50 years, all the fuel made use of here,



here, was peats from Galston muir, a few coals excepted, which were carried in sacks on horses backs, from Caprington, near Kilmarnock, through almost impassible clay roads. The late Mr Wallace of Cessnock is the gentleman, to whom this neighbourhood owes the important advantages both of coal and lime, which have so materially contributed to its improvement. There is no doubt, that all the muir edges abound in iron ore, which might be smelted to great profit. At Cairnsfaigh, there was lately discovered, on the banks of the Aven, a vein of very rich iron ore; and several tons were wrought out by the Muirkirk company. But it was given up for want of proper roads to convey it.—The Burn-Anne throws up at times some good pebbles, which are supposed to come from the sides of the Mol-mount-hill, where it is said they abound.—There are many stone quarries in the parish; and, close to the village, abundance of stone of a red colour, which is well calculated for building.

*Population.*—In 1755, the population of Galston amounted to 1013 souls.

• It appears, from an actual and pretty accurate survey taken in 1790, that the number had increased to 1577, of which 1219 were examinable.

In the village of Galston, which, An. 1779, contained only 455 souls, there are at present 573, of which the following is an analysis.

Population table for the village of Galston, March the 21st, 1791.

|                     |   |   |     |                    |          |
|---------------------|---|---|-----|--------------------|----------|
| Souls               | - | - | 573 | Examinable persons | 473      |
| Males               | - | - | 257 | Females            | - - 316  |
| More women than men |   |   | 59  | Widows             | - - 30   |
|                     |   |   |     |                    | Families |

|                             |   |   |     |               |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----|---------------|---|---|---|
| Families                    | - | - | 152 | Lint millers  | - | - | 4 |
| Day-labourers               | - | - | 7   | Colliers      | - | - | 7 |
| Carters                     | - | - | 3   | Gardener      | - | - | 1 |
| Mafons                      | - | - | 9   | Mole-catcher  | - | - | 1 |
| Weavers                     | - | - | 55  | Baker         | - | - | 1 |
| Wrights                     | - | - | 11  | Paper-makers  | - | - | 3 |
| Stocking-weavers            | - | - | 11  | Dyers         | - | - | 2 |
| Taylors                     | - | - | 11  | Sempstresses  | - | - | 4 |
| Coopers                     | - | - | 2   | Horfe dealers | - | - | 2 |
| Carriers                    | - | - | 2   | Black-smiths  | - | - | 4 |
| Butchers                    | - | - | 2   | Drummer       | - | - | 1 |
| Tambourers, i. e. girls who |   |   |     | Flax-dressers | - | - | 2 |
| few with the tambouring     |   |   |     | Surgeon       | - | - | 1 |
| needle                      | - | - | 24  | Druggift      | - | - | 1 |
| Grocers                     | - | - | 5   | School-mafter | - | - | 1 |
| Shoe-makers                 | - | - | 21  |               |   |   |   |

From Whittfunday 1785, to December 1788, there were 68 mariages.

|         |   |   | Births. |   |   | Deaths. |
|---------|---|---|---------|---|---|---------|
| In 1783 | - | - | 44      | - | - | 39      |
| 1784    | - | - | 43      | - | - | 44      |
| 1785    | - | - | 45      | - | - | 34      |
| 1786    | - | - | 42      | - | - | 24      |
| 1787    | - | - | 46      | - | - | 28      |
| 1788    | - | - | 47      | - | - | 35      |
| 1789    | - | - | 47      | - | - | 26      |
| 1790    | - | - | 50      | - | - | 41      |

These births, &c. are exclusive of fuch as have not been recorded, by perfons who are not of the Establishment.

Since 1779, about 40 houfes have been built; and, feu-  
ing

ing continues to go on rapidly, infomuch that 12 new houses were feued this year. — The conveniencies for building and carrying on manufactures are very great; to which may be added, reasonable ground-rents, abundance of stone and lime, excellent water, and a rich and populous country. Till of late, the chief manufacture was shoes, which were made for merchants in Kilmarnock, and exported. Now, the weaving of lawn and gauze is the chief object; and, if a little money were laid out in establishing these manufactures, while Paisley and Glasgow flourish, this parish might expect to thrive.

The first loom for silk or light work, was set up here in 1787. At this time there will be about 40. The weavers of Galston depend on Glasgow and Paisley. It would be desirable to have an woollen manufacture attempted. The premiums given by the Trustees might contribute to its establishment. There is some paper manufactured, but it is chiefly of the coarse sort.

*Local Customs.*—It is usual for even the women to attend funerals in the village, dressed in black or red cloaks. — Another singular custom prevails here: When a young man wishes to pay his addresses to his sweet-heart, instead of going to her father's, and professing his passion, he goes to a public house; and, having let the land-lady into the secret of his attachment, the object of his wishes is immediately sent for, who never almost refuses to come. She is entertained with ale and whisky, or brandy; and the marriage is concluded on. The second day after the marriage, a *creeling*, as it is called, takes place. The young wedded pair, with their friends, assemble in a convenient spot. A small creel or basket is prepared for the occasion, into which, they put some stones: The young men carry it alternately, and allow themselves to be caught by the maidens, who have a kiss when they succeed. Af-

ter a great deal of innocent mirth and pleasantry, the creel falls at length to the young husband's share, who is obliged to carry it generally for a long time, none of the young women having compassion upon him. At last, his fair mate, kindly relieves him from his burden; and her complaisance, in this particular, is considered as a proof of her satisfaction with the choice she has made. The creel goes round again; more merriment succeeds, and all the company dine together, and talk over the feats of the field\*.

*Church, Manse, Stipend, and Patron.*—The church is ancient, probably built before the Reformation. The manse was built in 1727; but has since been frequently repaired. The stipend is 8 chalders, or 128 bolls of meal, and about L. 8 in money, with a glebe. The living was the same 100 years ago. Miss Scot is patron.

*State of the Poor.*—The collections for the poor, with the interest of a small sum of money, bring in about L. 40. *per annum*, which is distributed among two classes. The first class consists of the old, the infirm, young children, orphans, &c. who have a weekly pension. Such as are rendered unfit, by temporary sickness, to provide for themselves and families, receive only an occasional or interim supply.

The Session takes an inventory of the goods of such as have a weekly provision, which, at their death, are sold for the behoof of the poor.——Intimation is given from the pulpit from time to time, to let no houses to any person who is likely to be a burden on the parish. There are no native beggars, but too many of that description from other parishes. The

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number

\* Perhaps the French phrase, "*Adieu panniens, vendanges sont faites,*" may allude to a similar custom.

number of stated poor is from 10 to 12, of occasional from 11 to 16.

There is an universal society for the relief of the poor, at Newmills, with a fund which is of great use to tradesmen in distress. Some of the natives of Galston belong to it. One, on a very simple principle, is established in this parish. It consists of about 50 members, and is called the penny or half-penny society. It has no funds, which are too apt to be embezzled; but, when a brother is confined to bed by sickness, every member pays him a penny weekly, and if able to go about, though not to work, a half-penny. This institution is found to answer; and might be adopted in other places with advantage.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are two great fairs at the village, one in July, the other in December. The first (St. Peter's) has greatly fallen off, but the custom is still retained of kindling fires on all the neighbouring hills, the evening before it is held.——The great roads from Edinburgh to Ayr, by Riccarton, and from Glasgow to Dumfries, by Mauchlin, pass through the village of Galston. The roads are chiefly made and kept in repair by the statute-labour.——There is an excellent parish school, and a school-house lately built, which accommodates 100 scholars. A Sunday-school, erected by Mrs. Scot in 1787, and maintained at her sole expence, is attended with very good effects.

There are about 5 or 6 ale-houses in the village.——Kilmarnock is the nearest post town.——There are 7 corn mills, 3 lint mills, and 1 paper mill. Of the former, one is known under the name of Patie's mill, and claims the honour of having given birth to that delightful song, "The lass of Patie's mill." The banks of the Irvine, on which it is situated, abstracted from the charms of the fair, might well have inspired a

poet

poet of less powers and sensibility than Ramsay, with the sentiments contained in that celebrated pastoral. — The high multures formerly paid at these corn mills, are now, in a great measure, bought up and abolished; though, in the lands of Greenholm, and a few others, they still exist. — The only services of a personal nature which remain, are, the common mill services, of thatching the mill, dragging home the millstone, &c. &c. and, on one estate, that of bringing home the master's hay. — The people are in general long lived; many having died within these few years between 70 and 100. — The consumption is the most prevalent distemper, and the most fatal. The small-pox makes frequent ravages; and inoculation is not so common as it ought to be. The religious prejudice against it is still great. Of above 500 who have been inoculated in the space of 12 years, not one has died. — It may be added, that the inhabitants of Galston are, in general, sober, industrious, and charitable to the distressed. It is to be regretted, however, that instead of the wholesome beverage of ale, they are now compelled, by the high duties on that article, to betake themselves to the use of whisky, which is equally destructive to the health, and to the morals of the people.

## NUMBER IX.

## PARISH OF KILMARNOCK.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

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*The first part of the following very interesting paper, was drawn up by the Rev. MR. JAMES MACKINLAY, and the second, by the Rev. MR. JOHN ROBERTSON, the Ministers of that parish.*

## PART I.

*Origin of the Name, Extent, Climate, &c.*

THE parish of Kilmarnock in the county of Ayr and presbytery of Irvine, is, on many accounts, of very considerable importance, and furnishes room for a variety of statistical observations. In regard to extent, it is about nine miles long, and four broad; bounded by Newmills upon the east, by Fenwick and Stewarton upon the north, by Kilmaurs upon the west, and by the river Irvine, which divides it from Riccarton and Galston, upon the south. The name Kilmarnock, or Cellmarnock, is evidently derived from St Marnock, who is said to have been a bishop or confessor in Scotland. He died, A. D. 322, and probably was interred here.—The appearance of the country is, in general, flat, with a gentle declivity to the south. The soil is deep, strong and fertile, but runs a little into a kind of moss towards the north east. The air, from its local

local situation, and the frequent rains which fall in the west of Scotland, is moist and damp, but is far from being unhealthy. The inhabitants are seldom visited with any epidemical distempers; and, it has been observed, that when the neighbouring sea-port towns of Ayr and Irvine are labouring under such disorders, Kilmarnock, though to appearance in a less healthy situation, has been happily exempted. This perhaps, may, in some measure be attributed to a rivulet which runs through part of the town; which is not only serviceable to some of the manufactures carried on there, but greatly contributes to the health of the inhabitants. Instances of longevity, therefore are not uncommon. A few years ago, a woman who lived in the town, died at the advanced age of 107. Several now alive, are between 80 and 100; and there is a porter still able to walk about, and carry parcels, whose age is ascertained to be 105.

*Population.*—The return to Dr. Webster of the population of Kilmarnock, was 4403 souls. In 1763, it amounted to about 5000. Its present state is as follows.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Total number of souls                    | 6776  |
| Of these males                           | 3132  |
| Females                                  | 3634  |
| Souls in the town                        | 5670  |
| — in the country                         | 1106  |
| Males in the town                        | 2586  |
| Females in do.                           | 3075  |
| Males in the country                     | 547   |
| Females in do.                           | 559   |
| Males in town and country, above 8 years | 2289  |
| Females in do. above do.                 | 2784  |
|  | Males |



|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Males in do. under 8 years . . . . . | 845 |
| Females in do. under do. . . . .     | 850 |

Division of the inhabitants according to their religious persuasions.

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Cameronians . . . . .        | 40    |
| Burghers . . . . .           | 540   |
| Antiburghers . . . . .       | 480   |
| Established church . . . . . | 5716  |
|                              | <hr/> |
|                              | 6776  |

The difference between the males and females in the town, must strike the most careless observer. This, however, arises from the wollen and cotton manufactures, which have induced several families, where the females were the most numerous, to come and settle in this place. That difference is not very material in the country part of the parish.

This vast increase of population has arisen from the progress of manufactures, by which means, many families have been led to come from neighbouring parishes to get employment here; and partly, perhaps, from the regular and comfortable mode of living that has been established; which is always found to be peculiarly favourable to the increase of the human species. The annual average of births and deaths cannot, at present, be precisely ascertained, as few, or none of the dissenters enter their children's names in the parish register. By this means, Government is not only deprived of a tax, but an injury may be done to their posterity; who, in case of any dispute, will not have it in their power, from that authentic record, to prove their age, propinquity, or extraction. From the following extract, however, taken from this register, some

Some idea may be formed of the gradual increase of population in this parish since the Union.

| Years. | Births. | Deaths. |
|--------|---------|---------|
| 1707   | 92      | —       |
| 1709   | 88      | —       |
| 1730   | 109     | 92      |
| 1745   | 116     | 102     |
| 1790   | 200     | 173     |

*Manufactures.*—Kilmarnock is one of the principal manufacturing towns in Ayrshire, and, for many years has carried on a very considerable trade. Manufactures were at first gradually introduced, but of late have made a very rapid progress.

About fifty years ago, the principal trade was carried on by three or four individuals, who bought serges and other woollen articles from private manufactures, and exported them to Holland. When the demand afterwards increased, a company was formed, who erected an woollen factory for different branches of that business, which ever since has continued in a very flourishing state. The shoe trade was introduced about the same time; and now the woollen and shoe trades are the most extensive and important in the district. Several spinning jennies, however, for cotton, have been lately erected, and a carding and spinning machine for coarse wool; all of which seem to do very well.

The following is an account drawn up by the most intelligent manufacturers in the town, of the present annual average value of the different branches carried on in Kilmarnock.

Carpets

|  |   |   |   |           |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|
| Carpets manufactured   | - | - | - | L. 21,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Shoes and boots  | - | - | - | 21,216    | 0 | 0 |
| Cow, calf, and seal-skins tanned                                       | - | - | - | 9,000     | 0 | 0 |
| Printed calicoes   | - | - | - | 6,500     | 0 | 0 |
| Sheep and lamb skins dressed   | - | - | - | 6,500     | 0 | 0 |
| Leather gloves   | - | - | - | 3,500     | 0 | 0 |
| Cotton cloth   | - | - | - | 2,251     | 0 | 0 |
| Duffles  | - | - | - | 1,670     | 0 | 0 |
| Coverlets  | - | - | - | 600       | 0 | 0 |
| Blankets   | - | - | - | 700       | 0 | 0 |
| Plaidings  | - | - | - | 396       | 0 | 0 |
| Serges, mancoes, and faddlers cloth, &c.                               | - | - | - | 611       | 0 | 0 |
| Saddlery goods for home and foreign sale                               | - | - | - | 600       | 0 | 0 |
| Candles  | - | - | - | 1,200     | 0 | 0 |
| Stockings knit by women  | - | - | - | 600       | 0 | 0 |
| Tobacco and snuff manufactured   | - | - | - | 3,700     | 0 | 0 |
| Bar, rod, and cast iron manufactured                                   | - | - | - | 1,000     | 0 | 0 |
| Bonnets  | - | - | - | 506       | 0 | 0 |
| Milled caps and mitts  | - | - | - | 1,200     | 0 | 0 |
| Dyers  | - | - | - | 1,000     | 0 | 0 |
| Cabinet work   | - | - | - | 2,000     | 0 | 0 |
| Creelman's composition, a substitute for gum arabic in calico printing | - | - | - | 700       | 0 | 0 |
|  |   |   |   | <hr/>     |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | L. 86,850 | 0 | 0 |

In these different branches from two or three thousand hands may be employed. There are 56 master shoemakers, who employ 408 men. The number of weavers of different denominations, though considerable, has not been ascertained; but it is reckoned, that 200 of this profession are employed by the manufacturers of Glasgow and Paisley alone. As a manufactur-

ing town this place has advantages and disadvantages, which it may not be improper briefly to mention. Among the advantages may be reckoned its situation in the midst of a populous and fertile country, where provisions of all kinds are to be had in abundance, and at moderate prices. Coal, so necessary in almost every branch of manufacture, is found close to it in vast abundance, and may be had easier and cheaper than in any other town in the neighbourhood. The town is furnished with a meal-market, plentifully supplied with good and wholesome grain; and always a penny or three halfpence a peck cheaper than in the Glasgow or Paisley markets. Indeed all sorts of provisions, especially meal, butter, eggs, and poultry, are so much cheaper in this part of the country, that they are constantly carried to the Glasgow and Paisley markets, not merely to supply the demands of these populous towns, but to bring greater prices than can be got for them at home. The town is also provided with an excellent market for all sorts of butcher meat, which is reckoned by far the best in the neighbourhood; in so much that many families in Glasgow, at the distance of 21 miles, are supplied from it; induced, partly by the superior quality of the meat, and partly by an addition to the weight of an ounce and a half to the pound.—The chief disadvantage under which the place labours, is, its inland situation, being about six or seven miles distant from the sea. This occasions a considerable expence in the land carriage of raw materials, as well as in their exportation, when manufactured. A proposal was made some time ago to have this disadvantage removed, by a canal from the sea below Troon-point, to the bridge at the south end of Glencairn-street. This undertaking would no doubt be attended with great expence; but as, from all accounts, it is practicable, (the lands through which it would run having no great ascent), if accomplished, it would

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certainly

certainly render Kilmarnock the most eligible and flourishing manufacturing town in the west of Scotland\*.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—There are in Kilmarnock no less than five places of public worship. First, The parish church, which is collegiate, and continued to be the only place of divine service, until the year 1731. Being then found unable to contain the people of the parish, the Town-Council and inhabitants next erected a handsome new church or chapel, in which the collegiate ministers officiated alternately; until 1763, when, owing to a violent settlement, that took place by order of the General Assembly, the proprietors of houses called a minister of their own, who was ordained by the Presbytery. — There is a Burgher seceding meeting-house, erected in 1772; and an Antiburgher one, built in 1775: and, finally, there is an old dissenting meeting-house, connected with what is called, the Reformed Presbytery, erected in the neighbourhood of the town, An. 1785. It must be observed, however, that notwithstanding so many divisions, the people in general, of all denominations, live together in the best habits of friendship, as Christians ought to do; and that ecclesiastical rancour, has fortunately given place to the milder dispositions of forbearance, benevolence, and charity.

*Patronage and Stipend.*—The Archbishop of St. Andrews,

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\* This canal is certainly one of the most desirable that can be made in Scotland. Troon-bay is one of the best harbours in the western parts of the kingdom, with deep water, and every other advantage. Perhaps the canal, instead of stopping at Kilmarnock, ought to be extended to Glasgow, which is only 21 miles farther.

as Abbot of Kilwinning, to whom the patronage of Kilmarnock originally belonged, disposed it to Robert Lord Boyd; from one of whose successors it was purchased by an Earl of Glencairn; from whose family it was lately acquired by Miss Scot of Scotstarvet. — There are two established ministers. The living of the first is wholly paid in meal: the quantity is eight chalders, wanting a boll; and, with a glebe of 12 acres, may be worth L. 120 *per annum*. The second charge, including a small glebe of 4½ acres, may be calculated at nearly L. 105.

*Heritors.*—The number of heritors in the parish is about 24; but, excepting Colonel Crawford of Crawfordland, no considerable proprietor resides in it. The greater part of the parish is the property of Miss Scot, who has lately made very extensive purchases in this neighbourhood. — It is a singular circumstance, in regard to the Crawfordland family, that its present respectable representative, is the twenty-first, lineally descended from the original stock, without the intervention of even a second brother. The Countess of Loudoun, another proprietor, represents the antient family of the Muirs of Rowallen; from whom the greater part of the sovereigns of Europe are descended; Robert III. king of Scotland, being the son of Robert II. by Elizabeth Muir, daughter of Sir Adam Muir, of Rowallen.

*State of the Poor.*—The poor, in such a large and populous parish, it is to be expected, must be very numerous, and would require a considerable sum for their support. The societies and incorporations are of great service in maintaining their indigent and distressed members, and thereby keeping them from being a burden upon the public. They distribute annually, among their poor and afflicted brethren, L. 180.

The number of poor who are upon the pension list, and receive weekly alms from the Session, is 80, besides others who receive occasional supplies. The contribution, at the church and chapel, annually averages at L. 100; which, together with the interest of L. 100, and some occasional donations, is all that is distributed among the poor. From these funds, they can only receive from 6d. to 1s. each, per week; which, although it may assist them a little, is by no means able to support them in their own houses, even when joined to the profits of any little labour which some of them may have strength to perform. Begging, therefore, is allowed, and is a very great burden upon the inhabitants. The poor, indeed, will never be suitably or permanently provided for, until the proprietors of land agree to assess themselves in a sum that may be adequate to this purpose: and when it is considered, that the greater part of the heritors are non-residing, that they contribute nothing to the maintenance of the poor by their own personal charity, and that the value of their property is greatly increased by the manufactures and population of the place; such a measure, must appear, to every humane and benevolent heart, to be highly equitable and proper; and, it is hoped, will be soon carried into effect.

*Coal.*—There is an extensive and profitable coal work in the parish, about half a mile to the south west of the town. The mines are rich and abundant, affording coal of different qualities, some fit for export, and some for home consumption. The species that is raised for exportation, is known in this country by the name of Blind-coal. It is of a fine quality, and much esteemed. The quantity of this species annually exported, is 3289  $\frac{1}{2}$  tons, which, at 9s per ton, is L. 1390 : 1 : 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ . This immense quantity is carried by land to Irvine, about six miles distance, and from thence exported to different places

in Ireland, as Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Drogheda, Lairn, Donaghadee, Sligo, and indeed into every port where there is a sufficiency of water to carry the smallest craft. It is likewise exported to many of the Highland isles, for the purpose of drying malt and corn, and burning of lime-stone. The *fire*, or *seeing-coal*, (so called from the light it gives), is of a rich and caking quality, resembling the English coal. The yearly home consumpt of this species is 52,143 loads, which, at 7d. per load, is L. 1520:16:9. The total income from this work, then, is L. 2910:18:3½ *per annum*, which will proportionably increase with the growing population and advancing manufactures of the town.—The number of hands employed in raising the above-mentioned quantities, and in carrying them to the shore, is, at an average, 120.

*The Town.*—The town lies low, and its form is extremely irregular. It is a burgh of barony, governed by two baillies and a council of seventeen. The first charter, erecting it into a burgh, was granted An. 1591, in favour of Thomas Lord Boyd. A second charter was obtained, in 1672, in favour of William, Earl of Kilmarnock, which was ratified in parliament the same year.

In 1700, the Magistrates and Town Council obtained a grant from the Kilmarnock family, of the whole common good, and customs of the burgh, comprehending the common green, shops under the tolbooth, weights and measures, &c. It is in virtue of this grant that the corporation holds its present property, and is considered as an heritor in the parish. There are in the town five incorporated trades; the bonnet makers, skinners, taylors, shoemakers, and weavers; of which, the bonnet makers, incorporated in 1646, is the most antient.—These societies are of very great service in preserving



preserving regularity and good order in the different branches of trade in which they are occupied.

*Schools.*—There are two public and established schools in the town, besides a number of private ones, which are also found to be necessary for the purpose of educating the numerous children of this place. First, there is a grammar school, for the sole purpose of teaching Latin and other languages. The master has L. 12 : 2 of salary, 5s. per quarter from each of his scholars, besides a voluntary offering at Candlemas. There is next an English school: the master of which has L. 10 of salary, 2s 6d. per quarter from such as read English, 3s. from such as read English and write, and 4s. from those who are also taught arithmetic. These schools are flourishing, and well attended. The first, indeed, had, some time ago, fallen into disrepute; but from the attention and ability of the present teacher, is increasing in numbers and celebrity. The other has always been well attended, and, for many years has consisted of more than 100 scholars.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—The number of inns and alehouses in the town is 50, exclusive of spirit shops; and, besides, three or four in the country. These must have a pernicious effect upon the morals of the people; for in proportion as the number of houses of this nature is multiplied, the temptation to intemperance, and the ease and secrecy with which it may be indulged are evidently increased. In justice, however, to the inhabitants of Kilmarnock, it must be observed, notwithstanding the great number of houses of this description, yet that in general they are as sober and industrious, as the people of any town of its size in Scotland: Nay, to their praise, it must likewise be observed, that the ruinous practice of dram-drinking has of late been, in a great measure, laid aside, and the more salutary

lutory and healthful beverage of ale or porter, introduced in its stead. Nor must it be omitted, that to sobriety and industry, they add the amiable virtues of charity and beneficence. This is evident, not only from the large collections made every Sunday at the church doors, principally arising from the charity of the middling and industrious part of the community, but also from the extraordinary acts of generosity, which some individuals have performed. In particular, when the poor were in the utmost distress, during winter 1790, and when all that could be afforded from the usual funds, was not able to procure them even the common necessaries of life, an individual, with a delicacy which did him peculiar honour, sent a considerable sum of money, in an anonymous card, to one of the ministers, to be laid out for their relief.

*Post-Office and Excise.*—There is a post-office in the town, for this, and for the neighbouring parishes. The mail-coach from Glasgow to Ayr passes through Kilmarnock, by which letters are brought and sent every day. The postage of a single letter from Edinburgh to this place is 4d. and from Glasgow 3d. The post office yields about L. 400 *per annum*. The excises on ale, spirits, candles, &c. produce about L. 1700 more.

Both these branches of revenue are rapidly increasing, with the trade and population of the place.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—The only antiquities which seem worthy of notice, are Dean castle, and Soules cross. The former stands about half a mile north-east from the town, and was the residence of the noble, but unfortunate family of Kilmarnock. It is a very antient edifice, but no information can now be obtained of the time when it was built. In 1735, it was entirely consumed by fire. This accident

cident was occasioned by the inattention of a maid servant, who was preparing some lint for spinning, which unhappily took fire, by which means this noble and ancient structure was laid in ruins. In this situation it still continues; and the hand of time is gradually accomplishing what the fury of the flames had spared. On the top of an arch, and in the centre of the dining-room, an ash tree is at present growing, and has attained some height, which the credulous say, fulfils a prediction emitted in the time of the last persecution. The ruins from the south-west have still a magnificent appearance, and strike the mind with the melancholy idea of fallen grandeur.

— Soules cross, which gives name to a quarter of the town, is a stone pillar of eight or nine feet high, situated in the north-east part of the town, near the entrance of the new church. It was erected in memory of Lord Soules, an English nobleman, who is said to have been killed on the spot, in 1444, by an arrow from one of the family of Kilmarnock.

— Some years ago, it was falling into ruins; but the inhabitants of that quarter, from a commendable respect for this piece of antiquity, collected a sum of money among themselves, caused the broken pieces to be put together, and again erected it, with a small gilt vane upon the top, bearing this inscription, L. SOULES, 1444.

## P A R T II.

*Country Part of the Parish.*—As nearly as can be collected without an actual admeasurement, there are about 5900 acres (Scots measure) in the country or landward part of the parish. This is valued in the cess books of the county, at L. 7025 Scots, and pays the land tax accordingly; but the real rent at present, including what is possessed by proprietors, may be nearly

nearly L. 5400 sterling; which is, at an average, above 18s per acre. Some particular farms are let considerably higher, at 25s or 26s, and one at 36s, and small inclosures near the town from 50s to L. 4 per acre; while those at greater distance from the town, and near the muirs, are sometimes as low as 12s. The rent of the different lands in the parish, however, has lately been brought much nearer a level than formerly, by the good roads that are now made through the whole of it. About 20 years ago, Mr Orr of Barrowfield, who was proprietor of a large estate at a distance from the town, and nearest the muirs, seeing the importance that good roads would be of to his estate, was at a great expence in opening a communication with the high-ways, leading to Glasgow and other towns, as well as in making several other valuable and important improvements; in consequence of which, his property has become as valuable as any in the neighbourhood; and some of the farms on that estate, are amongst the highest rented of any that are in it.

*Soil and Mode of Inclosure.*—There is not much difference of soil throughout the parish. In general, it is a strong rich soil, consisting of clay, with a mixture of sand, and near the muirs some moss. There are some fine holms along the side of the Irvine, consisting of sand and fine loam, brought down by the river and left on its banks after floods. It is a great detriment to the grounds in this parish, as well as in the greater part of Ayrshire, that the bottom is a strong till, almost impenetrable by water; reaching, in general, 30 or 40 fathoms deep, or even more, while the soil on the surface, is little more than a foot, merely what the plow has repeatedly turned up to the influence of the weather. The consequence of this is, that the autumnal rains, which fall peculiarly heavy in the western parts of the kingdom, having no

longer the heat of the sun, as in summer, to exhale them, lie and stagnate on the surface of the ground, during the whole winter; which greatly injures it, and, for a time, even destroys its vegetative powers. The bad effects of this circumstance, however, are now not nearly so much, nor so generally felt as formerly. This, in a great measure, is owing to the numberless drains made by the ditches, which have been drawn, in all directions, for inclosing the grounds: For the common, or rather universal method of inclosing in this fertile part of the country, where stones are scarce, is by ditches, with hawthorn hedges planted in the sides, or on the top of the banks. This method was little known, and still less practised, till about 35 or 40 years. Before that period, no inclosure was to be seen, except, perhaps, one or two about a gentleman's seat, in all the wide, extended, and beautiful plain of Cunninghame. Hence, at the end of harvest, when the crop was carried from the fields into the barn-yard, the whole country had the appearance of a wild and dreary common, and nothing was to be seen, but here and there, a poor, bare, and homely hut, where the farmer and his family were lodged. The cattle too, were then allowed to wander about at pleasure through all the neighbouring fields, till the grass began to rise in the spring, and miserably poached all the arable ground, now saturated with the water that lay on the surface. To such a degree was this mischief done, by the ranging of the cattle in search of food, when none was to be found, that, in many places, it destroyed all prospect of any crop, worth the labour of the husbandman, for the ensuing year; and, in some instances, for many years to come. But now the scene is completely altered, and infinitely to the better. There is, at this time, scarcely a single farm, in all that wide-extended plain, that is not inclosed with ditch and hedge, and most of them with numbers of intermediate ones, to separate the fields from each other.

other. By this means, the farmers have it in their power to confine the cattle, through the winter, to the fields where they can do least harm by poaching; the water is mostly drained from the surface; and the ground is, in some degree, sheltered by the hedges from the severity of the winter cold and storms. This, along with the other improvements made upon the soil, has rendered the grounds much more productive and fruitful than ever they were in any former period, probably 3 or 4 times at least. In consequence, however, of this method of inclosure with thorn hedges, sheep are nearly banished from this country; nor is there any individual who can venture to keep any considerable number of them, at least, of the wilder sorts; though the larger or tamer breeds might perhaps be tried to advantage.

*Manures.*—From the nature of the soil in general through this parish, it is better calculated for producing grain, than feeding black cattle. In consequence of this, the improvements are principally directed to the meliorating of the soil, and preparing it for the plough. As no marle of any kind has as yet been found, the manures made use of, are only the dung collected in the town, or at the different farms, together with coal-ashes and lime: Some small quantities of horn shavings also have occasionally been brought from Ireland, and raise good crops for two or three years, without injuring the soil: The ashes do well enough for a year or two, upon a sandy soil, but are prejudicial where there is clay: and it is only near the town where these can be had; so that, all that the farmer has to depend on, is the dung made on his own farm, and lime. Of the last, there is some in the higher parts of the parish; but the greater part of what is used, is brought from the neighbourhood, at the distance of a few miles. Fifty bolls of shells, or 100 bolls of flaked lime is commonly laid on, per acre,

when ground is to be broke up by the plow, and has not been lately limed before; but rather less (perhaps 70 or 80) if it has. But some have gone much farther; and, when the ground was a very strong clay, and had never been limed before, they have found it greatly to their advantage. One hundred and fifty or two hundred bolls have been used in this case. The usual method, in this parish, is, to spread the lime on the ground, in the beginning of the winter before the field is broken up. But some judge it better to have it spread on the ground so long before, that it may remain on it for two winters and a summer; by which means, it becomes better incorporated with the soil; is not so apt to sink into the bottom of the furrow made by the plow; nor so ready to hurt the ensuing crop, if it should chance to turn out a dry season after it is plowed down. It is, however, a general persuasion, that land ought, if possible, to be limed and dunged alternately, in order to receive the full benefit of lime as a manure: for if repeatedly limed, without a sufficient quantity of dung, and plowed often, it is gradually exhausted, and becomes, almost, *a caput mortuum*.

*Crops.* — Every intelligent farmer, in this district, is now sensible, that, a proper rotation of crops is of the utmost importance in husbandry; and that the ground, with the same manure, will continue in equal, or even in better heart, for at least double the time, under a rotation properly calculated for the soil, than what it will do under a constant succession of any one crop. The same method, however, does not suit all different soils; and, perhaps, the rotation that is most proper for each different soil, has not been so much attended to any where as it ought to have been, and is yet, in a great measure, left unascertained. But the proprietors of land, in this part of the country, have, almost universally, adopted a plan of letting

letting their grounds, which, in a great measure, prevents the tenants from making use of any rotation. In their leases, they bind the farmer to plow only three years, and then to keep the ground for six years in grass. The leases are in general for 19 years, so that a farmer has it only in his power, during that term to have two breaks of his farm, together with what he can plow in the last year of his lease. This plan is attended with great disadvantages to the proprietor, to the tenant, and to the public. Under such a restriction, the whole efforts of the tenant to meliorate his ground, are confined to the first break. Then he limes and dungs to the utmost of his power; and, more especially, endeavours to lay down his fields as richly as possible, in order that he may have good returns during the course of the second break, without being at farther expence for manure, at a period of the lease when he cannot receive the full benefit of it. The consequence of this is, that the greater part of the grounds are reduced to a very poor state, before the end of the lease. The tenant again, when he has brought his grounds to a state in which they could more easily than at first be rendered more productive, is restrained in his exertions, because he cannot reap the full benefit arising from them, but must probably leave it to another, or pay a higher rent for it himself, than he would otherwise have done, and thus his interest is materially hurt: while the public suffers likewise, as more grain would undoubtedly have been raised, had the farmer had equal encouragement, to exert himself as much, in the latter part of the lease, as he found it for his interest to do in the former. Besides, the term of tillage is too short to allow any proper rotation of crops. The ground is sown with oats when first broke up, and every one knows that the second year after breaking up, affords the best crop of oats. These two years, therefore, the ground must be sown with the same species of grain, to enable the farmer to pay his rent, and



and he can only make a change to another in the last year of that break. Thus, they are nearly deprived of the power of observing any regular rotation; and every one must see the disadvantage that this must prove to all concerned. The only reason given for this restraint is, to put it out of the power of the farmer to run out his grounds at the end of the lease. But though he cannot, in consequence of this restriction, overplow them; yet, by doing little or nothing, during the last break, he leaves them in a condition, poor enough to be highly detrimental to the interest of the proprietor, whilst it proves an effectual check to the genius of the farmer, and prevents his trying many useful and important experiments, by which, both tenant and landlord, and indeed the public at large, would be benefited. Perhaps it might be more expedient to let leases upon one or more lives, leaving the period of their termination uncertain; or the tenants might be allowed to plow as much for four years, as they could properly manure the third year, which would be a great encouragement to their exertions\*.

*Potatoes.*

\* At the commencement of improvements in this part of the country, the sowing of what is called *bear pease*, or giving a crop of pease the same pains, manure, and attention, that is usually bestowed on a crop of barley, was found the best mode of bringing in poor, weedy, or worn-out ground. The method practised was as follows: In the beginning of winter, or as early in the spring as possible, the ridges were plowed and gathered; and then, as soon as the oat seed was sown, the ground was well harrowed, the solid crowns of the ridges were turned out by the plow. About 40 or 50 bolls of lime, and about as many carts of dung, or perhaps rather more of both, if the land was very poor and stiff, were then led out and spread upon each acre; this was plowed down, and then sown with a late kind of small gray pea, which runs out to a great length, and continues lengthening and flowering till the end of the season. They were

*Potatoes.*—There may be about 30 acres in the parish planted annually with potatoes, which yield, at an average, about 30 bolls per acre, and may be worth from 8s to 10s per boll. The principal part of this crop is raised on spots adjacent to the town, by the inhabitants of Kilmarnock. Every tradesman takes as much ground for 3d. or 4d. per fall, as he can properly manure, and plants the potatoes with the spade. This, together with the hoeing and dressing them through the summer, and digging them up in the autumn, affords a healthful and agreeable exercise to the trades people, who are so much necessarily confined to their houses; and the produce makes a considerable part of their provision for 3 or 4 months at the end of autumn, and the beginning of winter; which, exclusive of the value of their labour, they have at a pretty reasonable rate. After potatoes, it has now become a pretty general practice to sow wheat, which usually makes a very good return. Little wheat indeed is raised in any other manner; though some of the farmers have tried it after fallow, and when the season answers, have had very good crops. Yet here it must always prove very precarious, owing to the great autumnal rains, which the soil, in most places, does not quickly enough drain off;

were generally sown about the end of April, or beginning of May. In consequence of the particular nature of the pea, and the late season of sowing, there were little pease produced, but there was a complete and close covering given to the ground by the straw, which lying upon it all the season, cleaned and meliorated the soil to a surprising degree; and they scarce ever failed to have, from what was before the poorest ground, two excellent crops of oats, in the two succeeding years; and the land, after it had rested 6 years, was in very good order at the next break. This practice is now mostly given up, as the ground has all been brought in, but it was considered as the best method of improving a poor soil.

off; joined to the alternate frosts and thaws, which take place in the spring, by which it is sometimes raised almost wholly out of the ground, before it is possible, from the wetness of the soil, to have it rolled to advantage.

*Farms and Farm-Houses.*—The extent of the farms are in general, from 50 to 100 acres. At a medium about 70. It is but of late that the landlords have begun to pay any attention to the farm houses on their estates. In general, however, a stranger still views, with concern, the poor and mean-looking huts, in which the farmers are condemned to dwell, throughout all this country. Their habitation, and that of their cattle, are generally under the same roof, and only separated from one another by partitions. Scarcely any of them have an upper story, so that the whole family are obliged to sleep upon the ground, on a damp soil, where the floor is not so much as paved with stone or flags, and where there is not even a fire place to draw off the moist and stagnant air. This must be attended with the worst consequences to the health of the people; whereas, were better and more comfortable houses provided for the tenants, it would be a great inducement to them to pay better rents for their farms, and it would even be a means of enabling them to do so, by giving them greater security for their health, and rendering them better able attend to their business. Every house, therefore, ought to have as much of it raised to a second story, as would furnish the whole family with sufficient room to sleep above stairs, with vents in every sleeping apartment, in which fires might be put, occasionally, and, which, at any rate, would act as ventilators, and, by keeping up the circulation of fresh air, would render consumptive complaints, at present so fatal, must less frequent.

*Thatching with Straw and Mortar.*—There is nothing that  
I would

would be more desirable, than to discover some method of covering the roofs of farm-houfes, fo as to render them cheap and comfortable. A fiate roof is too expenfive in many parts of the country, from the difficulty of getting either the timber, or the fiate. Tile roofs do not laft, and common thatching is of very fhort duration, is more liable to the danger of fire, affords fhelter and encouragement to vermin, and is very apt to be deftroyed by violent winds. But there is a mode of thatching with ftraw and mortar, introduced into the neighbourhood of Kilmarnock, about 22 years ago, in confequence of a receipt given by the late Mr Macdowal of Garthland, which is, in many refpects, preferable to every other, for the northern parts of the ifland.—The thatching is carried on in the ufual manner; only mortar, very well prepared, and mixed with cut ftraw, is thinly fpread over the ftrata of thatch, with a large trowel made for the purpofe. One expert thatcher will require two men to ferve him with ftraw, one to prepare the mortar, and a fourth to carry it up. If the work is properly done, it will make a covering which will laft 40 or 50 years; and, when it begins to fail, it can eafily be repaired. Sometimes clay is ufed inftead of mortar, and answers nearly as well. As it makes a moft excellent roof, the timbers ought to be good, and the fpars ftraight, and neatly put on, that there may be no heights and hollows in it. Such a roof will ftand in the moft expofed fituation, againft the moft violent winds; gives no fhelter to vermin; is not near fo much in danger of fire; and though a little more expenfive at firft than the common thatch, yet does much more than compensate for that circumftance, by its being fo extremely durable.

*Plantations.*—Timber is very fcarce in this part of the country, except about gentlemens houfes. It is commonly reckoned not to be for the intereft of the proprietor to plant foreft

timber, where land can be let for 18s or 20s per acre. But though this may be the case with respect to the planting of large fields of arable ground, yet hedge-rows, or belts of planting, are well worth their room, from the shelter that they afford; and there are in every farm, even in the best cultivated grounds, many spots which the plow cannot reach, which, with a little attention and expence, might be planted, to the great ornament of the country, and to the great advantage of all concerned. Wherever such spots are to be found, they ought to be inclosed and planted by the proprietors, and the care of them intrusted to the tenant, who should be allowed to deduct yearly from his rent, (if the trees are properly taken care of) a certain sum according to the extent of the ground planted, and the rent paid for the farm. Besides, he ought to be permitted to make all such farm utensils as he needed, from these spots; only taking care to replace them when cut down, if they were not of a sort that sprouted again from the root.— This would prove a very important acquisition to the tenant; and, besides the benefit the ground would derive from the additional shelter, the proprietor would in time be more than compensated, by the timber that would remain on his estate after all the demands of the farmer had been answered.

There is another method by which a very important addition might be made to the quantity of timber in the country. Every farm-house ought to have a large plot of ground, containing from one to two acres adjacent to it, for stacking the corn in winter, for grafs to any favourite milk cow, for a kitchen garden, &c. It should be laid out on no uniform plan, but the figure of it varied every where, so as to suit the situation of the house, and the form of the fields around it. If any rivulet runs near the house, it should be carried up through it, for the conveniency of washing and bleaching, and of watering the plot. But, what is of still more importance, the  
drainings

drainings from the stables and dunghill should be conducted over it; by which means three or four rich crops of grass would be raised in a season. Round this spot, some rows of trees should be planted, of such kinds as are proper for farm utensils, for covering the houses, &c. Should this be done properly, the yard alone would supply much more than ever the farm would need; the tenant would always have timber at hand for all he wanted, and be at no farther expence but that of cutting down the trees, and making his utensils; by which means he might always have them good in their kinds, and in perfect order at very little expence; the country would be highly beautified and adorned, while the tenant would after all reap more benefit from the ground thus employed, than from any other part of the farm of equal extent. A few fruit trees might be planted in one of the corners of this plot, and would seldom fail, in such a situation, to produce a valuable crop. — The forest trees, which are reckoned most proper for general use, are the ash, the elm, the larix, and above all, the Huntington willow. From the top of one of these willows, when it comes to the size of a tree, and has been formerly cut over, there may be cut again, once in 16 or 20 years, for country purposes, as much as is equal in value to 8s or 10s. They grow rapidly in almost all soils, and are peculiarly excellent for the roofs of farm-houses, thatched in the manner before described. If they are allowed to grow to a sufficient age without being cut over, they make excellent household furniture, take a fine polish, are very light, and last long.

If these plans were generally followed, it would complete, in the space of a few years, the improved appearance of this part of the country, and add greatly to the comfort and happiness of its inhabitants. The plain of Cunninghame, of which this parish makes a part, when viewed from the high grounds of Kyle, lies in the form of a large and beautiful amphitheatre,

above 20 miles in diameter, and is esteemed by all who have viewed it, as naturally one of the most delightful vallies to be found in Great Britain. But the principal part of it being the property of some great landlords, there are, of consequence, but few gentlemens houses in it. It is, therefore, the more necessary, that it should be ornamented with neat and good looking farm-houses, and with a considerable number of groves, and plantations of trees, in order to give it a thriving and prosperous appearance.—— It is to be hoped, that this will soon be brought about; and, perhaps, no objects are better intitled to the attention of a public-spirited society, (could one be constituted for the purpose) than to encourage the planting of forest timber, and to improve the accommodation of our husbandmen, who are justly to be accounted not the least valuable part of the community.

## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF MACHLIN.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM AULD.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

**I**N old deeds, the name of Machlein, or Machlene is used, but of late it is more commonly spelled Machlin. It is derived, as some imagine, from the Gaelic, and signifies in that language, a field of flax. It is situated in the presbytery, synod, and county of Ayr. It is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, and from 2 to 4 miles in breadth. It was a priory or cell, belonging to the Abbacy of Melrose: and when that Abbacy was erected into a temporal lordship, the lands and barony of Kylefmure, and Barmure, and the patronage of the church of Machlin, were given to the Lord of Loudoun. From the town or parish, the eldest son of that noble family takes his title to this day.

*Surface and Soil.*—The parish is in general flat, excepting Machlin-hill, which rises a little to the north-east of the town, and runs in a ridge, from east to west, about a mile in the parish, terminating at Schioch-hill, in Tarbolton. From the hill there is a very extensive prospect, not only over a  
great



great part of Ayrshire, but as far as Cairnsmure, and other hills in Galloway, and Benlomond, Jura, Arran, Kintyre, &c.—The town of Machlin is situated on the south side of this rising ground, which gradually declines towards the river Ayr, on the south and south-west. About 80 years ago, the town had a charter, which is now lost, and with it, the right of chusing magistrates. This is much to be regretted, as that privilege, if properly exercised, might contribute much to the public good, by checking riots and disorders, which are at present too frequent, and promoting the good order, peace, and happiness of the community.

The soil in the parish, is, for the most part, of a clayish nature, except some fields, about Machlin, which are of a light sandy, or mixt kind. Hence, the same weather does not suit both; and, when there is a good crop on the one, there is a light or bad crop on the other.—The whole of this parish is arable, except two small mosses, and some declivities on the banks of the Ayr, fit for planting. A large tract of land, called Machlin-muir, has, of late years, been turned into arable land, and properly inclosed and surrounded with belts of planting, by the late Sir Thomas Miller. In general, all the lands or farms in the parish, within these 40 or 50 years, have been inclosed and subdivided.

*Minerals, &c.*—There is a good red stone quarry, near Machlin town; and another white stone quarry called *Deaconbank*, about 3 miles to the north-west. This last is much esteemed for its fine grain and colour. At Bridgend, about 2½ miles from Machlin, there is a coal-work, with a fire engine. At Killoch, there is a lime-stone quarry and iron stone, both belonging to Miss Scot. Lime-stone also at Auchmillan, belonging to Sir William Miller. In, and on the confines of Machlin parish, are various curious caves cut out of the solid rock,

rock, by the late Lord Auchinleck, and the late President Miller.

*Statistical Table of the Parish of Macblin, An. 1791.*

|  |  |         |
|--|--|---------|
| Population, An. 1755, according to Dr. Webster |  | 1169    |
| Number of inhabitants, in 1791                 | - - -  | 1800    |
| Increase                                       | - - - - -                                    | 631     |
| Inhabitants in the town                        | - - - - -                                    | 1000    |
| — in the country                               | - - - - -                                    | 800     |
| Males  | - - - - -                                    | 870     |
| Females  | - - - - -                                    | 930     |
| Parents  | - - - - -                                    | 700     |
| Children                                       | - - - - -                                    | 829     |
| Servants and lodgers                           | - - - - -                                    | 270     |
| Births   | } at an average of 5 years, ending }<br>1790 | 87      |
| Marriages                                      |  | 18      |
| Deaths   |  | 42      |
| Number of acres                                | - - - - -                                    | 5400    |
| Valued rent (in Scots money)                   | - - - - -                                    | L. 5410 |
| Real rent in 1750                              | } in sterling money }                        | L. 1260 |
| Real rent, An. 1790                            |  | L. 3510 |
| Clergyman                                      | - - - - -                                    | 1       |
| Writers or attornies                           | - - - - -                                    | 2       |
| Surgeon  | - - - - -                                    | 1       |
| Student at the university                      | - - - - -                                    | 1       |
| Merchants                                      | - - - - -                                    | 10      |
| Weavers  | - - - - -                                    | 20      |
| Masons   | - - - - -                                    | 20      |
| Wrights or carpenters                          | - - - - -                                    | 12      |
| Tanners  | - - - - -                                    | 2       |
| Shoemakers                                     | - - - - -                                    | 12      |
| Taylors  | - - - - -                                    | 10      |
| Butchers                                       | - - - - -                                    | 2       |
|  |  | Hofiers |

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Hofiers                        | 4    |
| Sadler                         | 1    |
| Smiths                         | 6    |
| Messengers, or king's bailiffs | 2    |
| Sheriff officers               | 3    |
| Farmers                        | 73   |
| Horses employed by them        | 249  |
| Black cattle                   | 1080 |

*Poor.*—The poors stock in this parish, is between L. 80 and L. 100. The number of poor families, or weekly pensioners, is about 30. The income from collections, mort-cloths, and some seats in the church, L. 50. The annual expenditure L. 60 yearly, and some years more; but the difference is made up by an assessment, unanimously agreed to by the heritors, at a meeting in 1771; who, in order to prevent begging in the parish, assessed themselves in a sum, amounting to L. 22 : 10 : 10 *per annum*, one half of which, however, is payable by the tenants. This increased the poors stock at the time; but as the fund is gradually decreasing, in consequence of the number and necessities of the poor, unless a new assessment is made, it will not be possible for the ordinary income to supply the demands which are made upon it. It must be obvious to every body, that according to the present mode, the burden of maintaining the poor, is most unequally divided. It falls almost entirely on tenants, tradesmen, servants, and charitable persons attending the church; while other people, however rich, particularly non-residing heritors, whatever their income may be, contribute little or nothing to the charitable funds of the parish. Hence there is, in general, ample ground for the common observation, “that it is the poor in Scotland who maintain the poor.” It must be confessed at the same time, that, it is very difficult forming a plan that would provide for the poor, with-

out encouraging in them either inattention, indolence, or waste.

It may be added, that for the relief of distressed brethren, there was a society established in this place about ten years ago, called *Machlin Friendly Society*. The present allowance is two shillings weekly to such as are unable to work, and 3s to such as are confined to bed: One guinea is paid at entry. The present stock is L. 300.

*Character, &c.*—In such a number there must be some exceptions: but, in general, they are a sober industrious people, charitably disposed: Careful and even punctual in attending the church on Sundays, and on sacramental occasions; and their practice in the main is agreeable to their profession:—The inhabitants are of a middle size, from 5 feet, 4 inches, to 6 feet, 2 inches, and make a decent appearance, particularly at public meetings. It is a great disadvantage to them that no manufacture is carried on: But they are willing to encourage any plan that may tend to promote the improvement of agriculture, commerce, and manufacture; in all which they are making some progress.——The manner of living and dress, is much altered from what it was about 50 years ago. At that period, and for some time after, there were only two or three families in this parish, who made use of tea daily, now it is done by, at least, one half of the parish, and almost the whole use it occasionally. At that period, good two-penny, strong-ale, and home-spirits were in vogue: but now even people in the middling and lower stations of life, deal much in foreign spirits, rum-punch, and wine. In former times, the gentlemen of the county entered into a resolution to encourage the consumption of their own grain, and, for that purpose, to drink no foreign spirits: But, in consequence of the prevalence of smuggling, and the heavy taxes laid on home-made liquors,

quors, this patriotic resolution was either forgotten or abandoned.—As to drefs, about 50 years ago, there were few females who wore scarlet or filks. But now, nothing is more common, than filk caps and filk cloaks; and women, in a middling ftation, are as fine as ladies of quality were formerly. The like change may be obferved in the drefs of the male fex, though, perhaps, not in the fame degree.

*School and Language.*—There is a public eftablifhed fchool in this parifh, with a falary of L. 10 yearly; and there are two private fchools in the town, befides fome in the country. The Scots dialekt is the language fpoken, but is gradually improving, and approaching nearer to the Englifh.

*Climate, &c.*—The air is milder and more temperate here, than towards the eastern coaft of Scotland. It is rather wet, but not unhealthy.

There are no difeafes peculiar to this parifh. Inoculation for the fmall pox is practifed with fuccefs. As a means of better health, it were to be wifhed, that the clothing, and houfes of the lower fort, were more warm and comfortable. The contributing thereto would reflekt great honour, and afford much real fatisfaction to the more opulent.—The inhabitants of this parifh, are in general, addicted to exercife and temperance, two great fources of long life and good health. But death, againft whom there is no defence, is ever fnatching away fome of all ranks and ages, the rich and the poor, the young and the healthy, as well as the old and the difeafed. The people, however, in general, are long-lived. Among other instances of longevity, the minifters might be adduced. The late incumbent, Mr Maitland, held the charge of Machlin for 44 years; and the prefent incumbent was ordained about 50 years ago, to wit, in April 1742.

*Church,*

*Church, Manse, &c.*—The manse was built in 1730; and has since been several times repaired. The church, it is believed, was built before the Reformation. The stipend consists partly of victual, and partly of money; and, including the glebe, which measures from 5 to 6 acres, may amount annually to about L. 100. The right of patronage is in the family of Loudoun.

At the town-head of Machlin, on the green, there is a tombstone, with engravings; from which it appears, that in 1685, under the unhappy reign of James VII. of Scotland, five men were put to death there. Under their names, there are the following verses in the language of those times:

- “ Bloody Dumbarton, Douglafs, and Dundee,
- “ Moved by the devil, and the Laird of Lee,
- “ Dragg’d these five men to death with gun and sword,
- “ Not suffering them to pray, nor read God’s word;
- “ Owning the work of God was all their crime;
- “ The eighty-five was a faint-killing time.”

The hole where the gibbet was fixed is still visible.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are two great turnpike roads which cross one another at Machlin; one from Ayr to Edinburgh, the other from Kilmarnock to Dumfries. —The river Ayr runs through this parish from east to west about a mile south of Machlin. In its course, there are several great works carried on at present; to wit, an iron work at Muirkirk, and a cotton-mill at Cattrine. —Over this river, there are several useful bridges near Machlin, particularly the new-bridge at Barskimming; built by the late Sir Thomas Miller. It excels all the bridges of the county in beauty and elegance, and is one the greatest curiosities to be

seen in it.—— The river Ayr in its course, especially through Machlin parish, passes between steep rocks, from 30 to 40 feet high. How this passage was formed, whether by art, or by the water gradually making a channel for itself, is a point which cannot now be ascertained.—— The only loch in the parish, called Loch-Brown, is about three miles north-west from Machlin. Wild-ducks, geese, and sometimes swans resort to it. It covers about 60 acres of ground; and would have been drained many years ago, had it not been for the sake of two corn mills which it supplies with water.—— There is no tradition of any battle in the parish, except one at Machlin muir, between the king's party and the Covenanters, about the year 1647, when the former was defeated; and their military chest was found, it is said, many years after, hidden in the ground.—— The antient parochial records of the parish are now lost. Sometime before the Reformation, the Popish clergy perceived their interest declining, and their down-fall approaching in the kingdom, to prepare for the worst, they sold their lands for ready money, in small parcels, and then departed, carrying with them all their money and effects, and all the books and registers belonging to this, and, it is believed, to other parishes in the neighbourhood.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF EAGLESHAM.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

*By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER DOSTE.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**B**EFORE the village was built, which gives its name to this parish, there were several woods in it, particularly one of great extent on the banks of the river, an English mile south of the village. This wood, and the rocks in the neighbourhood, were much frequented by eagles; and as they often perched on the holm, or low ground, where afterwards the village was built, it was thence called Eagleholm, or Eaglesham. Others derive the name from Ecclesia-holm, or, the church in the hollow.

*Extent, Situation, and Surface.*—The parish is about 5 miles from east to west, and 6 miles from north to south. It is bounded on the east by Kilbride and Carmunnock, on the north by Mearns, on the west by Fenwick, and on the south by Loudoun. It is situated in the county of Renfrew, the presbytery of Glasgow, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The soil is various. The higher and western part of the district consists partly of dry heath, and partly of deep moss, with



with a number of fine green hills, and a great deal of natural meadow-ground mixed together. The tenants in this part of the parish plow little: Their great dependance is on their sheep, and the rearing of black cattle. The lower part of the parish lying along the banks of the Cart, and to the west of that river is a light soil, above a rotten whin-stone rock; and, when allowed to rest for four years, it produces two excellent crops of corn, with a very slight manure of lime or dung. The tenants in that quarter plow only a fourth part of their arable ground; and oats is the principal grain they raise. Their great dependance is on the milk, butter, and cheese, which they sell at Glasgow. On this account, they keep few horses, but a great number of cows, rather of the best than of the largest kind. In the beginning of winter, they feed them with oat-fodder; but in the latter end of winter, and till the pasture grass springs up, with hay, and a little corn, once a day.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The parish lies high, and enjoys a free air. In the moorish part of it, the air is exceedingly sharp and cold, but in the lower part it is mild and temperate, especially when the wind is from the west. The village of Eaglesham, which contains the one half of the whole inhabitants of the parish, is built on ground, that is full of, and surrounded by, springs; which renders the houses damp, where pains are not taken to prevent it.——Consumptions are not uncommon; but most of the deaths are occasioned by fevers. The fine air, and the excellent water in the parish, make it, on the whole, exceedingly healthy: and those who are at a small expence in raising the floors of their houses, and making drains, have very dry and comfortable dwellings. There are numerous instances in this parish, of persons arriving at 80 years of age, and a many beyond it.——

The

The ſmall-pox carry off great numbers of children: but there is no reconciling the minds of the lower ranks to inoculation. In 1786, a few children were inoculated, and it ſeemed to give pain to the people in general, that they came ſo well and eaſily through. The thoughts of bringing trouble on their children, as they call it, with their own hands, outweigh every argument that can be advanced in its favour.

*Rivers and Mineral Springs.*—Several rivulets riſe out of the muirs of Eagleſham, and fall into the river Cart, on the eaſt ſide of the pariſh. This river takes its riſe out of the muirs of Kilbride and Eagleſham, about four miles ſouth of the village of Eagleſham; and in its courſe northwards, divides the counties of Lanerk and Renſrew, and this pariſh from Kilbride and Carmunnock.—There are two mineral ſprings in the pariſh; the one is of a purgative quality, and when uſed in the caſe of complaints in the ſtomach, gives immediate relief. The other is uſed as a remedy for the muir-ill in black cattle, and is carried to a great diſtance for that purpoſe.—At Balegich-hill, two miles weſt of the village, there have been lately obſerved, ſeveral pieces of the barytes, or heavy ſtone. It is of a reddiſh colour, and laminated ſtructure; and is often the matrix of lead. This circumſtance, joined with other ſymptoms, render it probable, that there are ſilver and lead in that part of the pariſh.—There are alſo found large maſſes of the oſmund ſtone, which ſeems to be a volcanic production. It ſtands the ſtrongeſt heat without renting, for which reaſon it is uſed in building ovens and other furnaces.

*Number of Proprietors, Farmers, and Inhabitants.*—The Earl of Eglinton is patron and proprietor of the whole pariſh, except three ſmall farms in it. The valued rent is L. 3070:6:8, and

and the real rent about L. 2700 sterling. The Eglinton family do not reside; but the other three heritors possess their own farms, on which they live comfortably. The number of tenants is greatly diminished, within these twenty years, by the junction of farms. At present there are only 63, without including those who take the parks adjacent to the village. The principal tenants pay L. 80, L. 90, and several above L. 100 yearly rent. The lands in general let at 16s or 20s per acre, but those near the village at above 30s. — The number of people from six years old or upwards, is 700, and there are about 300 under that age. The return to Dr. Webster of the population of Eaglesham, was 1103 souls, consequently the decrease may be about 100. The baptisms, including those of the Seceders, are, at an average, about 25, the marriages about 9 or 10, but no register of deaths has been kept.

*Antiquities, Church, &c.*—Upon the banks of the Cart, a few miles from its source, there is still standing a part of the walls of the castle of Punoon or Poinon.—Sir John Montgomerie of Eaglesham, at the battle of Otterburn, in 1388, took Henry Percy (the famous Hotspur) prisoner, with his own hand, and with the ransom or *poind money*, built that castle, whence its name is derived. — Eaglesham is the most antient possession of the Montgomerics, a family of more than six hundred years standing. The church and village lie about a mile from this antient fabric. An old Popish chapel, a very diminutive place, was used for public worship, till within these two years; when Lord Eglinton, much to his honour, erected a most elegant church, of an octagonal form, and fitted it up in the best manner. The village of Eaglesham is allowed by every traveller who has seen it to be one of the most delightful places in Great Britain. Twenty years ago, it was wholly rebuilt on a new plan of the late Lord Eglinton's, a nobleman

nobleman of the finest taste. It consists of two rows of houses opposite to, and distant from each other thirty-two falls, (about 200 yards). Down the middle of that space runs a small rivulet, to which there is a gentle descent from each row. The village is two furlongs and thirty falls long; and the whole area on each side of the rivulet consists of grass, for the use of the inhabitants. There they may bleach their linen, &c. &c. but no cattle are allowed to graze or tread on it. A number of fine trees planted along both sides of the rivulet, adds to the beauty of the scene. Towards the higher end of village, on the rivulet, a large cotton work is just now erecting.

*Stipend, School, &c.*—The stipend is £. 79 : 3 : 4 sterling, and forty bolls of meal, with a glebe of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres, English measure. The Manse has been in ruins for a number of years; during which time, an excellent house has been hired for the minister's accommodation.

The encouragement for a schoolmaster is better than in most country parishes. The salary is £. 100 Scots (£. 8 : 6 : 8 sterling), and the number of scholars through the year may be rated at 60, or upwards. An excellent school house, with accommodations for the master, is just now finishing: He has also a good garden, and the other common emoluments. The whole will amount to about £. 30 sterling *per annum*.

*Division of the Inhabitants.*—In the country part of the parish, the farmers themselves, with their wives and children, do the farmer and dairy work, with very little additional assistance. In the 63 farms in the parish, there are not above 40 male, and 63 female servants, except in hay time and harvest, when a few labourers and cottagers are hired occasionally. The trades people live all in the village. A few years ago, there

were 63 silk looms at work there, but at present there are only 33, and these are mostly employed in weaving cotton of different fabrics; the materials of which are furnished by the Glasgow and Paisley manufacturers. There are 4 joiners, 2 smiths, 4 shoemakers, 5 taylor, 3 coopers, 8 day-labourers, 2 horse-dealers, 1 baker, 8 public house-keepers, (but only two of these have stabling for horses). These houses have here, as well as in other places, very bad effects. Surgeons, at different times, have attempted to settle at Eaglesham; but made no stay on account of wanting employment: And there are places, at no great distance, from which, when necessary, they are easily had.—The hire of women-servants for the half year, is from L. 1:15 to L. 2:5, and of men-servants, from L. 3:10 to L. 4:10. The hire of a day-labourer is 1s. in winter, and 25d. in summer.

There are a few Cameronians, 40 Antiburghers, who attend public worship at a meeting-house in the parish of Mearns. Besides the minister of the Established Church, there is one of the Burgher communion. About 60 of the parishioners are his hearers; the rest of his congregation come from the neighbouring parishes.

*Morals, Poor, &c.*—The people in general are very industrious: There are few in the parish in affluent circumstances, but they support themselves and families in a comfortable manner. At church, and other public occasions, they are clean and decent. No parish has fewer real poor. The charity-roll is seldom above 7; though there are some families that require a little assistance, if the funds could afford it. But the heritors and inhabitants are averse to any assessment, and there are no mortifications. The collections amount to about L. 16. sterling *per annum*.—The morals of the people are, according to the best information, stricter now than

than they were in former times. This may be partly attributed to the greater expence of living, and the advance of the rents; as labour and industry are among the best preventatives of vice. Public ordinances are regularly attended: and there has not been, in the memory of man, a single instance of any person belonging to this parish, being either banished or capitally condemned.

*Horses, Sheep, and Black Cattle.*—Through most of the year, there are not above 120 horses in the whole parish. The farmers begin to plow about the beginning of March; and a great many of them join, two and two, to make out a plough; which, in the language of the country, is called *mar-rowing*. Those who have much plowing to execute, buy what horses they want, at the beginning of the working season, and sell them again when the labour is over. The number of milch-cows is about 756. But besides the horses fit for labour, and the cows that give milk, there are many young horses and cows reared, especially in the moorish part of it. There are upwards of 4000 old sheep in the parish, besides a proportionable number of young ones.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Between Eaglesham and Glasgow (about 9 miles distance) there is a turnpike road, by which the farmers carry what they have to sell, in carts or waggons. A turnpike road from Ayr to Edinburgh passes through this village, by Hamilton, which is shorter by six miles than by Glasgow, and will be finished this year. A turnpike is also proposed to be made from Muirkirk, through this village, to Glasgow. It may likewise be considered as an advantage which the villagers enjoy, that they have their houses for nine hundred years, at no higher an annual than 3d sterling a fall; and each house has a rood of ground for a garden. They have

besides, among them, 100 acres of muir, for which they pay nothing; the greater part of which is capable of being improved into good arable ground.—The disadvantages of this parish are, first, its distance from Glasgow, which is its market-town. Another, is the expence of fuel; no good coal being nearer than 7 miles, and no peats within less than two miles and a half. But the greatest disadvantage is the want a good police. There is no magistrate nearer than within 4 miles; and the place is oppressed with gangs of gypsies, commonly called tinkers, or randy-beggars, because there is nobody to take the smallest account of them.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Balagich, Dunwar, Mires, Blackwood, and Mellawher, are remarkable hills. The first two are nearly of the same height; and their summits are 1000 feet above the level of the sea.—The inhabitants are under no servitude to the landlords; and in general pay nothing more than their money-rent, cess and road-money; some few excepted, who are bound by their leases, to perform one or two days work yearly to the landlord, which is seldom exacted.—The farms, in the lower part of the parish, are all inclosed, and great benefit is derived from it.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF NEWABBAY.

(STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM WRIGHT.*

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*Name.*

THE antient name of the parish was Kirkinnar, or Kirkin-  
dar, the former a corruption of the latter, which sig-  
nifies in the Celtic, the church among the oaks. The present  
name is assumed from a famous abbey in the parish, which  
will hereafter be particularly mentioned.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—This parish, lying in the  
stewartry of Kirkcudbright, within the bounds of the presby-  
tery and synod of Dumfries, is about 8 miles long, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$   
broad, containing about 7810 Scots acres, whereof 2000 are  
arable, 500 meadow-merse and low pasture, 250 in planta-  
tions, 60 in natural wood, such as oak, ash, birch, &c. and  
the remaining 5000 acres, are hill, and muir, and mofs. The  
face or general appearance of the parish is very different, the  
lower part, lying along the river Nith, being regularly inclof-  
ed and highly improved, commanding a noble prospect of  
the Solway-Firth, and coast of England; while the upper  
division consists of rocky hills, mosses, and muirs.

*Air,*



*Air, Climate, and Diseases.*—The air in general is clear; but from the vicinity of the Atlantic, and the high hills which intercept the clouds and attract the vapours, this parish and the neighbourhood experience frequent storms of wind, and heavy falls of rain; but the latter is soon absorbed, and the vapours dissipated, the soil in the lower division lying on a sandy or gravelly bottom, with many declivities. The frost is very intense, and snow does not lie long upon the ground. The climate is remarkably healthy, inasmuch that invalids resort to Newabbey in the summer season for the benefit of the fine air, goat's whey, and sea-bathing. There are no distempers that can be called local, only the rheumatism prevails much. The former virulence and ravages of the small-pox are much abated in this and the neighbouring parish of Kirkgunzion, owing to the ministers performing the operation of inoculation to a considerable extent, and with the greatest success, among their respective parishioners\*.

*Soil.*—The soil in the lower division of the parish is mostly a light brown loam, which grows blackish in proportion as it is richly manured, and deepens by liming. The loam, from 6 to 10 inches in depth, lies on a fine dry gravel: some fields on the

\* Here humanity suggests the remark, that if other ministers would take the trouble to perform this very simple operation in their respective parishes, it would contribute to make the practice general; which will hardly be the case, while the common people consider it as a surgical business, and find it attended with expence. It is to be believed, that a plan is now in agitation, for instructing the students of divinity at the University of Edinburgh in the art of inoculation, which the physicians of that city generously and humanely propose to do without putting them to any expence.

the shore are of a deep coarse soil, on a dry bottom, and are very productive. In the upper division, among the hills, the soil lies on a bed of wet, cold, tenacious till; and the harvest is therefore later; but, when the ground is well manured, especially in dry seasons, it produces good crops, though inferior both in quantity and quality to the former.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—The river Nith washes the east border of the parish for 2 miles, or thereby, and may be about that space in breadth when the tide is in; the water rising 15 or 16 feet in spring tides, and making frequent incroachments upon the shore; though there are evident proofs that the land has, on the whole, gained considerably. Vessels of 60 or 70 tons burden come up a burn in the parish, called Newabbey-Pow, importing lime and shells for manure, and a few coals, and exporting oats, oat-meal, barley, potatoes, and charcoal for England and Greenock. There are three lakes in the parish; Lochkindar  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile long, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile broad, abounding with trouts, and producing bull-rushes and reeds; the first gathered by chair-makers, and the last by the weavers. Lochend and Craigend lakes are each about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile long, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile broad; they abound with pike, consequently have few or no trout in them.

*Mountains.*—The S. and S. W. boundary of this parish is a chain of hills, beginning on the S. W. with Lowtis, and ending on the S. and S. E. with Criffell, both steep, high, and rocky eminences. Criffell, in particular, has a grand appearance, rising about 2000 feet above the level of the sea, from whence it is a mile distant. On the summit there is a perennial spring of very fine water; near which is a large heap of stones, called Douglas's cairn, probably from Douglas, Earl of Morton, who, when he was Lord of the marches, had a castle called  
Wreaths

**Wreaths** at the foot of this hill. The foil of Criffell is in general good green pasture, especially on the N. and N. E. sides. It is visible at a great distance; and the country people who live within sight of its summit are accustomed to consult it as a sure weather-glass.

*State of Property.*—Several people now living have seen the whole parish, (one moderate estate excepted) in other families than those of the present heritors; some estates have had three different proprietors within the last 20 years, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the parish have changed owners in that period. But this is not likely often to be the case in time-coming; and one of the best estates in the parish has been lately entailed. The heritors are 20 in number, but only one of any considerable property resides.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—In the lower division of the parish, a mode of cultivating the ground, introduced about 20 years ago, by Mr Craik of Ardbigland, has been found by experience to answer particularly well, especially when the land is inclosed, and is as follows: Each farm is divided into nine parts; one division of the oldest ley in the farm, is the first year limed with 50 or 60 Dumfries measures of unslacked-lime, each measure costing 9d. or 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and containing about 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  Winchester bushels: this division is in spring ploughed up, and sown with oats, at the rate of 8 or 9 Winchester bushels to the acre: Next year a second crop of oats is taken; the third crop must be a green crop, or open fallow; the former may be peas and beans, turnips, or potatoes, but the last is generally preferred, and they are planted in drills, from 3 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet asunder, and well dunged. The fourth crop is barley or wheat, with which 12 or 14 lb. of red clover, 2 Winchester bushels of rye-grass, and sometimes 6 lb. of white clover-feed, must be  
sown

sown on each acre. The fifth crop, and sometimes the sixth is cut for hay; and the field is afterwards used for pasture, till its turn of being broken up for oats in the tenth year returns; then it is limed with somewhat more than half the first quantity of lime, and the former rotation of crops is followed. By this mode of cultivation, a farm of 9 divisions will thus lie in crop, year 1st and 2d oats, 3d potatoes, &c. 4th barley, or wheat, 5th hay, 6th hay or pasture, 7th, 8th, and 9th pasture. This course is pretty strictly followed in the lower division, consisting of about 1600 acres; and, it is kept in view, as much as the nature of the soil will admit, in the upper part of the parish, in which there may be 400 acres arable; 150 of which are usually in oats and barley, and the remainder in hay or pasture.

*Implements of Husbandry.*—About 52 ploughs are employed in agriculture, mostly of the true Scots construction, and a few of the English form. They are generally drawn by two horses; but in stiff and steep soils, three horses a-breast are yoked to each plough; in both cases the ploughman drives the horses. There are from 75 to 80 carts in the parish; a great number, in proportion to the ploughs, owing to an improvement lately introduced, of using light single horse-carts, in place of the large heavy double carts, which were formerly in use.

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—Wheat is sown from the 1st of October to the middle of November, and reaped from the middle of August to the 1st of September. Barley is sown after the 10th of April, and reaped at the same time with the wheat. Oats sown from the 1st of March, and reaped in September. Potatoes are planted in April and early in May, and dug up after the 1st of October.

*Produce.*—The produce of the arable land may be thus stated.

|            | Acres. | Pro-<br>duce. | Price.  | Produce<br>per acre. | Total<br>produce. | Tot. va-<br>lue |
|------------|--------|---------------|---------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Wheat      | 50     | 45 bl.        | 3s. 9d. | L. 8 9               | 2,250 bl.         | L. 421          |
| Oats       | 550    | 42 bl.        | 1s 10d. | 3 17 0               | 23,100 bl.        | 2117            |
| Barley     | 160    | 45 bl.        | 2s 4d.  | 5 5 0                | 7,200 bl.         | 840             |
| Hay        | 300    | 150 ft.       | 0 4d.   | 2 10 0               | 45,000 ft.        | 750             |
| Greencrops | 210    | 150 cwt.      | 1s.     | 7 10 0               | 31,500 cwt.       | 1575            |
| Pasture    | 730    |               |         | 1 5 0                |                   | 912             |

|             |      |               |          |              |        |
|-------------|------|---------------|----------|--------------|--------|
| Total acres | 2000 | Aver. val. of | } L. 3 6 | Tot. val. of | } 6615 |
|             |      | pro. pr. acre |          | the produce  |        |

This produce not only abundantly supplies the parish, but affords sales at home, and exportation abroad, to a considerable amount, particularly of wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes to England, and of wheat and oat-meal to Greenock. Importation of victual is extremely rare, or rather unknown here. Very few pease are raised, as they pay next to nothing in this soil and climate; and very little hemp and flax are sown. The culture of turnips is almost wholly superseded by potatoes, which yield, if not a larger, yet a quicker return than the former, as there is a sufficient demand for all that can be raised here; the greatest part of which is exported to Bristol, Liverpool, and sometimes to Dublin. The price is from 12d. to 20d. per cwt. which brings good profit to the farmer. Under this head, it may be stated, that great abundance of capillaire, (vulgarly maiden hair) grows in the crevices of the decaying walls of Newabbey, and its precincts. This plant is much used in asthmatic complaints, by drying it in the sun, then infusing it in water, and drinking it as tea; also by infusing

fusing it in its green state in water, for a day or two, straining the liquor, and boiling it up with sugar-candy into a syrup for use. Good effects have been often experienced from the use of this plant, especially when prepared as a syrup.

*Rent.*—The rent of the parish may be nearly L. 2000 for the land, L. 45 for the mill and fishings, and L. 55 for houses and gardens, in all L. 2100. The general rent of the largest farms, is, from L. 40 to L. 70 a year, only two are above L. 100, none above L. 150: Many persons occupy small portions of land of L. 10 rent and under; so that the land is very beneficially divided, none possessing too much, and numbers having a little.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—The Dumfries market regulates the price of every article of provision here; only the oats and oat-meal of this parish are shipped for exportation, at a rate something below that market price. A skilful able man-servant in the house earns yearly from L. 7 to L. 8, besides his victuals, which may be about L. 5 more;—a house woman-servant from L. 3 to L. 3: 10. A married man-servant, hired by the year, commonly called a benefit-man, has a house and yard, a cow kept, his potatoes set, his peats cast and led, with so much meal, barley, and money, as may amount in the whole, to L. 12, L. 15, or even L. 16 a year; which, with his wife's industry, and that of the older children, keeps his family in the necessaries of life, and enables him to give his children a tolerable education. A day labourer earns 1s. a day, for nine months in the year, and 10d. a day for three months in the middle of winter; but, if the victuals are furnished by the employer, these wages are 4d. a day less. An able and skilful labourer, who takes jobs by the piece, such as ditches, drains, and stone-dykes, will, by hard labour,

labour, and extra hours, earn 15d. and even 18d. a day in summer. A woman working at hay, weeding, &c. earns 4d. a day, with victuals, or 7d. without them; at carrying peats, and reaping in the harvest, 8d. in the former case, and 1s. in the latter, is the common wages for that sex. Spinning yarn, or factory-yarn, as it is called, employs many women, especially in winter and spring; but they make sorry wages of it, not above 3d. per day;—which can afford very scanty food, when firing, and often house-rent, is superadded. Taylors earn 6d. some few 8d. a day, with victuals;—masons charge 20d. and joiners 16d. a day, without victuals.

Benefit-men, mentioned above, are now much less employed than formerly, so that there are not above 3 now in the parish, as the farmers find their account in preferring house-servants, because the latter are always at hand, under fewer temptations to dishonesty, and cost L. 2 or L. 3 a year less than the other. Unless villages, however, are scattered up and down the country, where the farmer can find day or job labourers to execute his extra work at hay, peats, harvest, &c. either benefit-men, or supernumerary servants will be necessary, nor will it always be possible to procure them. Collecting people into villages, therefore, cannot be too much encouraged.

*Fisheries.*—The fish in the river Nith at this place are salmon, flounders, and a few small cod and whittings. The quantity of salmon caught is very trifling, and is far from recompensing the time consumed in that employment; so that now it is but little followed\*. The flounders are found in great abundance,  
and

\* The methods of catching the salmon in this parish are similar to those described in the statistical account of Dornock, p. 15. excepting

and of the best quality, and are in season from July to January. Lochkindar abounds with large and fine trout, (some few weighing 20 or 24 ounces;) and is much resorted to by anglers from Dumfries, who reckon a dozen a good day's fishing, as the trouts are very shy.

*Ale-houses and Village.*—There are only two ale-houses in this parish, both in the village of Newabbey; through which a public road passes, and they are more frequented by strangers than by the parishioners, whose morals are in no degree hurt by them. Newabbey is a pleasant village of 50 houses, adjoining to the ruins of the abbey that gives name to it; well supplied with fine water, and surrounded with beautiful woods.

*Stipend, Church, &c.*—The stipend, as augmented in 1771, is L. 83 : 6 : 8, and L. 3 : 6 : 8 more for communion elements. The glebe consists of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  acres; 4 acres whereof lie within the precincts of the abbey, and the other  $6\frac{1}{2}$  are adjacent to the old parochial church, at Lochkindar, at a very inconvenient distance from the manse: but both parcels are of an excellent soil, and worth, at least, a guinea per acre. The present church, which is contiguous to the ruins of the abbey, was built in 1731. Some remains of the antient parochial church are still to be seen in the island of Lochkindar.—The Crown is patron.

*Poor.*—From the Session records it appears, that the poor were much more numerous 40 years ago than they are at present

cepting that there is no *raisc-net fishing*, and that the leister is only about 10 or 12 feet long, consequently better calculated for throwing to any distance.



sent, and that their numbers have been gradually decreasing. The number of poor now on the roll, does not exceed 10 or 12; for whose relief the weekly collections amounting to L.9,—the rent of a small farm purchased with a mortification, L.12,—and the interest of some late mortifications (L.150, at 4 per cent.) L. 6,—total L. 27 a year, are quite sufficient. Not a single pauper, in this parish, has left his house to beg, these 30 years; but vagrants and beggars from other parishes are often met with.

*School.*—There is a parochial school, at which the number of scholars, has, for many years past, been, at an average, 50 at least, the salary is L. 15, with a comfortable dwelling-house; the wages and perquisites may amount to from L. 15 or L. 21 more. Besides this, there are two little schools with trifling salaries, one at each extremity of the parish.

*Population.*—The population, on the whole, is rather on the increase. From 1730, to 1760, the yearly average of baptisms, entered in the register, is 15; from 1760, to 1770, 16; and, from 1770, to 1790, 18.

Though this and other circumstances, *in particular, the great difference between the births and deaths*, the one being in proportion to the other as 25 to 11), fully prove an increased population; yet old people, when conversed with upon the subject, uniformly maintain a contrary idea, grounding their opinion, on the union of many small farms into one, on the vestiges of ploughed land, at present neglected, and the remnants of houses and cottages, now in ruins. To these observations, however, the answer is easy. The servants, labourers, and cottagers required on a large farm, will equal the population on several small ones. Much more barren land has been made arable.

arable, than of land formerly arable, now neglected; and though some houses are in ruins, yet many more have been built new from the foundation. In regard to the present state of the population of this district, or its amount at former periods, the following table contains all the information upon the subject that could possibly be collected.

*Statistical Table of Newabbey, An. 1791.*

|  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| Population in 1755, according to Dr. Webster         | - | 634           |
| ———— in 1769   | - | 596           |
| ———— in 1790   | - | 649           |
| Males  | - | 318           |
| Females  | - | 331           |
| In the village of Newabbey                           | - | 210           |
| — the country  | - | 439           |
| Below 10 years of age                                | - | 152           |
| From 10 to 20  | - | 142           |
| ———— 20 to 50  | - | 227           |
| ———— 50 to 70  | - | 110           |
| Above 70   | - | 18            |
| Yearly average of marriages for the last 10 years    |   | 5             |
| ———— of births registered                            | - | 18            |
| ———— of births supposed to be omitted in register    |   | 7             |
| ———— of deaths                                       | - | 11            |
| Bachelors above 20, including servants               | - | 66            |
| Married men, farmers, and farm-servants              | - | 90            |
| Widowers   | - | 2             |
| Average number of children produced by each marriage |   | 5             |
| Inhabited houses and cottages                        | - | 120           |
| Sceders and M <sup>c</sup> Millanites                | - | 16 to 20      |
|  |   | <b>Relief</b> |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Relief congregation                                      | 10 or 12 |
| Roman Catholics, (families 6,) individuals               | 27       |
| Farmers  | 54       |
| Sub tenants  | 5        |
| Heads of families, among the farmers and sub-tenants     | 89       |
| Their children   | 113      |
| Their servants, male and female                          | 91       |
| Male-servants in families (of all ranks and employments) | 40       |
| Female, ditto  | 63       |
| Benefit-men  | 3        |
| Day-labourers, men                                       | 10       |
| ————— women  | 12       |
| Weavers  | 7        |
| Smiths   | 1        |
| Shop-keepers   | 4        |
| Shoe-makers  | 3        |
| Tanners  | 1        |
| Coopers  | 1        |
| Joiners  | 6        |
| Masons   | 8        |
| Tailors  | 4        |
| Cloggers   | 1        |
| Bakers   | 1        |
| Tinkers  | 1        |
| Ale-house-keepers  | 2        |
| Dry-stone-dykers   | 7        |
| Journey-men and apprentices to the different trades      | 15       |
| Irishmen   | 3 or 4   |
| Irishwomen   | 2        |

There has been little or no emigration from the parish, within the last 20 years, excepting a very few ill-advised people, both married and single, who went to St. John's, in North

North America, and, in the issue, had abundant reason to repent leaving their native country.

*Number of Cattle, &c.*—The upper or hilly division of the parish is applied chiefly to pasture for sheep and black cattle; of the former there may be about 3500, and of the latter 1000. These are of the true Galloway breed, were formerly of a small size, but are much improved of late years, by paying greater attention to the size and shape both of the bulls and cows. The sheep are of the short small kind, but improving in size. Their wool is not fine, nor are their fleeces large; they are salved or smeared with tar and butter; 8 fleeces, at an average, go to the stone of 24 lbs. avoirdupois, which has sold, for 10 years past, from 4s. 6d. to 6s. The price of wool has been rising for the 3 last years. The mutton, when fat, and kept to four years old, is exceedingly nice, of a rich red juice, and fine flavour, and may then weigh 10 or 11 lb. per quarter, and will yield from 4 to 6 lb. of 24 oz. of tallow. But the hills of this parish produce very little good, fat, and old mutton, since the farmer has found it more to his advantage to feed his sheep better, and to sell them young. The number of work-horses is about 130, and of young horses 30. They are greatly improved of late, by paying attention to their breed, and are very hardy, and fit for labour.

*Minerals and Fuel.*—Criffell affords plenty of granite; exceedingly fit for building, both in point of strength and beauty. There are some appearances of coal in the lower end of the parish; and a slight trial to find it was made a few years ago, but without success.—The fuel made use of is in general peat; but moss is not plenty, and mostly the property of one heritor; whose tenants alone have the liberty of making peats. All others who can procure that privilege, must pay

for it. The leading costs the poor people dear; no less in return than a day's reaping in harvest, equal to 8d. for each cartfull. Ten of these cartfulls suffice for a labourer's family, and that quantity may be cast by one man in one day. Dry broom, furze, and branches of decayed fir-trees, aid the scanty quantity of peats to many, and wholly supply their place to some. A few families use a little coal, which is imported from England, at the price of about 4½d. per Winchester bushel, or 1d. per stone avoirdupois. There is lime-stone in the parish, though in no great quantity; and, from the scarcity of fuel, no attempt has been made to burn it.

*Antiquities.*—The principal monument of antiquity in the parish, is a famous Cistercian abbey, founded by Devorgilla, daughter of Allan, Lord of Galloway, wife to John Baliol, Lord of Castle-Bernard, and mother of John Baliol, King of Scotland. It was first called the Abbey of Sweet-heart, from the circumstance of her husband's heart being embalmed, and inclosed in a box of ivory bound with silver, which was built into the walls of the church: but that name was afterwards changed into that of Newabbey. This structure stands in the middle of a fine level field of about twenty acres, called the precinct, inclosed by a stone wall 8 or 10 feet high, built of granite stones of great size, some of them, even near the top of the wall, seem to be no less than a ton in weight. The abbey itself, which was erected towards the end of the twelfth century, is a beautiful and lofty building, of the light Gothic stile of architecture; its church is 194 feet long, 102 feet broad at the cross, and 66 feet at the ends, with a tower upwards of 90 feet high. This place is frequently visited by strangers; and is particularly described by Grose and Cardonnel, in their late publications on the antiquities of Scotland.

In Lochkindar there is an artificial mount of stones, rising 6 or 7 feet above the surface of the water, supposed to have been constructed for the purpose of securing the most valuable effects of the neighbouring families from the depredations of the borderers. The stones stand on a frame of large oaks, which is visible when the weather is clear and calm. Sea-fowl breed here in summer.

*Food of the People, &c.*—The food of the poor, and of the labouring people is very indifferent in quality, though there is no deficiency in the quantity. Potatoes may here be fairly computed to constitute more than half the food of the lower class of inhabitants, for full three quarters of the year. Labourers and tradesmens wives are generally frugal and industrious; their children thrive and grow up apace to be helpful to their parents, and useful to society, and generally get a tolerable education for their station in life.

*Size and Character of the People, &c.*—The inhabitants of Newabbey, are, in general, about the middle stature, of 5 feet 6 or 7 inches, healthy, active, and inured to labour. One young man, who lately removed from the parish, was of the height of 6 feet 7 inches, of a make and strength proportional, and was remarkable for a quiet and peaceable temper. The genius and employment of the inhabitants turn to agriculture, in which they are very industrious and judicious. They are a sober, obliging, honest and intelligent set of people, hospitable to strangers, charitable to the poor, just in their dealings, and obliging to one another. They affect not elegance or expence in their dress or diet, but are cleanly and comfortable in both, and are truly a set of very worthy and respectable people. Very few incline to sea, and fewer still to the army. To the credit of the parish, it may be added, that not a

single individual from it has been confined in jail, either on account of debt, or even the suspicion of any criminal action, for these 20 years past.

*Means by which their Situation might be meliorated.—*

The means of bettering their situation seem to be chiefly these, 1. Taking high duty off English coals; as much time, labour, and expence are consumed in cutting, winning, and carting peat, which operates as a great discouragement to manufactures and agriculture. 2. Purchasing the multures, and relieving the farmer from so very heavy a tax on the produce of his fields. Most of the lands here pay  $\frac{1}{7}$  of all the corn they grind, to the proprietor of the mill, besides the miller's dues of manufacturing, and they also pay  $\frac{1}{7}$  of all grain sold. The particular hardship of this last tax is, that it extends to wheat, though the proprietor never has had a mill fit for grinding it. It is, however, but justice to the present proprietor, to observe, that an offer has lately been made to all the heritors of purchasing their respective multures, at prices which do not seem to be unreasonable.

## NUMBER XIII.

## PARISH OF NIELSTON.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

*By the Rev. MR. JOHN MONTEATH.**Origin of the Name.*

IT is generally supposed that the names of such parishes, at least in this part of the country, as end in the syllables *town* or *ton*, are derived from proper names.—Perhaps some person of distinction, of the name of Niel, had either fixed his residence here, or having fallen in battle near it, had a stone erected on his grave. Either circumstance might occasion the name of Niel's town, or Niel's stone, being given to this district\*. The latter, however, seems to be the prevailing, but uncertain tradition.—There were, it is well known, four

\* Nielston was an antient possession of the Crocs of that ilk, a family of great antiquity in this shire; and this district, with the lands of Crocstoun and Darnly, came afterwards, by marriage, to a younger brother of the illustrious family of Stewart, of whom were descended the Stewarts, promiscuously designed of Crocstoun and Darnly, afterwards earls, and then dukes of Lennox.—  
See Crawford's history of Renfrewshire.



four moor stones of considerable thickness, four feet and a half high, and placed four feet distant from each other, which many have supposed, with great probability, to have been the monument of Niel. These stones were entirely demolished about 30 years ago.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—This parish is situated in the shire of Renfrew, presbytery of Paisley, and provincial synod of Glasgow and Ayr. Its extent is very considerable. There was a map made of it many years ago, which, was lately inquired after, but without success. The form of the parish is irregular, reaching about nine miles in length, from east to west, and may be, on an average, three miles in breadth. Supposing the above extent were perfectly accurate, and allowing 503 Scots acres in an English square mile, it contains, 13,570 acres.—In the lower parts of the parish, which is at the east end, the soil is various, and all kinds of grain common to Scotland are cultivated to advantage. But to the west, the country gradually rises, till it comes to a pretty high elevation. It is mostly of a light mould, and though much of it be tilled, yet it appears better calculated for pasturage.—The Faraneze and Lochlibo-side hills, making one ridge, reaching from north-west to south-west for several miles, are covered with green, and contain a number of arable farms; and, as the farm-houses appear in a line along the steep ascent \*, they afford a beautiful prospect to the

\* The declivity in some of these farms is so considerable, that it has been a question, whether they ought to be plowed. In some parts they get only one furrow taken, and slide back the plow to the part where they began, before they can take another. The soil also must be washed down the hill.

the traveller. On the farther parts of the lands of Lochlibo, the soil is more barren, the surface covered with bent and heath, and partly with deep moss; which may, one day, be of great importance to the country, by furnishing peats for fuel, when all the coal mines in the neighbourhood are exhausted. Along this tract of country, the traveller is delighted with a very pleasant and picturesque landscape. On nearly the same spot, may be seen towards the south and west, the beautiful and fertile plain of Ayrshire, washed by the firth of Clyde; Ilsa, a stupendous rock, standing alone, buffeted by the waves; Arran, with a number of other islands interspersed, in a channel covered with ships; Carrick hills, and some mountains in Galloway towards the south-east, and the boundless expanse of waters which joins the Atlantic ocean, towards the south. Towards the north and east, many of the most pleasant, and romantic scenes in Scotland, present themselves to the view; Lochlomond with several of her islands; Benlomond with his shoulders covered with snow, and his head enveloped with clouds; the plains of Renfrew and Lanerk; the city of Glasgow, with her numerous and lofty spires; and the prospect towards the east, terminated by the mountains beyond the Forth. Several plantations of firs, larix, beeches, and other forest trees, have lately been made in the neighbourhood, which will greatly add to the beauty of the scene.——The craig of Nielston, in the south part of the parish is the highest in the district, and the only high hill which stands by itself, not forming a ridge or tract of the country. It is vulgarly called the Pad, from having in its appearance the form of a pilion. It is 820 feet above the flood mark, and yet is all green, and arable to the very top, though now only used for pasture.

*Climate, &c.*——From the description already given of the  
extent

extent and surface of this parish, it is evident that the climate must vary in different parts. It is often milder at the east end than in the centre, and milder there, than on the higher grounds towards the south and west; hence the farmers can often plow on the one, when they cannot, on account of the frost, on the other. During winter, the fields towards the east are often black, when those to the south and west are covered with snow.

The original inhabitants, it is certain, were a healthy, robust, and industrious people, employed principally in agriculture. Many of them rather above the common size.——It was asserted by a late military gentleman of this neighbourhood \*, who was well informed, accurate in his observations, and who had opportunity, during many years of his life, whilst in his Majesty's service, to see the subjects of most of the different powers, and some of the finest troops in Europe, that John Stewart of Moyne, the proprietor of a small estate in the hilly part of the parish, above the Craig of Nielston, was for stature, strength, exact proportion, and good looks, the completest figure of a man, he had ever seen †. What effects the luxury of modern times, and the sedentary employment which are now so prevalent, have had, and will have upon the strength and appearance of the people, may easily be conjectured.

*Rivers and Lochs.*——There is scarce a stream in this parish that deserves the name of a river, though there are many rivulets, called, in the provincial dialect of the country, burns. One

\* Captain Alexander Mure, of the family of Caldwell.

† Mr. Stewart died some years ago, and his property was purchased by the late Alexander Speirs of Elderlie.

One of these, and the principal of them, is called Lavern-water, rising in the high grounds in the south part of Nielston, and running north-east through the district. Its stream is naturally small; but within these few years, some companies concerned in the cotton-mill, the Faranze priest-field, and several bleachfields situated along its banks, not without some difficulty in settling with a number of heritors, in this and the neighbouring parish of Mearns, obtained a lease, with liberty to get the source of this water dammed up, with a breast-work of about 16 feet high. The Springs above this being numerous, and the land level, a tract of country, of about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, called the *Long-Loch*, is overflowed, so that, during the greatest drought in summer, by drawing the sluice three inches, there is a plentiful supply of water to drive all the machinery in the public works erected, and still erecting on this stream. This basin, extending along part of the march between Nielston and Mearns, was formerly a loch; though, it is believed, not so extensive as at present, and had been drained many years ago by the surrounding proprietors, by which they obtained a considerable tract of coarse hay and pasturage. Some trout from Lavern have lately been put into it, where, it is expected, they will thrive exceedingly. When the present lease expires, the above companies must make a new agreement with the proprietors \*, who, no doubt, are by this time, fully apprised of its increased value.

There is another loch in the west end of the parish, called  
 VoL. II. T Lochlibo,

\* It is said, that at the last settlement, Archibald Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie, who is a very considerable, if not the greatest proprietor of the adjacent lands, was very disinterested, wishing to encourage manufactures.

Lochlibo, covering 16 acres of land, abounding with pike and perch, surrounded with extensive thriving plantations of pines, and almost every kind of forest trees; the property of William Mure, Esq. of Caldwell, whose mansion-house and pleasure grounds in the parish of Beith, are in the neighbourhood. From Lochlibo, issues, with an almost imperceptible motion, the water of Lugton, meandering through a large meadow of near 100 acres, and running westward through Ayr-shire. At its source, it is a small rivulet, but before it reaches the plantations and pleasure-grounds of Eglinton, it increases into a considerable and rapid current. It is said, that, at a considerable expence, the waters of this loch might be brought eastward through Nielston to join the Lavern, about two miles distance. — There are several other rivulets in this parish, which, from the vicinitude to the large manufacturing towns of Glasgow and Paisley, (the former being only nine miles distant), have become of great value to the proprietors; all of them having their banks occupied with extensive bleachfields, which, in consequence of the excellent springs in their neighbourhood, (the purity of whose water is very great,) and the plenty of coals in this, and the adjoining parish of Paisley, carry on a most extensive business in bleaching, but chiefly of light goods, as muslins, cambricks, lawns, &c.

*Woods and Plantations.* — There are no natural woods of consequence in this, nor in the three adjacent parishes on the south and west, a want severely felt by the inhabitants. There are, however, besides the plantations round Lochlibo, just now mentioned, and some on the heights of Lochlibo-side\*, a considerable

\* The property of Robert Fulton, Esq. of Heartfield.

considerable number of thriving plantations in this district, which may, in time, so far supply the above want. The most thriving appear to be those on the sides of Faranzeze \*; which may convince the neighbouring proprietors, whose lands are lower and better sheltered, what may be done on their estates †.

*Coals, and Lime-stone.*—Coals have formerly been wrought along the banks of the Lavern, about the middle of this parish. There is just now a coal pit working at the west end of Lochlibo, with a steam engine upon it, the property of William Mure, Esq. rented at L. 60 *per annum*. There are coals also at the east end of the parish, on the lands of Mr Cuthbertson of Lyon-Cross; but, as the roads leading there are not made, and the ground is by nature a deep clay, he has only dug them for his own consumption. Lime-stone is found in plenty in many parts of the parish; free-stone both at the east and west ends, used for building houses. Moor-stone also abounds, but there are no good quarries of it, the stones being so hard, that it is difficult to work them, or so brittle in their texture, that they moulder down with the weather. Hence, building in the centre of the parish is very expensive ‡.

*Quadrupeds, Birds, and Plants.*—These are such as are  
T 2
common

\* The property of A. Graham, Esq.

† If a thriving larix be worth a guinea in the course of 20 years, it is worth a landholder's pains to calculate what an acre would produce!

‡ There is plenty of free-stone very near the village of Nielston; but, being at the bottom of deep banks on the Lavern, it cannot be drawn up but at an enormous expence.

common in the west of Scotland. The migratory birds which appear in the spring, are in the following order of time; the lapwing, or green plover, the curlew, the stone-checker, vulgarly so called, and lastly, the cuckow and swallow. In the end of autumn the wood-cock and fieldfare appear. In some statistical accounts already published, the wood-lark is mentioned as migratory; but it is certain, that this delightful bird, which has been justly called the nightingale of Scotland, may be seen every month in the year in some of the woods in this country, and her plaintive notes heard during the greater part of the season.—The plants are also such as are common to the west part of the island. The mercurialis, anemone, primula, and hyacinthus, are the first that appear on the banks and in the glens.

*Antiquities, Fossils, &c.*—The principal remnant of antiquity in the parish, is a Danish stone with curious carved works upon it, which, it is said, once stood on the lands of Hawkhead, but is now a humble bridge stone over a small rivulet betwixt these lands and Arthurlie. There are two tumuli, vulgarly called, cairns, on the top of the Faranæe hills, one of them in particular is of considerable bulk, and there is the foundation of a large dyke, or wall around it, still discernable. A great quantity of stones have been led away from it, but nothing except a few small bones, whether human or not was uncertain, have yet been discovered. Tradition reports that a battle was fought there. Several urns with bones in them, surrounded with square free-stones, have been found in different parts of the parish: also some petrified shells, and stones with impressions of trees on them.—There are also two places, where, it is said, chapels stood before the Reformation, one a mile above, and the other a mile below the church; but no vestige of their walls now appear. The former

mer has a remarkably fine spring, issuing from a rock, near to the place where the chapel is supposed to have been situated.

*Population.*—There are difficulties in ascertaining the number of people in this parish, not known in parishes more remote, and less populous or commercial. When it is considered, that there are two cotton mills erected, and two more erecting, one large printfield, and twelve bleachfields, the mode of precisely ascertaining the number of inhabitants for any given time beyond a few months, is but uncertain. At these fields, for example, there are a number of women not having families, nor residing in families, but in women-houses, so called, erected on purpose near almost every field, where they lodge only during the working season, repairing to the neighbouring towns during the winter months, and perhaps not returning again to the same fields. This migratory class, in number about 93, lodge at present in seven women-houses, and are not included in the following list. If it be thought proper to add them, it is easily done, and the consequences are obvious. They will add their amount to the number of souls in general, and to the article of females in particular, and overbalance the males, which would not otherwise be the case: they will also add their number to the article of those above 15 years of age; and to that of servants; with this discrimination, that they are only employed in bleaching and drying goods.

The following list was taken up within these few months, and is composed of those who have residence by property, by leases, or by serving from term to term in families, including the renters of houses, as being a kind of lease-holders.

In



In January 1791, there were in the parish of Nielston  
 480 families, containing  
 1187 males  
 1143 females } In all 2330 souls  
 908 below 15 years of age  
 1372 from 15—70 years  
 50 above 70. Some of these above 90 years  
 144 servants employed in husbandry, household-work,  
 &c.  
 69 Seceders \*  
 1 Episcopal  
 1 Roman Catholic, a woman, wedded by one of our  
 young men when in Ireland.

It appears from the roll of the poll-tax taken up by authority, some copies of which are still preserved in this shire, that in the year 1695, there were 263 families, so that there is now an increase of 217 families; and in the return made to Dr. Webster, about 40 years ago, the number of souls in Nielston, was 1274, so that now there is an increase of 1056 souls. Of the above 2330 souls, 439 live in the village of Barhead, and its neighbourhood, at the east end of the parish; 472 live in the village of Nielston; and 141 live at Uplamoor, a village in the west end of the parish.

*Abstract*

\* Of these 69 Seceders, a great number are infants, or children. And as Secession has not been very fashionable of late, except in cases of violent settlements, or where the parishioners have not room in the parish church, it is uncertain what mode of worship many of these young people may yet adopt.

*Abstract of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials.*

| Years.              | Marriages.      | Baptisms.       | Burials.        |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1779                | 17              | 58              | —               |
| 1781                | 28              | 72              | —               |
| 1783                | 19              | 69              | 40              |
| 1785                | 19              | 96              | 47              |
| 1788                | 15              | 91              | 40              |
| 1790                | 20              | 90              | 26              |
|                     | <hr/> 118 <hr/> | <hr/> 476 <hr/> | <hr/> 153 <hr/> |
| Yearly aver. nearly | 19              | 79              | 38              |

Previous to the year 1783, there is a great chasm in the registration of burials, and it is to be observed, that many bury out of the bounds of the parish, and the poor, who are exempted from the tax, are not registered.

*Number of Proprietors, Tenants, &c.*—There are twenty heritors; but none of the greater proprietors reside in the parish. There is but one resident justice of the peace\*; a circumstance to be regretted in so extensive a district, abounding in public works, and daily increasing in population. There are no attorneys; but that want is abundantly compensated by the vicinity of Paisley and Glasgow. There are frequently two surgeons in the bounds.

The number of farmers at present is about 114. Many of them keep but one horse, a number of their farms being small, but in

\* Gavin Ralston, Esq. of Ralston.

in general, they keep two, or more horses, and from 8 to 12, and some of them 20 black cattle. There are only four or five of them that have a flock of sheep, if a hundred sheep, the greatest number any of them keep, is entitled to that appellation. Could the farmers in the higher grounds of this district maintain their cattle during the winter and spring months, without the aid of oat-straw, it would be their interest to cultivate only grass crops, potatoes, and turnip, with some flax for their respective families; but though they have many natural meadows in their possession, yet the grass obtained from them is coarse, and the quantity too small for that purpose. They make up much of their rents by rearing young cattle, and selling milk, which they drive in barrels on carts to Paisley. And as this parish marches for a considerable tract of country with Dunlop, so famous for making cheese, the soil, and quality of the grass, cannot be greatly different. They sow from the middle of March to the end of April, and seldom reap sooner than the end of September, with the exception of a few farms that may be more early. Considerable part of the crop has, of late years, been often in the fields at the end of October, in stooks and huts.

*Rent of the Parish.*——The valued rent of the parish is L. 4823 : 6 : 8 Scots. The real rent is supposed to be about L. 4210 Sterling. But from this sum considerable deductions must be made for what is commonly called public burdens, as cess, stipend, road-money, school-master's salary, &c.

Some farms let from 15 to 25s; and land in the immediate neighbourhood of the villages at L. 2, nay, some above that sum; not that the land is worth that price, but people will do much, sometimes, for convenience, at other times from necessity. Houses in the village of Nielston let at L. 1 : 10 .. 10

L. 2

L. 2 *per annum*. The building of a cotton-mill near the village, has, in some degree, raised their value.]

*Extraordinary rise of Rent.*—The farm of Dubbs, the property of the Dowager Countess of Glasgow, was let to the present tenant's father, as late as the year 1765, for L. 3 sterling, in money, and 5 bolls of meal and oats. It was afterwards raised to L. 21 : 10, and 4 bolls of meal, and it now pays about L. 50 sterling. The small Barony of Auchinback, consisting of about 460 acres, let, at the beginning of this century, for about L. 100, converting grain at 15s. per boll, and is now raised to about L. 321.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—A common labourer, called a darkman, with his spade, will earn 1s 6d. sterling, per day;—very ordinary workmen, 1s 2d.—Farmers men-servants get L. 10 sterling, *per annum*, if able bodied and active; women-servants L. 3 : 10 *per annum*, besides being victualled and lodged. The prices of those employed in the different departments at the public works vary. All of them are high. Engravers, &c. at printfields, 19s sterling, per week.—If the prices of provisions differ here from those in the markets of Glasgow and Paisley, it is in their being higher; for the seller, when once on the road, if he thinks he can get a farthing more for his articles, at these towns, than in the country, will scarcely be prevailed upon to stop, although he should find himself mistaken, when he makes a trial at the end of his journey.

*Manufactures*—There are two cotton mills already erected in the parish, one called Dove-cot-hall, which is 76 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 3 stories high;—the other, named Gateside, is 100 feet long, 31 wide, and 2 stories high; but it is pro-

posed to turn the whole of the latter into lodgings for the work people, and to erect a new mill on a much larger scale.—— The number of workmen employed in both mills, is, as follows :

|                  |   |     |
|------------------|---|-----|
| Males above 15   | - | 29  |
| Females above 15 | - | 100 |
| Males under 15   | - | 94  |
| Females under 15 | - | 78  |
|                  |   | 301 |

Average of wages paid to the above work-people per month, L. 217, or, at the rate of L. 2821 *per annum*.

The Faranzeze printfield pays L. 3,000 sterling, *per annum*, of excise-duty. And their extra expence may amount to L. 2,000 yearly. The profit and loss of the company are known only to themselves.

The cotton mill of Stewart, Orr, and company, now erecting, is 127 feet long, 34 wide, and to be 5 stories high; and will probably add 500 people to this parish. They will labour, however, under the disadvantage of not having a village in which to lodge their work-people, and must necessarily be put to great additional expence in buildings.

The cotton-mill of Cochran and Airston, erecting farthest up the Lavern, as it is near the village of Nielston, will have the advantage of the work-people residing there. This mill is 98 feet long, 34 wide, and is to be raised 5 stories. The place where the level is begun, for bringing the water, is, near the junction of the Lavern and of Coudon-Burn, about a quarter of a mile above the village, and about 266 feet above the level of the tide at Paisley. There are great speculations in the cotton business at present; and yet some, who pretend to see as far as their

their neighbours, have averred, that the silk gauze trade, which has been on the decline for some years past, is reviving, and will soon rival and surpass the cotton; and, that the latter, may, in seven years time, be so low, that some people engaged in it may find the profits little enough to keep, and to pay the children, at the points of the spindles. Whilst others contend, that the cotton trade is as yet only in its infancy.

There are 85 looms in the Barhead and houses adjacent, 48 looms in the village of Nielston, 9 in Uplamour-village, and there may be about 10 more in different parts of the parish; in all 152 looms, mostly employed in working muslin, and silk-gauze. A few in what is called country work, (linen, &c.) for private families.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There is only one minister at present in this extensive and populous district.—Archibald Speirs, Esq. of Elderslie is patron. On the last vacancy he very generously gave the free choice of a minister to the parishioners.—The stipend consists of seven chaldrons of meal, and L.33 : 10 sterling of money; a manse built in 1766; a glebe which is not legal, as to the arable land, and has no pasture\*.

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*The*

\* The glebe has this farther disadvantage, that there are four feus upon it, a circumstance which appears directly opposite to the design of the legislature in giving glebes to ministers in landward parishes, which was to keep a horse for riding, when doing parish-duty, and to do any necessary work for themselves, with grass for two cows also, for the benefit of their families. This practice of feuing glebes appears also expressly contrary to the statute laws of Scotland. It is submitted, therefore, to heritors and presbyteries, whether, by permitting feus on glebes in large landward parishes, they do not thereby cut off the incumbents from  
keeping

*The church* was built in 1762; and it is believed will hold about 1000 people. It is ornamented with a neat spire and a clock.—About two years ago, a number of heads of families who had little, and some of them no room in the church, offered the heritors the sum of L. 80, for adding to, or enlarging an aisle in it, upon the single condition that the seats of this addition should be annually let, by public roup, to parishioners only, and the money arising from them given to the poor. But the heritors did not chuse to accept of this offer. Had this plan taken place, it is the opinion of many, that it would not only have been a considerable accommodation to the parishioners, but would have made such an addition to the poors funds, as would have prevented the necessity of an assessment for maintaining the poor for many years, which otherwise may become indispensable.

*The school-house* was built large, and commodious, last year, with a dwelling-house in the upper story for the teacher. The heritors also gave an area before the school-house, for the benefit of the children, and a garden to the school-master behind. The salary is L. 8 : 6 : 8. He may have between 60 and 70 scholars;—wages per quarter for Latin 3s, arithmetic 2s 6d. writing 2s, English 1s 6d.—also 3d. in the winter,  
and

keeping a horse, and consequently deprive them of the means of visiting their parishioners, and even the sick, so frequently and regularly as otherwise they would have done, and would all, it is hoped, wish to do, when called to that important duty, at least, as much as their time, strength, and personal safety will permit. To remedy this inconvenience, by the minister's taking a farm, is a plan, in the present state of this country, inexpedient, and almost impracticable. To seek redress by a process of reduction, is attended with certain expence, and often with much odium.

and 1½d during the summer quarter, from each scholar for fire money. In most parishes, 6 hours attendance from the scholars, during the longer days, and five during the shorter days of the year, are required. By keeping evening schools for arithmetic, church-music, &c. every school-master, especially in large landward parishes, may greatly increase his emoluments.

*Session Clerk/bip.*—This office has L. 1 sterling salary paid out of the public money, 1s 6d for registration of marriages, 6d. for baptisms, 3d. on a certificate of moral character to a single person, though, it is believed, a certificate for a whole family has been charged 6d. There is also some small *percentage*, for collecting the king's duty of 3d. on marriages, baptisms, and burials; but this, instead of being an advantage to the office, has, in most parishes, it is believed, proved a troublesome and vexatious employment, and very disagreeable to the people at large. The regulations in the act are not calculated to extend to Scotland. In some parts it is difficult to understand its import. It is clogged with a qualification on the part of the collector, the expence of which, in many parishes, may require more than all the profits he can make. Many people are deterred by the expence, trifling as it is, from registering; and the duty can scarcely bring in L. 1 sterling from each of the 950 parishes in North Britain, a sum altogether inconsiderable; and, when the expence of collecting is deducted, it must be very contemptible indeed. This is a subject not unworthy the attention of persons in power, by whom alone the inconveniencies attending this act can be remedied.—In many parishes the church-session bestows the clerkship on the parish school-master, some *in vitam aut culpam*; others, for reasons that have been found very expedient, confer this office only for a limited time, or, during the pleasure of the court.

This



This last mode will probably become the general practice in Scotland. In this very parish, the office of school-master, during the former master's time, was held only during the pleasure of the majority of the heritors.

*Private Schools.*—There are generally two private schools, one in the east end, and the other in the west end of the parish; where the school-masters depend entirely on the number and wages of their scholars, which are always in proportion to their diligence and success in teaching.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are not less than *nineteen* inns, or ale-houses in this parish, and no fewer than eight of these in the village of Nielston. Houses of that description can be of no benefit to the public, but in two respects, 1st, to accommodate public meetings, or private companies on necessary business; or 2dly, to entertain travellers by day, and to lodge them and their horses, when overtaken by night. This last, and not the least useful public benefit resulting from inns, perhaps not four of the nineteen are equal to. A question then arises, are the whole of the remaining fifteen necessary, or what proportion of them is requisite for the public good? The reader must have already anticipated the answer that should be given.

*State of the Poor.*—During the last quarter of the year 1786, the number of persons on the poors roll, amounted to 30, and, in the same quarter of the year 1790, to 34. Some of these are children; some aged; one of them fatuous. They are supported by the collections at the church door, which, at an average, seldom exceed 20s weekly; and the interest of a small capital, amounting to about L. 140 sterling, which is the whole fund belonging to the parish; together with 1s 6d. paid  
on

on proclamations for marriages, and a similar sum for mort-cloths at funerals.

*Amount of Collections and Disbursements in the Years 1786, and 1790.*

In 1786.

|                             |   |   |   |       |    |    |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Collections                 | - | - | - | L. 52 | 12 | 9½ |
| Proclamations               | - | - | - | 1     | 14 | 0  |
| Mort-cloths, and bell-money | - | - | - | 5     | 1  | 0  |
| Interest of money           | - | - | - | 7     | 19 | 6  |
|                             |   |   |   | <hr/> |    |    |
|                             |   |   |   | L. 67 | 7  | 3½ |
|                             |   |   |   | <hr/> |    |    |

|                           |   |   |   |       |   |    |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|-------|---|----|
| Disbursements to the poor | - | - | - | L. 64 | 9 | 6. |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|-------|---|----|

In 1790.

|  |   |   |   |       |    |    |
|--|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Collections  | - | - | - | L. 53 | 10 | 5½ |
| Proclamations, some offerings to the poor included * | - | - | - | 2     | 3  | 0  |
| Mort-cloths and bell-money                           | - | - | - | 3     | 0  | 0  |
| Interest, and part of the principal uplifted         | - | - | - | 5     | 11 | 9  |
|  |   |   |   | <hr/> |    |    |
|  |   |   |   | L. 64 | 5  | 2½ |
|  |   |   |   | <hr/> |    |    |

|                           |   |   |   |       |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|
| Distributions to the poor | - | - | - | L. 73 | 1 | 4 |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|

|                      |   |   |   |      |    |    |
|----------------------|---|---|---|------|----|----|
| Deficiency this year | - | - | - | L. 8 | 16 | 1½ |
|----------------------|---|---|---|------|----|----|

In this year, there was a donation, from one of the non-residing heritors, of two guineas.

The

\* Offerings from about 5 to 10s. sterling are given by delinquents to the poor, and are accepted of as evidencies of their contrition,

The heritors are called once every year to audit, and pass the Session's accounts, and examine the securities for the money lent. At these meetings it has been recommended to them, especially to the non-residing heritors, to prevent farther encroachments upon the capital of the parish funds, by their making up any annual deficiency, (which hitherto has been but trifling,) according to their respective valuations; or, by sending a voluntary donation yearly to the poor, in some kind of proportion to their respective properties; and, to continue this mode, without assessing the people, while they continue to give liberally. Assessments indeed, never fail to counteract charity; and were the people to be once assessed, they would probably withhold their collections altogether. It does not appear, however, with the exception of about two heritors, that this representation has hitherto produced any effect. In this parish, the non-residing heritors, probably hold three fourths of the surface, and may, perhaps draw, the same proportion, of the whole rent. It is said, that in some parts of Scotland, there are instances of non-residing heritors receiving almost the whole rents of several parishes, and yet, in some of them, that they have never contributed a farthing to the support of the poor. Equity, justice, humanity, common sense itself, lift up their united voice, against so disgraceful a circumstance, if true; nor is it any wonder, that in such districts, the discerning part of the inhabitants look forward with pleasure to a coming day, when this "with-holding more than is meet," nay, with-holding every thing, may be counteracted, and when those in the middle and inferior ranks of life, shall no longer have the sole burden imposed upon them.

At

contrition, before they are absolved from the scandal of any censurable offence.

At present, it may be observed, that the burden of maintaining 34 poor people falls upon the residing inhabitants in this parish; and, that the collecting, taking care of, and distributing among them the scanty pittance they receive, lies, (with the inspection, and concurrence of the minister) upon six elders; a class of men, who, in the different parishes of Scotland, have, for these two centuries past, saved the landed interest a sum, which may, perhaps, seem small, if compared with what has been expended, in maintaining an equal number of poor in a neighbouring kingdom, but which would have been considerably felt, had it been exacted; and, if a trifling salary of L. 1 or L. 2 sterling to a treasurer, which is only the case in some parishes, be excepted, the whole is managed without a farthing of expence; an instance of frugality in an extensive and public management, it is presumed, not paralleled in Europe, and exhibiting at once, in these days of venality, a striking and singular example of public spirit, and Christian charity. But this useful body of men appear to be on the decline, as to number, at least in the west of Scotland. Few people chuse to accept an office, which not only has not the smallest emolument annexed to it, but, as far as connected with the management of the poor, is a thankless and troublesome business. The respective sessions (vestries), in this part of Scotland, are also in general very ill accommodated, and destitute even of common convenience for managing the public business; few country parishes have a session-house; and the elder, when collecting the offering, in many places, has not so much as a shade, to screen him from the severest tempest. Their attachment also to the Established Church has, in many places, been greatly weakened by causes well known, and now long experienced in the western districts, where with a spirit of commerce, a high sense both of civil and religious liberty now prevails. What the result of this may be, time will dis-

cover; but one consequence is evident, that the care of the poor can hardly continue long on its present footing, and must of course devolve on the heritors, and parishioners at large.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The general lightness of the soil, and the elevation of great part of the district, are not favourable to agriculture; but, from the vicinity to large towns, there is a ready market for the productions of the farm, and often at very high prices. Oatmeal, however, is to be excepted, which, on an average, has not been sold above 1s. per peck these twenty years past \*. In regard to manufactures there are many advantages, in particular, the great command of water, and the abundance of fuel. With these natural advantages, provided sobriety and industry can also be maintained, the greatest ends may be accomplished; and they will probably be the means of raising the shire of Renfrew in general, and this district of it in particular, to a degree of commercial consequence and wealth, which some years ago could not have been expected.

*Considerable disadvantages*, however, are likely to follow the rapid increase of manufactures, which are already beginning to out-rival agriculture, the basis and support of all other arts.—Farmers now complain that their servants desert them, and engage in manufactures, where they receive higher wages, and have less laborious employment. But it is not an extraordinary rise of wages, that will secure either industry, or  
economy;

\* This, if in favour of the manufacturer, is against the farmer, who alleges, that, as all wages have doubled within these 20 years, that all should pay a reasonable and proportionable rise on this, as well as on other commodities, and on labour itself.

economy; in most cases it produces the contrary effect. It is well known in many of the manufacturing districts, that when wages are high, many of the operative tradesmen are idle, at least three days in the week. It is also notorious, that many of them, who earn, by constant industry, about 7s. per week, often bring up creditable families, without contracting debt, giving their children wholesome food, decent clothes, and ordinary school education; while others, who gain almost thrice that sum, have scarcely common credit. The reasons are obvious; when the wholesome viands of our own country are despised, and even the first meal of the day cannot be taken, but of commodities brought from two of the most distant parts of the globe, and every subsequent repast is proportionally expensive, large debts, and an incapacity to pay them, are the necessary consequences. How soon such luxurious habits may operate to the destruction of commerce itself, cannot be determined: But surely a German, or Russian manufacturer, who can content himself with simple fare, may bring his goods to the different market towns of Europe, and transport them even beyond the Atlantic, at a much cheaper rate, than where such modes of living are practised. The observation also of a late judicious philosopher \* is daily verified, that, in every country through which he had travelled, where manufactures flourished, he observed that beggars abounded; and should poors rates, from this cause, become necessary, and universal in this country, this will be a very evident disadvantage. It is also apprehended, that the rapid increase of manufactures, is neither friendly to the health, nor morals of the people.——In cotton mills a multitude of children are em-

X 2

ployed

\* Doctor Franklin.

ployed, before they receive even common education. They there spend, perhaps, a considerable part of their life, without any other principles for the direction of their conduct, but those which natural conscience dictates. The lower ranks of mankind, however, when collected, and confined together, are too apt to corrupt one other; and, when assembled in such promiscuous crowds, are probably often exposed not to the best example. It is to be feared also, that a total ignorance of Christianity, which, even among the lowest of the people, was less the characteristic of this country, than any of the neighbouring kingdoms, will soon become prevalent; and, if one ignorant race once arise, it is probable that not only the next, but many succeeding ones, of the same description, will follow\*. The children, too, in these works, confined, as it were, to the very point of a spindle, must of course have narrow ideas and contracted minds. The finer parts of the cotton, also, in the progress of the work, flying off continually by friction, fills the atmosphere in which they breathe, with unwholesome particles, and it is probably from this cause, that their appearance in general is so pale and sickly. Nor ought it to be omitted, that the oil on the different parts of the machinery, coming often in contact with their clothes and bodies, occasions an effluviu[m], which, to any person accustomed to the open fields, or to a well-aired apartment, is sensibly felt, even when passing along the road.

In a military view, the loss that the public must sustain, should such receptacles be its principal resource for recruits,  
need

\* It has been recommended to the proprietors of these public works, not to take in children, till they had received some education, and even after receiving them, to have a school-master to teach them some part of the day. The first has been disregarded, the latter only partially observed.

need hardly be dwelt upon; and the whole system is evidently contrary to the axiom, so ably inculcated by a great political author \*, “ that the strength of a country does not so much depend on the comparative number of its inhabitants, as on their being equally spread along its surface, and exercised in healthful industry.”

Notwithstanding these disadvantages, it appears, at present, to be the wish of the landholders, in the western districts of Scotland, to give every possible encouragement to all kinds of manufactures †; nay, such is the rage for them in this parish, that corn mills are despised, or forgotten, even by their proprietors. Two have been allowed to go into total disrepair; one of these has been advertised for a cotton-work; and a third, though in good repair, has been actually superseded, and is now an appendage to a cotton-mill; so that there are at this time, only two corn mills in the whole district, to the no small inconvenience of the farmers.

As matters now stand, every good citizen will have it at heart to prevent, as far as his influence and example will go, the disadvantages that may follow; and above all, the evils that may be dreaded from a relaxation in the morals of the people, which were formerly so pure, and unexceptionable, in this district that not above one or two acts, at the utmost, of unnatural or barbarous violence, are ever remembered to have taken place in the parish of Nielston.

#### NUMBER

\* Rousseau, *Emil*. vol. III.

† Bleachfields have also their disadvantages; the work people upon them are exposed much to wetness, and cold, which in the high parts of the country is often intense, and is apt to lead to the too frequent use of spirituous liquors. Not a few employed at them, come and go without certificates of their moral character.



## NUMBER XIV. .

## PARISH OF RENFREW.

. (COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

*By the Rev. MR. THOMAS BURNS.*

}

*Town of Renfrew.*

**R**ENFREW is one of the royal burghs of Scotland, and head town of the county. It stands 3 miles north of Paisley, and 5 miles West of Glasgow. The high-way from Glasgow to Greenock runs through it. Some think that Renfrew is the *Randuarra* mentioned by Ptolomy. Be that as it may, it is certainly of great antiquity, for mention is made of it in the chartularies of Dumfermline and Paisley. An. 1164, in the Reign of Malcolm IV. a battle was fought near the town, between Sumerled, Thane of Argyle, and Gilchrist, Earl of Angus, in which Sumerled was put to flight. The name of the district is probably derived from the Gaelic. The name by which it is known, in that language, *Rein-froach*, signifies *the heath division*. It is not at all improbable, that, in former times, the country around the burgh, was intitled to that appellation; for many people, still alive, remember when a great part of the ground to the south of the town, was uninclosed, and quite covered with heath.

It was erected into a royalty by King Robert. From that

prince a charter was obtained, confirming all the privileges granted by himself or his predecessors. Other charters were given by James VI. of Scotland, and by Queen Anne. The town formerly sent a representative to the Scots parliament; but, since the Union, it forms only part of a district; and in conjunction with Glasgow, Dumbarton, and Rutherglen, elects a member of the British legislature.

The town is about half a mile in length, but in some places so narrow, that it is with great difficulty two carriages can pass each other.—There are some small streets and lanes in it, besides the principal street.

It is governed by a provost, 2 baillies, and 16 counsellors. The revenue amounts to about L. 360 *per annum*, and consists of rents from lands, fishings, customs, a public ferry boat over the river Clyde, &c. Its right to a salmon fishery on the Clyde extends from Scotstoun to Kelly bridge, and yields an income of L. 75 *per annum*. The ferry was formerly between the King's-Inch and Blawert-hill, but is now removed about a quarter of a mile farther down the river. The place is broader, and much more exposed to the weather, than where it formerly was: But these objections are compensated by other advantages.—There is now a ferry-house on each side of the river, the property of the town, and a most complete ferry-boat, built by subscription, purposely for carriages; in which, by means of a rope, fixed upon each side of the river, and running upon 4 rollers, two at each end of the boat, one placed in a horizontal direction, and the other perpendicular, any carriage, with a pair of horses, can be easily boated, and carried over by one man in five minutes. It is believed, that the revenue of this town, will, in a few years, be considerably increased, by the change in the ferry, and this easy mode of conveyance.

There are a good many salmon at times caught in the river,  
though

though not near so many as formerly. Two causes may be assigned for this: The one is, the deepening of the river, when the fish were disturbed in their course for so many years;— the other is, the the public works which are now carried on in the neighbourhood upon the river.

*Manufactures, &c.*—The commerce of this town is very inconsiderable, though, in regard to local situation, it is not inferior to any place in the neighbourhood. Indeed had it not been for the fatal effects of borough-politics, it might, at this time, have been one of the principal seats of manufactures in the west of Scotland. There is a soap and candle work, carried on here, upon a pretty large scale; which, though lately erected, is of considerable advantage to the place. There is also a small branch of the thread manufacture. Four mills are employed for this purpose; and each machine for twining the thread, is supposed to require, on an average, 36 persons. There is also a small bleachfield at the east end of the town, which employs about 6 men, and 24 women. The wages of the men are from 7s. 6d. to 12s per week; and those of the women from 2s 6d. to 6s. a week. The number of looms in the town, is. from 117 to 120, partly for silk, but principally for muslin, chiefly on account of the manufacturers of Paisley. These are the only branches of trade carried on here, and all of them are of short standing.

*Climate, &c.*—No place, perhaps, in the west of Scotland, is so peculiarly healthy as Renfrew. Epidemical distempers are ever hardly known. Two reasons may be assigned for this. The one is, that the town stands upon a bed of sand, of great depth, so that all the heavy rains, which fall here, are soon absorbed; and consequently, dangerous damps, and unwholesome fogs are hardly ever felt. The other reason is the goodness

ness of the water, which is superior in quality to most places, perhaps, in Scotland. — There are many instances of longevity to be met with. Several persons now living in the parish are above 80, and some above 90. — The small-pox has been very fatal to the young, for these two years past: Yet there still continues a backwardness among the lower class of people, to inoculation, partly owing to the expence attending it, and partly to prejudice. The operation is so simple, that many of late, however, have not only been persuaded of its advantage, but have actually inoculated their own children.

*Schools.*—There is no parochial school in this parish, though there is great need of one. One is kept in the session-house, though another place for it would be more desirable. — The salary of this school-master arises from the suppression of an antient hospital, “the hail rents and pertinents of which are disposed to the burgh, for the support of the grammar school; and the same to be called the grammar school of Renfrew, in all time coming.” The provost, baillies, and council are the patrons.—There is abundance of employment here for two school-masters; and many families in Renfrew feel the want, and earnestly wish a second.—To the credit of the people in general, it may be remarked, that not only tradesmen, but even day-labourers, give their children a good education. Scarce a boy who is not taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, a little church music, &c. And should any of them be neglected in their youth, when they come to the years of discretion, they go to school, at their own expence, in order to acquire these branches. This is an important advantage which the Scots, as a nation, enjoy over the natives of other countries.

*Situation and Extent, &c.*—The parish is situated in the  
 Vol. II. Y presbytery

presbytery of Paisley, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. Its extent varies from 3 to 4 miles in length and breadth, but its figure is very irregular, being frequently intersected by the rivers in the neighbourhood, and by the abbey parish of Paisley. All kinds of soil are to be found in it. Some part of it consists of a light kind of sand; which, without constant attention or manure, would soon return to its natural state. Some is rather inclined to a kind of till. A great part of it is a strong clay, but a still greater part is a deep rich loam. In general, however, the whole of the parish is good ground, capable of yielding excellent crops, of the different sorts of grain, usually cultivated in Scotland. — There is very little moss; and not many acres in planting.

In the course of the last century, the town of Renfrew stood upon the banks of the river Clyde, and vessels of considerable burden were built close to the town. But the river left its usual course, nearly opposite to Scotstoun, took a semi-circular direction, leaving the King's-Inch upon the north side, and running along by the bottom of the garden belonging to the manse, came into its present direction, just about the place where the ferry now is. — There is a pretty large canal made, on the old bed of the river, from the Clyde to the town, where even large vessels can come and unload at spring tides. There is another canal made, to accommodate the people of Paisley. — When the bridge of Inchinnan was built, the navigation to that town was very much obstructed. Vessels were then obliged to pass through the arches, which could not be done without lowering their masts, the channel below the bridge became vastly wider, and of course very shallow. To render the navigation of the river fit for vessels with fixed masts, the town of Paisley obtained liberty, to make a cut about half a mile in length, in which, there is a very complete draw-bridge, in the turnpike road, at the east end of Inchinnan-bridge. — Not

—Not far from this spot, on the north side of the road, the Marquis of Argyle was taken, after he had crossed the river on foot:—a party lay waiting for him the moment he came out of the water; he attempted to fire upon them, but, his pistols being wet, would not discharge, upon which, one of the ruffians came behind him, and cut him on the head with a sword; in the mean time, the Laird of Greenock came up, knew the Marquis, and took him prisoner. He was first carried to Renfrew, and thence to Edinburgh, where he was beheaded, on the 30th June, 1685.

*Population.*—In 1695, it appears from the poll-books, that there were in the country part of the parish 51 families; at present there are 88. At that time, and long after it, a great part of the parish lay unimproved and uninclosed, merely in a state of nature. All these lands are now improved, inclosed, and parcelled out in small farms. In 1755, the return to Dr. Webster, amounted to 1091. In March, 1791, the population of the parish of Renfrew, was as follows:

|  |           |        |          |        |
|--|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Families in the parish                     | -         | -      | -        | 374    |
| Males                                      | -         | -      | -        | 800    |
| Females                                    | -         | -      | -        | 828    |
| Souls                                      | -         | -      | -        | 1628   |
|  | Families. | Males. | Females. | Souls. |
| Upon the north side<br>of Clyde, there are | 68        | 178    | 162      | 340    |
| On the west side of<br>White-Lart          | 25        | 70     | 67       | 143    |
| In the country round<br>the town           | 20        | 66     | 66       | 132    |
| In the town                                | 261       | 480    | 533      | 1013   |
|  | <hr/>     | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>  |
| Total                                      | 374       | 800    | 828      | 1628   |
|  | Y 3       |        |          | Under  |

|  |   |   |       |       |
|--|---|---|-------|-------|
| Under 10 years of age                            | - | - | -     | 387   |
| From 10 to 20                                    | - | - | -     | 286   |
| — 20 to 50                                       | - | - | -     | 716   |
| — 50 to 70                                       | - | - | -     | 162   |
| Above 70*  | - | - | -     | 77    |
|  |   |   |       | <hr/> |
|  |   |   | Total | 1628  |
| Families married in the parish                   | - | - | -     | 268   |
| Children of the marriage                         | - | - | -     | 1401  |
| Farmers in the parish                            | - | - | -     | 49    |
| Servants   | - | - | -     | 171   |
| Seceders   | - | - | -     | 18    |
| Looms  | - | - | -     | 120   |
| Ale-houses                                       | - | - | -     | 19    |
| Ploughs (principally of the Northumberland make) | - | - | -     | 40    |

*Abstract of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials.*

| Years.              | Baptisms. | Marriages. | Burials. |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1784                | - 49      | - 10       | - 9      |
| 1785                | - 55      | - 7        | - 10     |
| 1786                | - 40      | - 10       | - 8      |
| 1787                | - 60      | - 9        | - 12     |
| 1788                | - 57      | - 6        | - 20     |
| 1789                | - 55      | - 6        | - 17     |
| 1790                | - 50      | - 7        | - 37     |
| 1791 (to Sep. 14th) | 58        | 12         | 31       |
|                     | <hr/>     | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |
|                     | 424       | 67         | 144      |
|                     | <hr/>     | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |
| Yearly aver. nearly | 53        | 11         | 18       |
|                     |           |            | The      |

\* Many of whom are above 80, and some above 90.

The number of deaths, in the two last years, was owing to the natural small pox.

*Rent, Proprietors, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3629 Scots, the real rent probably more than L. 3000. Some of the lands in the parish are let at 5s and 7s 6d. an acre; some at 40s; and some of the lands around the town, at L. 4 sterling. There are 10 heritors in the parish, and a great number of portioners, possessing what is called Burgher lands, holding of the town. Three of the greater proprietors, either occasionally, or constantly, reside in the parish. There is neither a surgeon nor a writer residing in it, a circumstance which is not much to be regretted.

*Crops.*—The chief crops are oats, barley, wheat, and potatoes. There is also a considerable quantity of clover and ryegrass sown every year, which, in general, answers extremely well. Potatoes are a great crop, particularly round the town, and there is a good market for them at Paisley. The soil is exceedingly favourable for them, being a deep rich loam, upon a bed of sand: Seventy-two bolls of very fine potatoes, have been produced on an acre.

Though the ground near the town has enjoyed no rest, in the memory of the oldest man living, yet still it bears good crops of every kind. They crop it, as long as the produce is tolerable, then they trench it; and in this way they go on.

Oats are sown in March or April,—barley in April or May,—and wheat generally in October. The glebe last year was sown in November, after fallow, and the wheat on it was as early, and as good as any in the country. In general, the wheat round the town, and indeed in most places of this country is sown  
I after



after potatoes. Such a rotation requires a good foil; potatoes being a much severer crop than most people are aware of. It is a certain fact, that wheat, produced from fallow ground, will always bring a better price, than wheat after potatoes\*.

*Ecclésiastical State.*—The church was built in 1726. It is not very well constructed, nor is it sufficient to contain the inhabitants of the parish.——The king is patron.——The stipend consists of 12 chalders of meal, payed in money by the college of Glasgow, according to the fiars of the Commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie. The glebe is about four acres; and the whole living amounts to about L. 150 *per annum*.

*Poor.*——In consequence of an unfortunate misunderstanding, between the late incumbent and the heritors, the former threw up all connexion with the management of the poor, and the latter chose a treasurer of their own; and in this state matters still

\* There is no part of Scots agriculture more difficult to determine, than what crop should precede wheat. Fallow ought if possible to be avoided, as it is losing a year. Wheat after turnips (unless spring wheat) is liable to the same objection, at least, if the turnips are suffered to come to perfection. The crop of potatoes being ready for gathering, when the wheat ought to be sown, is a strong temptation to make the one follow the other; but potatoes, instead of enriching, rather exhaust the soil, and make the ground too loose and open, which endangers the crop of wheat during the frosts. Oats,—barley,—clover,—wheat, would perhaps be the best rotation where the ground was rich enough for it.

still continue. There, is, however, a good fund; the interest of which, together with the collections at the church doors, should be sufficient, with a little assistance, to supply the poor of the parish. But the opulent, who do not chuse to attend divine service, should send their mite regularly to the poor; otherwise people of inferior rank, may be tempted to imitate their example, not in absenting themselves from the church, but in with-holding their contributions.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is no regular market here, though butcher-meat can be had occasionally.——The average price of oat-meal, for some years past, has been 1 s. per peck;—potatoes 8 d. (double the measure of Edinburgh);—mutton from 5 d. to 8 d. per pound;—beef from 5 d. to 8 d.—and hens 3 s. a pair. Servants and day-labourers wages are very high. There are men now living, who, when young, thought L. 2 : 10 a year, great wages; and now, a hired servant by the year gets L. 10. Women remember, when they thought L. 1 : 10 a year, great wages; and now they are L. 2 a half year. Day-labourers now alive, have wrought for 5 d. and 6 d. a day. Day-labourers are now scarce, and not to be got under 1 s. 6 d. a day; and at this moment, women are receiving 1 s. 4 d. a day, and 1 s. a day, and their victuals.——Thirty or forty years ago, dung was got for 6 d. and 8 d. a cart, and the proprietors courted the farmer to take it away. The farmer, with difficulty, can now procure it at 2 s. 6 d. and makes interest to purchase it at that price.——Horses, that some years ago were thought extravagantly high at L. 18, now bring L. 30 and L. 35.

All the parish is inclosed, and the farmers are abundantly sensible of the benefit of inclosures.——The character of the people, is, on the whole, respectable. Many of them  
are

are extremely industrious, careful, and diligent, in providing for themselves and their families. Drunkenness is much less common than formerly. There are, however, too many public-houses in the town, (no less than 19, where one would imagine, that scarcely 3 could find employment); and these are found to be great promoters of idleness, and great enemies to industry.

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF HAMILTON.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By MR. JOHN NAISMITH, *Author of* "Thoughts on  
"Various Subjects of Industry pursued after in Scot-  
"land."

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*Name, Extent, Situation, and Boundaries.*

THE parish probably derives its present appellation from the noble family of that name, though vague tradition gives it a different origin. The whole district formerly seems to have been called *Cadzow*. It is situated in the centre of the middle ward of the county of Lanark, and is the seat of the presbytery which bears its name, subject to the superior jurisdiction of the synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is almost a square, extending about six miles, from north-east to south-west, and being about five miles from north-west to south-east. The river Clyde runs along the east and north of the parish, forming nearly the boundary, excepting in one place, where a large corner is cut off on the north side of the river. The parishes by which it is bounded are Dalziel and Cambusnethan on the east, Dalserf and Stonhouse on the south, Glasford and Blantire on the west, and Bothwel on the north.

*Surface and Soil.*—Along the Clyde lie extensive vallies of a deep and fertile soil. Thence the land rises gradually everywhere to the south-west, to a considerable height; in the highest parts being about 600 feet above the level of the sea; but without forming itself into any hill, or becoming remarkably uneven. The soil of the rising ground is mostly of a clayish nature. The lower parts of the ascent are tolerably fertile, and well cultivated; but from the nature of the soil and bottom, the crops are seldom early. The highest parts often produce scanty, and always late crops. The surface, not being broken by any great irregularities, the land is all arable, except some steep banks by the sides of the rivers and brooks, a few swampy meadows in the upper part of the parish, and such parts as are covered with planting or natural wood, the extent of which is still considerable; though much ground, formerly covered with wood, has been converted into corn-fields.

*Rivers.*—Besides the Clyde, already mentioned, a smaller river, called the Avon, which comes from the south, and runs near four miles through the parish, empties itself into the Clyde near the town. The banks of the Avon, as it passes through the Duke of Hamilton's park, are high and bold; and, being covered with wood of various kinds, having different tints of foliage, are extremely picturesque, forming a fine contrast with the plains below. There are several other small streams, the banks of which are well wooded in the low ground, but naked towards their sources in the upper country.

Salmon, trout, pike, perch, roach, lampreys, silver eels, and small flounders, are found in these streams and rivers; but no kind of fish in great abundance, excepting the minnow. The quantity of salmon, in particular, has much decreased of late years. The number of fry killed by anglers, the great  
fishery

fishery carried on, in the populous country lower down the Clyde, the deepening of the channel for improving the navigation from the sea to Glasgow, and the manufacturing machinery erected on the river, are supposed to have disturbed and destroyed the fish; and, by preventing them from getting regularly to their spawning ground, must necessarily have diminished their numbers. There is no regular market for any kind of fish caught here; but of late, some surplus salmon from the Duke's fishery have been sold, in the plentiful season, for 2d. per pound avoirdupois, last year at 3d. and this year at 4d. In deep still pools, are found a large bivalvular shell-fish, known here by the name of the horse muscle. They are not used as food, but in some of them are found small pearls; so rarely, however, that they are scarcely thought worth the fishing for.

The rivers are not navigable here; but in great rains they swell to a considerable height, and cover a great extent of the low land; sometimes sweeping away the crops by the violence of the inundation. On the 12th of March 1782, in particular, the flood was near two feet higher than was ever remembered before; and the river rose about 16 feet perpendicular, above the ordinary level of low water. It overflowed a great tract of country, and appeared like an arm of the sea.

There are two bridges over the Clyde in this parish; one of an old standing, called Bothwel-bridge; famous for a skirmish in the reign of King Charles II. between a body of the Whigs, and a party of the King's army, in which the former were routed with a great slaughter. The other was built immediately below the influx of Avon, under the authority of an act of parliament; and was finished in 1780. Avon has also two bridges; one on the road through Hamilton towards Carlyle, which was built before the 16th century; and strengthened and enlarged, so as to admit the passage of wheel carriages, about the

beginning of the present century\*; the other was built last year, principally for the accommodation of a gentleman in the neighbourhood.

*Buildings.*—Hamilton house, the residence of the duke of that name, a large and well built pile, stands on the upper border of the great valley, lying west of the conflux of the two rivers. The modern part, which is by far the most considerable, was built about the end of the last century; but part of the house is of longer standing, bearing date 1591. This palace, (as it is sometimes called,) was at first built in the middle of the town, which formerly stood clustering around it; but the lower part having been gradually purchased, and pulled down, by the noble family above mentioned, for the extension and improvements of their pleasure grounds, (as soon as the more secure state of the country gave them less occasion for the assistance and protection of the inhabitants,) the town has since stretched to the south and west, and the palace is almost left standing detached below it. The remains

\* The following tradition is handed down with respect to the first building of this bridge. Some controverted point was to be settled by a plurality of voices, at a meeting of the clergy, to be held at Hamilton, upon a certain day. A priest who lived southward from the town, had been very zealous on one side of the controversy, and had prevailed with a great number of the brethren in his neighbourhood, to join him in supporting it. But on the day fixed, when they came to the side of the river, it was swollen with the rains beyond the possibility of passing, and the opposite party carried the point; at which, the priest was so much provoked, that, being very rich, he immediately ordered a bridge to be built at his own expence, that such a disappointment might not occur in future.

mains of the antient manor-house, called Cadzow-castle, which seems to have been deserted, after the injuries which it suffered by Regent Murray's army, are still to be seen on the west bank of the Avon, in the middle of the great park, about a mile from the town: And, on the opposite side of the same river, stands a showy building, in imitation of a ruin, executed from a design of the elder Adams. It was built by the Duke of Hamilton, about 1730, and is said to have been intended as a representation of the castle of Chatelherault, in France, of which his ancestors were dukes.—The town is very irregularly built, skirting around the bottom of a rising ground, above three quarters of a mile in length. It is a considerable thorough-fare, the roads from Glasgow to England, and from Edinburgh to Ayrshire, &c. passing through it. In the middle there is a prison and town-house, built in 1643, containing a court, hall, &c.—There are also convenient buildings for markets; in particular, one for butchers' meat, which is in general pretty well stocked with the ordinary sorts, at their different seasons.

The parish church is a handsome building, erected in 1732, instead of an old one, which stood hard by the palace. It stands upon the rising ground above the town, and makes a very good appearance. It was also designed by Mr Adams. Towards the west end of the town, there is a large meeting-house, built by the people who were unwilling to submit to the unlimited exercise of patronage, in 1776: And on the east side, a meeting-house for the people of the Antiburgher persuasion, built in the year 1761; and lately repaired and enlarged.

Near the town-house, stands an hospital or alms-house, built instead of one which stood in the lower part of the town, now razed, and was endowed by the noble family of Hamilton, and other pious donors. It contains lodgings for eight poor men, a hall for morning and evening prayers, besides  
some



some shops and rooms set for the benefit of the funds. To the west, there is another hospital, for four old men and their families; built and endowed in the year 1775, by William Aikman, Esq. proprietor of an estate in the parish, and some time merchant in Leghorn.

It is difficult to determine, at what period the town was built. The lower part, which was certainly the oldest, no longer remains. One house still standing, has date 1533, cut over the gateway; and parts of some others are said to be still older. A writing among the town records, which bears to have been presented to the Court of Session, in 1580, sets forth, that the "town was erected into a free burgh of barony by the king's most noble progenitors, in the year 1456." In 1548, Mary, Queen of Scotland, created it a free royal burgh. But the rights and privileges thus acquired from the Crown, were, after the Restoration, resigned into the hands of William and Ann, Duke and Duchess of Hamilton; who, in 1670, restored to the community its former possessions, and erected it into a "burgh of regality," dependent on them and their successors: and thus it has continued, after some ineffectual struggles, to this time.

*Air, Diseases, &c.*—The air is generally reputed tolerably dry and healthful — Fogs are not frequent, and rains less so than at other places a few miles distant; inasmuch that it is a general complaint, in this and some of the neighbouring parishes, that they are later in getting refreshing showers, than most other parts of the country. This is one cause of the lateness of the harvests. After the summer solstice, the rains are commonly more copious; and during open weather in the winter season, a great deal often falls.

The water of many of the wells about the town is hard;

hard \*; but neither that, nor any thing in the air, is thought to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants.—There is no disease peculiar to the place. Colds, fevers of different kinds, particularly slow nervous fevers, fluxes, small-pox, &c. prevail here, at times, as in other places around. Inoculation for the small-pox is practised, but the common people are not reconciled to it. Seventy-five children were swept away by this disease in 1787. The ague, or any species of intermitting fevers, is not known here, except with people who have caught the disease in other countries, and are visited with occasional returns of it †. A good many people in this parish have arrived at a great age; several having died of late years from 90 to above 100; particularly a man and his wife, the one 106, and the other 102: There are several above 80 now living.

*Cattle, Cultivation, and Produce.*—A few years ago, the principal part of the parish was occupied in tillage, and then above 300 horses were employed in cultivating the land, and 900 cows were kept, besides the young stock of both kinds. But the land being now mostly inclosed, some farms are, at times, turned into pasture for fattening, which diminishes the number of horses and milch-cows. There are 30 draught horses kept in the town, principally by carters, who ply for hire;

\* That is, tinged with some mineral admixtures.

† The scurvy is almost unknown; nor are any kind of cutaneous diseases frequent, though oat-meal makes a great part of the food of the people. Those, who are disposed to reprobate the use of this wholesome and nourishing fund of subsistence, ought to examine the healthy and blooming countenances of the people in this country, who feed on scarcely any other food, before they condemn the use of it *in toto*.

hire; 16 for the conveyance of travellers, and about 100 milch-cows for the use of the inhabitants. There are no sheep now bred and kept in the parish, except a few pets from different English breeds. But great numbers are annually bought in, to be fattened on the pastures, particularly those round the palace of Hamilton, sometimes to the amount of 1700, or 1800 in a season.

In this parish, as well as in all the neighbouring ones, every farmer formerly kept a few sheep, which were of a kind more domesticated and improved, than those now bred in the mountains. Their bodies were long and squat made, their heads erect, having either small horns, or no horns at all, their legs short, their faces and legs white, or slightly sprinkled with black or brown spots, their fleeces soft, and mostly of the longest kind of carding wool; their tails were not so long as those of the English since introduced, nor so short as those of the muirland sheep, but descended almost to the knee joint, and seldom below it. These sheep were constantly attended by a boy or girl during the day, whom they followed to and from the pasture, and penned at night in a house called the *Bught*, which had flits in the walls to admit the air, and was shut in with a hurdle door. In this house was a rack, into which pease-straw or soft hay was put, in winter, every evening, and in times of snow, a few stalks of unthreshed pease or oats were added; and the floor was littered from time to time with dry straw, or turfs dried and piled up in summer. These little flocks were the peculiar care of their owners. The whole family was interested in the business: for every child claimed the property of a ewe-lamb, and its future progeny, and an emulation prevailed among them, who should possess the handsomest, and most valuable part of the flock. Hence, after yeaning-time, the young were daily examined with the greatest solicitude, and a hairy or spotted fleece, a defective  
habit

habit of body, an aukward shape, horns too thick at the bottom, or streaked with black, were blemishes which doomed the animal irrevocably to the knife; none being preserved for stock, but such as possessed all the characteristics of beauty and utility. In this manner were these sheep improved to such a degree, that their wool was preferred to any then known in the neighbouring markets. When inclosing with hedges became frequent, the farmers were obliged to part with these little flocks, which injured the young fences, and gradually sold them off for slaughter; so that no remains of them can now be traced in this part of the country.

This parish produces wheat, oats, pease, beans, barley, hay, cheese and butter, some flax, and a good many potatoes. Wheat is sometimes sown after pease and beans, oats or potatoes, but generally after fallow. The produce commonly is from 40 to 70 Winchester bushels per Scots acre; but, in 1783, 84, and 85, the long severe frosts in the spring destroyed the young wheat, and, for some years after, greatly discouraged this branch of agriculture. The farmers, however, are again returned to their former practice of sowing this grain, finding wheat a very beneficial crop, when it succeeds. The cultivation of it, however, does not answer well on the higher grounds; and, all over the neighbourhood, it meets with obstructions from the autumnal rains; by which the soil is so much softened, as to be unfit for the reception of the seed, or bearing working cattle to cover it in.

Formerly a considerable quantity of barley of an excellent quality, was produced here, particularly in the lower parts of the parish; but the backward springs, and cold inconstant summers, which have been prevalent for more than twenty years past, have been very unfavourable to the growth of that plant, particularly, where the predominant soil is clay. Husbandmen advanced in life, concur in asserting, that the average

produce of barley is now scarcely three fifths of what it was in their younger days; and the culture of it is almost abandoned, except for cleaning and preparing the land for the reception of artificial grasses.

The greater part of the parish produces good pease and beans; the seeds of which are, for the most part, sown promiscuously, the one or the other kind preponderating more or less, as the cultivator apprehends the soil and circumstances of the case may require. On the poorer land, pease are sown alone: and, in favourable seasons, a considerable quantity of these kinds of grain is produced and sent to market. But the late unfavourable years have been much more productive of straw than of seed, and have tended greatly to discourage the culture of these plants \*. Indeed there is no kind of crop, which more frequently disappoints the expectation of the husbandman.

Wheat and oats are now the grains on which the farmer principally depends. Wheat, coming forward early in the season, fills and ripens, while the days are long and the sun powerful. Oats are of a very hard nature, and are brought to maturity by a less degree of heat than the other ordinary field crops require. It is remarkable, that in some parts of this parish, where the soil was firm, and the land lay sheltered from the high winds, which prevailed during the summer of that year, and loosened the roots of the corn in exposed places, the oats were found to produce nearly as much meal, in 1790, as they used to do in the best seasons; though the ripening could scarcely be said to have commenced, till the mild weather

\* Some people, thinking they have observed, that barley, pease, and beans have become less successful, as the culture of artificial grasses has become more prevalent, attribute the failure of these kinds of grain to the introduction of rye-grass.

ther came in, which succeeded the autumnal equinox. The best oats here produce 8 stone, Dutch weight, of meal, from a boll of the ordinary measure of the country; one boll and a fourth of which, is nearly equal to the English quarter of 8 Winchester bushels. The produce of an acre varies greatly, according to the soil, the season, and other circumstances.

Almost every husbandman cultivates potatoes; not only for the use of his family, but to feed his horses and cows; for which they are found very beneficial. There are also a good many cultivated for sale. Artificers, inhabitants of the town and villages, plant potatoes on spots rented for one year, for which they pay at the rate of from L. 4 to L. 8 per acre; and this they dress at their leisure hours. The cultivation of potatoes is advantageous. It puts the ground in good order for the ensuing crop, whilst an acre, when ready for digging, commonly sells at from L. 12 to L. 18. However, much of the soil, in this parish, being rather heavy for that root, the culture of it does not succeed well in very wet, or very dry seasons. Besides, every sort of soil here, is injured by repeating the culture of potatoes too frequently upon it. The plant itself, also, is of late frequently infected with a disease, particularly in the lower grounds near the town, which proves very injurious. After it begins to rise, its leaves contract and shrivel, and when that part of the stalk, which is below the earth, is examined, a narrow groove, or longitudinal scar, appears corroded through the fine glossy rind; and, on that part, the pure white is tinged with a light ochre colour; which tinge, when the disease goes to a great height, is afterwards communicated to the new roots. When those symptoms appear, though the plant proceeds to produce flowers and apples, its growth is stunted, and sooner over than that of a healthy plant; and, when the disease is violent, the roots which it produces, are

few in number, small in size, and not pleasant to the taste. This disease is not mentioned here, as supposing it peculiar to the parish, which is the subject of this description: For it seems, that it has been severely felt in many other parts in Britain, and has occasioned various dissertations, none of which are said to be satisfactory. But, as it is believed, that it was observed to make its appearance about this town, before it was known any where in the country immediately around it; and, as it is an important article in the natural history of this most valuable root, which has not yet been fully investigated; this hint may not be improper to excite more accurate inquiries concerning its cause and cure\*.

The

\* This disease first made its appearance in the neighbourhood of Hamilton, about the year 1770, or 1771, and has since been gradually gaining ground, inasmuch that people have sometimes almost intirely lost their crops, without knowing how that loss could have been prevented. Many contradictory causes have been assigned for this extraordinary phenomenon, all of them, perhaps, conjectural. The most popular and plausible, is, that the root degenerates by being too long planted in a country, widely different from its native soil and climate; and, that to prevent this evil, it ought to be renovated, by obtaining new ones from the seed contained in the apple. But waving all speculative reasoning on the subject, one plain fact is a sufficient objection to that hypothesis; namely, that the disease never made its appearance till after those renovated potatoes were introduced, and has increased as they have been multiplied. It must, nevertheless, be acknowledged, that raising new potatoes from the apple for seed has been of considerable service. They become fit to be discriminated, and cut into sets for seed the second year; and, when proper kinds are chosen, and the other varieties, with which they are always accom-  
panied,

The culture of carrot, turnips, and cabbage, is scarcely practised here, except in gardens.

Red, white, and yellow clover, rye-grass, ribwort, &c. are cultivated here, for hay and pasture, and no person now  
lays

panied, rejected, they generally prove very fruitful for some years.

Whatever may be the cause of this disease, nothing can be discovered in the parent root to give any indication of its being lodged there, nor does it appear, in fact, to proceed from it. The brown scar, above mentioned, breaks out always near the surface of the earth, and is frequently three inches above the original root; besides, a healthy plant, and a diseased one, have been frequently found to spring from contiguous eyes in the middle of the same potatoe; and sometimes both a healthy, and a diseased one from the same eye: Yet the producing germ seems to be in some manner contaminated; for, potatoes, from different stalks planted at the same time, in one field, and undergoing the same treatment, one of them will produce healthy, and the other curled plants; and when the disease once appears among potatoes, if part of their produce is used for seed, in the subsequent season, a greater proportion of the plants will be infected every year, though those, sprung from diseased plants, have been rejected.

The disease first made its appearance in rich ground, manured with offals from the town; and even potatoes, which prove healthy on such land one year, are frequently much diseased, though planted on other land, the year following.

Though the disease has spread much since its first appearance, it has been confined to low lying lands, and has not yet reached any place, in this part of the country, which lies more than 350 feet above the level of the sea; nor are plants sprung from potatoes which grow in such places, subject to it, even in the low ground for a year or two. Since this has been discovered, it has proved the best antidote against the growing evil.



lays down land to rest, without sowing the seeds of some of these plants upon it. The produce of hay is from one to three tons per acre, besides an after growth, which is generally pastured on, or cut for green food, the autumn being seldom favourable for making it into hay. But red clover never continues vigorous in the ground, for more than two years at the utmost. Of late, rye-grass frequently dies after producing one crop, and the other plants, above mentioned, diminish in size; so that after one crop of hay, the land is generally used in pasture. The management of the dairy is scarcely brought to such perfection here, as in some parishes to the westward; but there are people who make cheese and butter of a very good quality, and the produce of a cow, well managed in that way, will yield about L. 4 *per annum*. The profits on fattening are fluctuating, and depend on the rise and fall of the markets for lean and fat cattle: but fattening, being attended with less trouble and expence than the conduct of the dairy, is preferred by some people, and, upon the whole, is frequently full as advantageous. It is farther to be observed, that graziers here give a higher rent for pasture, when they are at liberty to feed black cattle upon it, than when they are confined to pasture it with sheep.

Little flax is sown, except for private use. At times, some people have made greater adventures, and put in for the premiums offered by the Trustees, not always without success: But the care and attention, requisite to make the culture of flax advantageous, have never been regularly pursued in this parish. Some of the farmers formerly sowed a little hemp, which they afterwards made into ropes for domestic use; but their time being now taken up with other articles, that practice is laid aside.

The modes of cultivation, and rotation of crops, are so various, that it is impossible to give any idea of the average quantity of

of land, applied to any particular purpose. For the like reasons, it is equally difficult to ascertain the average amount of the annual produce. When, from the vicissitudes which occur in human affairs, old pastures are converted into tillage, the quantity of grain raised is, necessarily, more abundant for a time; but it is believed, that, in general, the produce of the parish will scarcely yeild one half of its annual consumption.

Some farmers have got different kinds of new invented ploughs, and have them occasionally drawn by two horses, and worked by a plowman without an assistant. But the Scots plough, drawn by three or four horses, is the most common. Some improvements have been lately made upon it; and when a greater or lesser number of horses are yoked, as the resistance may require, it is found to make excellent work, and to suit all the various purposes of husbandry equally well, and, according to some, rather better than any other. A good deal of land here is dug with the spade. This is done for 25 or 26s per acre; and, when the work is properly done, the crop is found fully to answer the additional expence.

The cultivation of the orchard has not been carried to such a length, nor, perhaps, been so successful, as in some of the neighbouring parishes. Probably both the bottom and the exposure are less favourable. However, there are a good many little orchards in the lower parts, producing apples, pears, plumbs, and cherries. In good seasons, they bear very good and well-flavoured fruit; but, upon the whole, this is a very precarious article of produce, subject to many injuries from spring-frosts, the depredations of caterpillars, summer's blights, &c. so that there is scarcely one year in three, in which the orchards turn to good account. The seasons, of late, have been particularly unfavourable. Considerable quantities  
of

of goose-berries and currants, produced here, are sent to the Glasgow market.

Forest trees, of all kinds, capable of standing the climate of Scotland, thrive in the lower parts of the parish. Some of them attain to a great size. On poor land, in high exposures, the larch, since it has been introduced, has thriven better than any other. Next to it, is the Scots fir. Scarcely any other kind of wood has succeeded in the high ground except the birch. At the same time, the beech, the ash, and the plane, will stand the severest exposure, when they have a sufficient depth of dry soil.

It has been already stated, that the parish is mostly inclosed, that is to say, the fields are in general surrounded with earthen mounds dug out of a trench, in the face of which, a row of white thorn has been planted: But it is a rare thing, excepting in the best soils and most sheltered places, to find the length of fifty yards together of sufficient fence, and in many places there are not ten yards in fifty. The thorns, when the soil, in which they are planted, is in any degree tolerable, make shoots for a few years; but the bank of hard unproductive earth, to which they are confined, affording them little nourishment, and, at the same time, secluding them from the beneficial influences of the sun and air, they become stunted, and, at length, are smothered up, in many places, with a coat of shaggy gray moss growing all over them. The deficiency requires to be perpetually made up by repeated supplies of dead fence: Much of the under soil in this parish is, no doubt, unfriendly to the growth of quickset hedges, but probably the manner of planting is not less unfavourable. Hedges planted on the top of a bank, of the best soil, gathered from the surface, generally succeed better, and it is only in that situation, that quickset hedges continue to be permanent fences,

fences, where the soil is thin, and the bottom retentive of water.

Upon the whole, this parish is rather a beautiful than a fertile country, and cultivation has been more successful in enriching the scenery, than in multiplying the annual productions. Not that the land is incapable of improvement: for there are several spots, particularly such as have been in the possession of small proprietors, which have been rendered more than doubly productive, in the course of the last thirty years. Nor are the husbandmen deficient in industry, or a disposition to labour; But a variety of adverse contingencies has disappointed the good effects, which such dispositions might have produced. Villages have been demolished, and land, which formerly gave sufficient employment to three or four families, has been put into the possession of one man. Rents have been raised, in some instances, beyond what the ability of the tenants could pay, who have thus been made bankrupt, driven from their farms, and succeeded by others, no better qualified than the former possessors. From these and other circumstances, which would take too much time here to enumerate, agricultural stock has been dissipated, and the numbers, the energy and enterprise of husbandmen necessarily diminished. Thus, the improvement of a country, which, from the nature of its soil and climate, requires the most vigorous exertions, and the most vigilant attention to cultivate it to the best advantage, has been greatly impeded.

The rent of land, at a distance from the town, let in lease for 19 years, is from 5 or 6s to a guinea per acre. Good land, near the town, is let from L. 3 to L. 5; and there are instances of rich land, which had been long in pasture or highly manured, being let, for a short space of time, from L. 5 to L. 8, for raising wheat and other grains.

*Fossils.*—Coal is found in this parish, as well as in all the neighbouring country, and still continues to be wrought in the Duke of Hamilton's property. But the greatest part of the coal, consumed here, is brought from the neighbouring parishes, and is delivered at the town for about 5s per ton. Thirty years ago, it was not above half that price. Lime abounds in the upper part of the parish; and in one place, has been wrought for a century past. In the lime-works are found, bivalvular and spiral shells, resembling small sea shells; and, in a thin bed of clay, which is sometimes found above the lime, there are many of these shells, some of them so minute, as scarcely to be discerned by the naked eye. Bits of small petrified sticks are also found above the lime, so hard as to strike fire; and yet the component parts so distinctly preserved, that the bark, the different years growth of the wood, and the pith, can be easily distinguished. Free-stone, mostly soft, and of a reddish colour, abounds almost every where; but in some places it is white and firm.—The highest land in the south-west part of the parish, has a great ridge of whin stone rock. Iron stone is frequently to be met with; and the water of different springs is strongly tinged with the ore of that metal; but none of these have obtained any great degree of fame in the cure of diseases. There are several petrifying or encrusting springs, issuing from the rocks; which, when they fall upon rocks, make an encrustation around its filaments, and form those fantastic figures which are kept in the cabinets of the curious. Beds of fullers' and potters' earth are found in different places; and, in one part, a very pure yellow ochre, in considerable quantities.

*Population.*—From a minute enumeration of the inhabitants, taken in 1791, it appears, there are 954 families in

in the town, and palace of Hamilton. The number of souls is as follows, viz.

|  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| Males 10 years of age, and upwards                 | - | 1198       |
| _____ under ten                                    | - | 436        |
|  |   | _____ 1634 |
| Females 10 years of age, and upwards               | - | 1508       |
| _____ under ten                                    | - | 459        |
|  |   | _____ 1967 |
|  |   | _____      |
| Souls in the town                                  | - | 3601       |
| The families in the country part of the parish are |   |            |
| 298, containing,                                   |   |            |
| Males of 10 years, and upwards                     | - | 516        |
| _____ under ten                                    | - | 153        |
|  |   | _____ 669  |
| Females above 10                                   | - | 574        |
| _____ under 10                                     | - | 173        |
|  |   | _____ 747  |
|  |   | _____ 1416 |
|  |   | _____      |
| Total souls in the parish                          | - | 5017       |

There are about 48 farmers in the parish, besides a number of occupiers of small spots, many of whom have some other employment, and above 42 persons employed in the coal and lime-works.

The people here are very inattentive to the registering of their children's births, so that no authentic information can be obtained respecting that subject: But the number of marriages is better ascertained, amounting, at an average of the last three years, to 36. By an account of deaths, kept by the parish grave-digger, the mortality for the three last years, is as fol-

lows: In 1788,—91, in 1789,—120, and in 1790, (which was a year uncommonly fatal, an epidemical nervous fever having raged for some months,) 167. The annual average of these three years, is 126, to which, about 10 must be added, supposed to be carried annually to other burying grounds, making in all 136; so that, about 1 in 37 die yearly.

The only enumeration of the parish at any former period, which can now be traced, is that transmitted to Dr Webster, about the year 1755, which makes the number of souls at that time 3815. Hence, the increase of population in the last 40 years, is 1202. It is probable, that this is the real progressive state of the population of this district. There is no doubt, that the numbers, in the country part of the parish, have diminished considerably since that period: for, though new houses have been built in several places, yet there were then four or five villages, containing a good number of inhabitants, in which, there now are very few. The town, however, has greatly increased, particularly of late. An exact list of all the families in it, was taken in the year 1782, and amounted only to 805, and, supposing the average number in each family to be in the same proportion as at present, (little more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ;) the increase in the last nine years, is about 564, and in that time, the country part of the parish has continued nearly the same.

It will be obvious, that there is a considerable change of the state of the place, by taking a comparative view of it at different periods. Thirty years ago, there were not more than 9 or 10 carpenters and joiners of all kinds in the parish, and some of these, at times, not very well employed. There are now about in the town of Hamilton, alone. Three or four bakers baked all the bread for this, and the neighbouring parishes: There are now 18 bakers, masters and assistants, in this place, besides many ovens and bakers in the neighbourhood. At the first

first period there were not more than 250 weavers' looms in the parish: there are now 450. These, without carrying the comparison farther, will evidently show a considerable increase of population and industry.

There are 5 practitioners of medicine in the town, and six attorneys; three common brewers; and one distiller, who consumes much more grain than all the brewers. All of them obtain the greater part of their materials from other districts. There is no less a number, than 66 houses for retailing liquors, besides those which are unlicensed.

*Manufactures.*—When industry began to flourish in Scotland, it was generally expected that Hamilton, from the exertions, which the inhabitants had already made in all the branches of domestic industry,—from the plenty and cheapness of fuel,—from its fine streams of water,—from its easy communication with all the neighbouring districts,—from its vicinity to Glasgow, on the one hand, and an extensive corn country, on the other;—and its exemption from the disturbances of election politics, would have made great progress in manufactures. It has, however, fallen far short of these expectations. Paisley and Kilmarnock, which, fifty years ago, were not more considerable, and are not possessed of any visible superiority in regard to local advantages, have now become large opulent towns, while this place still continues comparatively inconsiderable. The people, however, are occupied in manufactures of various kinds. All kinds of cabinet and carpenter work are executed here, not only for the use of the inhabitants, but for others at a considerable distance. The tanning and dressing of leather is carried on to a considerable extent; and great quantities of skins, for that manufacture, are brought from Glasgow, and even from Ireland. A good deal of dressed leather is now sent to London, whence formerly much of what was used here



was brought. Saddlery is carried on to some extent. There is also a great manufacture for shoes, and 120 shoemakers are employed in it; who, besides making that article for the people in the neighbourhood, manufacture different kinds for exportation. The candles made here, have long had a great character; and one family in particular, has carried on that business with reputation and success, for four successive generations. — But the principal manufacture is weaving, which has long been followed here to some extent, and has of late greatly increased. Besides the looms above mentioned, there are 24 stocking frames, chiefly employed by the Glasgow manufacturers. A small manufacture of thread lace has long been carried on here. At an early period, it was the occupation of a good many women; but, from the fluctuation of fashion, it had fallen greatly into disuse. Fashion again revived the demand; and the late Duchess of Hamilton, afterwards of Argyle, found still some lace-workers remaining, to whom her own demand, and that of those who followed her example, gave employment. To these, her Grace added 12 orphan girls, who were clothed, maintained, and taught at her expense. Others learned the art; and, while the demand lasted, the manufacture employed a good many hands. Though the number is again diminished, there are still above 40 at the business, who make handsome laces of different patterns, besides those who work occasionally for themselves, or their friends. Perhaps, under the patronage of the present respectable Duchess, the manufacture of Hamilton lace may again become as flourishing as ever. But the principal employment of the women of this parish has long been the spinning of linen yarn; packs of which were collected and sent to England, about the beginning of this century, besides what was made into cloth at home. So late as the year 1750, large parcels of yarn were sent from Hamilton to the north of Ireland: but the Irish  
have

have since learned to make good yarn, to supply their own demands; and the manufacture at home has consumed all the yarn, made in this neighbourhood.

The state of manufactures has, of late, undergone considerable alterations. Formerly, almost all the weavers manufactured linen only, and either employed themselves, or derived their employment from others on the spot. Now they get employment from the great manufacturers in Glasgow, &c. and cotton yarn is the principal material. Young women, who were formerly put to the spinning wheel, now learn to flower muslin, and apply to the agents of the same manufacturers for employment. On the other hand, the greatest number of the shoe-makers formerly derived their employment from the Glasgow manufacturers: Whereas now the shoe-makers of this, and great numbers in the neighbouring parishes, are employed by dealers in this town. Some people here are now beginning to attempt the manufacture of thread.

*Character.*—The people of this place have long had the character of being affable, courteous, and humane; and are distinguished for easy, sociable, and accommodating manners. But the most leading feature in their general character, is a kind of sportive humour, breaking out in little sallies of fancy, as often as opportunities occur. This has frequently shown itself in whimsical rhymes, squibs and pasquinades on all occasions; in giving people additional names, adapted to their dispositions, or some remarkable occurrence in their lives, and in contest for superiority in conversation, and repartee. They are also said to have been rather addicted to the pleasures of the bottle. The manners of the people, upon the whole, however, long continued to be decent and respectable. Moral or intellectual delinquency were the objects, at which ridicule was generally pointed. Their most usual beverage was

a lively malt liquor, of moderate strength; which was thought to be well made here, as long as the nature of the excise permitted it. Their convivial meetings, were, of course, rarely attended with riot, or extravagant debauch. The better sort retained a respect for order and propriety; the inferior ranks were submissive to authority, and respectful to their superiors; an esteem for virtue, a just regard to the peace and property of others, and an unambitious contented spirit, generally prevailed. The beautiful tints of this pleasing picture are now somewhat defaced. Decency is too often the butt of scorn; and it is the best zest of a frolic, that it is attended with mischief to the inoffensive. Whisky, which inflames its votaries with fury, or debases them into the grossest stupidity, is become a common beverage; and people too often forget every sense of duty, when indulging the bewitching draught. Even women of the lower ranks are not ashamed, as often as they have an opportunity, to drink it to intoxication. The changes in the state of our manufactures, which have been above adverted to, having removed the intermediate gradations in the scale of society, operative people, deprived of the prospect of advancing a step higher, have lost that incentive to economy and industry: nor has the eye of the employer, at a distance, and almost unknown, any influence as a restraint on their behaviour. The young artizan, having finished his short apprenticeship, finds himself master of his conduct and of his earnings, before he has attained discretion to manage them; and, yielding to bad example, unthinkingly plunges into folly and dissipation. Thus are the social and domestic duties too often neglected, by those, whose existence depends upon their application to labour. Habits of laziness gain ground; and a day of idleness or riot is sometimes closed by a night, either employed in wanton mischief, or in supplying the deficiency of industry

dustry by pillage; so that no kind of property, which is necessarily exposed to depredation, is any longer safe.

Amidst this general dissolution of manners, the people of Hamilton may be rather said to be deficient in virtue, than determined in vice. Their irregularities appear rather to proceed from thoughtlessness, than confirmed depravity. Some traces of their antient humanity may be still discovered on different occasions. Though petty breaches of justice and good order are frequent, atrocious deeds of cruelty and wickedness are not known. In the course of forty years, no person has been accused of murder: Robbery and house-breaking have very seldom been committed; and there is no instance of any individual, during his residence in the parish, having been convicted of such crimes. Much has been said of the happy influence of Sunday schools in other places. If there were people of wealth and influence heartily disposed to strengthen virtue, to encourage good behaviour, and to discountenance vice and irregularity, by establishing that institution here, in order to rescue the children of dissolute parents, from the danger of bad habits, to instruct them in the principles of religion, and a course of sobriety and industry, it is probable, they might be the happy means of restoring and improving the morals of all the people in this populous district.

The young men of this parish have always shown a great ardour for a military life. A popular recruiting officer never comes to the place, in time of war, without making great levies. In the year 1778, above sixty enlisted in the regiment raised by the Duke of Hamilton, besides some who entered with other corps. The women have shown little less eagerness to follow the camp, a good many always going off, with every party of the military, who have been quartered here.

*Eminent Men.*—The late Dr William Cullen, whose me-  
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mory is so much and so justly celebrated, was born here; and received the first part of his education under Mr Brisbane, at the grammar school of this town. There are people here, who remember him at school; and saw him in girls clothes, acting the part of a shepherds, in a Latin pastoral. Here he also settled for sometime as a surgeon; and was chosen one of the magistrates. Captain James Gilchrist, of the navy, who was deservedly accounted one of the bravest, and most skilful naval officers, that ever Great Britain saw, was also born in this parish; and being at length disabled by a wound, which he received, bravely fighting in the cause of his country, spent the latter part of his life, in the improvement of his property in this neighbourhood. Nor ought Mr John Miller, now professor of law in the University of Glasgow, to be omitted, whose abilities as a teacher, and whose merit as an author, are so well known to the public.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Duke of Hamilton is patron.—There are two ministers. To the first charge is annexed, a stipend of 8 chalders of victual, and L. 41 : 13 : 4 in money, besides L. 20 for the glebe, (which is now included in the Duke of Hamilton's pleasure ground,) and, a certain sum annually by way of rent for the minister's house and garden, there being no manse built. The second living is 6 chalders of meal, and L. 33 : 6 : 8 in money, with a free house and garden; but there is no glebe attached to it. The dissenters are pretty numerous. The most populous sect is that of the Relief; who pay their clergyman about L. 100 a year. There are, under his ministry, about 874 persons of all ages belonging to this parish. The Antiburgher congregation is more widely dispersed, the circumstances of the people less affluent, and the provision of the clergyman more scanty. There are

250 people of this parish, arrived to the years of discretion, who join him. The Macmillan sect, who profess an adherence to the pure tenets of the Presbyterian reformed religion, as established in Scotland in the time of Charles I. have upwards of 60 in this parish, who attend a meeting house in the neighbourhood. The Independents, who maintain an affectionate brotherhood together, and dispense religious ordinances gratuitously by turns, without the ceremony of clerical investiture, have a society consisting of nearly 50, and a large room in the town, properly fitted up for performing divine service. There are three Anabaptists. All the rest of the inhabitants are either of the Established church, or attach themselves to no particular sect.

*Schools.*—There is a large hall for a grammar school; which has had, for a long time past, a good reputation; and, besides the youth of the place, a great many boarders from a distance, have been educated at it. About 22 years ago, another school-master was established to teach English, writing, arithmetic, &c. to whose salary the emoluments of precentor and session-clerk have been added; together with the interest of L. 100, left by Mr James Naismith, for the education of poor children in the parish. Ann, Duchefs of Hamilton, in the beginning of this century, mortified 2000 merks Scots, under the management of the church session, for four small salaries to school-masters, in the distant villages of the parish. Two of these are still continued: the rest, from the decay of the villages, are dropt, and the money applied to other pious uses. Besides these, there are always several private schools; the teachers of which, have no other income, but the emoluments from their respective scholars.

*Poor.*—The regular provision for the poor of this parish is very liberal \*, in addition to a variety of incidental gifts, from known and unknown hands, which are sometimes considerable. The family of Hamilton give very handsome donations; and

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|--|------------|
| * The old hospital, already mentioned, supports 8 old men; 6 of whom always belong to this parish; and the annual support of each being about L. 4 : 15, makes for the six                                 | L. 28 10 0 |
| Salary of their chaplain, generally one of the number  | 1 0 0      |
| The rent of their lodging, supposed  | 5 0 0      |
| Mr Aikman's Hospital, 4 men, whose maintenance and cloathing, with some money from the funds, distributed among indigent householders, amount to   | 30 0 0     |
| The rent of their houses and gardens, at least worth   | 6 0 0      |
| Mr John Rae, and a few other well-disposed people, formerly inhabitants, mortified money to the care of the Town Council, the interest of which, appointed for the relief of poor householders, amounts to | 9 3 4      |
| From the mortification of Mr John Robertson, a native of Hamilton, and sometime sheriff-clerk of Lanark, 8 poor men receive L. 3 each  | 24 0 0     |
| Miss Christian Allan, who died in 1785, bequeathed, to the care of the church session, for behoof of the poor, L. 50, the interest of which is   | 2 10 0     |
| Annual average of collections at the church door, &c. for the last 4 years   | 22 7 9     |
| Profit arising from the palls at burials lent for the benefit of the poor, on average <i>per annum</i>   | 19 14 1    |
| Poors rates levied, one half on land, the other on householders  | 200 0 0    |
|  | L. 348 6 0 |

and there are also several indigent persons, who receive weekly pensions from the same quarter.

About the year 1750, the inhabitants, in order to put a stop to begging, and to give more regular relief to the modest poor, assented themselves in the payment of annual poors rates, the amount of which was then about L. 100. With this, and the other funds, all the poor, (then upwards of 50,) were decently supported, and begging, for a time, strictly prohibited.—Towards the year 1770, the number of poor on the list was 79, and the annual amount of the rates L. 162. Claimants for public charity, however, becoming still more numerous, and more clamorous, the list was afterwards increased to 115, and the annual rates to L. 230. But the heritors and church session, who administer these funds, alarmed at the growing burden, have become more cautious of admitting people on the list, and the poors rates are now reduced to about L. 200.

Besides the common funds, for the support of the poor, there are ten charitable societies, formed by people of different occupations and professions, for the relief of any of their respective members, who may fall into distress. The most important of these are the weavers; who compose two societies, called the old and the new box. These have been of considerable service, particularly the last, which has established very wise regulations, for the management of its funds and gives to each of its members, while on a bed of sickness, 3s weekly, and when in a state of convalescence, but unable to work, 2s. It will be needless to dwell here, on what has been frequently and very properly observed, respecting the many beneficial consequences, that would accrue both to the public, and to individuals, if such societies were more universal. To be in the habit of contributing, in health and prosperity, a small pittance, not only for relieving the wants, and soothing the adversity



adversity of friends and neighbours, but as a provision against the day of affliction, which too surely awaits the contributor himself, must certainly give the most pleasing reflections, and tend greatly to cherish that honest pride and manly independence of mind, which enables people to be useful in the lowest stations, and to struggle successfully with all the various difficulties of human life. This too, would be a proper field for the rich and the benevolent to exercise their charity. Their bounty, thus bestowed, would alleviate the distress, and would promote the comfort of the most useful members of society, without debasing them into the abject condition of beggars. It is a melancholy consideration, therefore, that those associations are so much disregarded. Of all the weavers in this parish, there are only 60 contributors to the first of the above mentioned boxes, and 120 to the second, some of whom are contributors to both, and some not really of the profession. The greatest part of the rest, either waste away their time in idleness, or spend their earnings in drinking, thoughtless of the evil day, and regardless of futurity.

Hence, notwithstanding all the provisions for the poor, to which, if the alms privately bestowed, were added, the sum would exceed L. 500 a year, the condition of many of them is very wretched; and the demands, upon the public charity, are always greater than it can satisfy. When the people once come to admit, that the fruits of their industry are unequal to their wants, they are disposed to lay it aside entirely; and every one, aggravating his own distresses, thinks himself entitled to a larger share of the public funds than another, and is proportionally importunate for assistance. The great misfortune is, that their economy too often relaxes along with their industry; and the poor pittance bestowed for providing necessaries, is laid out in the only luxury within their reach. The plenty and the cheapness of whisky, and the great number of  
houses

houses allowed to retail it, is an irresistible temptation to people of this description, and consumes a considerable part of the weekly charity. What a fatal policy is it not in any government, to encourage a manufacture so peculiarly destructive, for the sake of converting a small proportion of the profit derived from it, into revenue?

Such dispositions among the lower ranks occasion also a great many beggars, who stroll about exacting contributions from the compassion of individuals, their demands not being satisfied in the distribution of the charitable funds. But the number of beggars, belonging to this parish, is trifling, compared to the crowds of vagrants of every description, who swarm from the populous towns around, and spread over the country, begging, cheating, swindling, or stealing, as best suits their purpose. And here, as in other places, they have several infamous haunts, to which they resort for lodging, dispose of their booty, and spend their sinister gettings in the grossest riot and debauch: and, as soon as these are exhausted, they again issue forth to practice every art upon the public, which unprincipled ingenuity, stimulated by want, can devise. How worthy would it not be of the generous exertions of patriotic spirits, to find means of restraining these insidious depredations, and turning the activity and address of vagrants to more innocent and useful purposes!

*State of Property.*—The whole valued rent of this parish, is L. 9377 Scots. The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor of more than the half, and the remainder is held of him in feu. There are nine proprietors of estates, from L. 400 to L. 100 of valued rent,—twenty from L. 100 to L. 20,—and a good many smaller properties. The Duke has his principal residence here; and almost all the other heritors of the parish are residenters in it.

*Antiquities.*

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—Besides the castle of Cadzow, already mentioned, the vestiges of a few others are still to be seen in the parish, probably the seats of some of the lesser barons, in the middle ages; but tradition has not handed down any thing respecting them, which deserves to be recorded. Near the middle of the parish, is a Roman tumulus, which has been of considerable extent. About 20 years ago, one side of it was broken into, and a good many urns found, containing the ashes of human bones, some them accompanied with the tooth of a horse. There was no inscription seen; but some of the urns, which were all of baked earth, were plain, others decorated with moulding, probably to distinguish the quality of the decessit. The old oaks in the Duke of Hamilton's park, have always been regarded as a curiosity. They have, no doubt, been very majestic trees, some of them measuring upwards of 27 feet round. They stood irregularly at a considerable distance from one another, covering a considerable extent of pretty plain ground; and seem to be the last remains of those antient forests, which, in former times, overspread the country. They have been much diminished in point of number, in the course of the present century; many of them having been cut, many having fallen down, and many of those that remain, having lost their tops and fine spreading boughs, are now only mutilated trunks, covered with short scrubby branches, still exhibiting the melancholy remains of their former grandeur. Among these venerable trees, grazed the wild cows, mentioned by naturalists as an untamed native breed. They seemed to differ in nothing from the domestic kind, excepting that they were all over white, with black or brown ears and muzzles; and, from their manner of life, very shy, and even fierce, when they had not room to fly. They were exterminated, from economical motives, about the year 1760. Here, also, the Duke of Hamilton has a park well stocked

stocked with fallow deer.—Barncluith, a pleasant little spot upon the bank of Avon, at a north corner of the Duke's great park, has been much resorted to by strangers. It is a house on the top of a bold bank, with terrace walks cut out of the rock, one under another, descending towards the river, supported by high walls, covered with fruit trees of different kinds. Evergreens of various shapes stood along these walks. On favourable points were built little handsome pavilions; and a jett d'eau, in the middle of a basin, spouted the water to a considerable height. This spot commanded the prospect of the fine wooded banks of Avon, rising like a vast amphitheatre, with here and there some prominent rocky cliffs, pushing out their bold heads, the tops of the antient oaks, some beautiful peeps into the open fields, and the water rolling below; so that every change of place furnished the view of new and delightful objects. These works are now fallen greatly into decay; and the taste for this artificial species of gardening having become less fashionable, the place is not now held in so much repute. But while the proprietor, who planned and executed them, is remembered, the spot will always be regarded with respect. He was of the family of the Hamiltons of Pancaitland, a very studious and learned man, particularly a great adept in mathematics, and the curious mechanic arts; and, at the same time, a man of great benevolence of heart. He is said to have executed the works above mentioned, principally with a view to give bread to the poor, in the time of the famine, which happened towards the end of the last century.—The old church, which stood hard by the palace, was a venerable Gothic pile, some parts of which were highly ornamented in that taste. It is now all pulled down, except the aisle, which covers the family burying vault.—Where the lower part of the town formerly stood, is a square column of stone, about six feet high, very rudely cut, without either

date or inscription, having only upon the side of it a number of circles, inscribed within one another, of a very rough sculpture. It was probably set up in the ancient market place, as a badge of municipal jurisdiction. Of the same nature, was a tall wooden post, with two cross arms affixed to it, and an iron collar, for encircling the necks of offenders, called the Joug, suspended by a chain at the side of it, which stood on a stone pedestal in a public part of the present town\*. It was called the *Frona*, and goods sold in the public market were weighed at it. It was taken down about ten years ago, being thought an incumbrance on the street.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The Scottish dialect is spoken here with very little provincial peculiarity. The names of most places are derived from that language; but a few have a Celtic origin, such as *Basnock* or *Barnogg*, the old son's possession, *Dorn gaber*, the house or village between the waters, &c.—The wild quadrupeds here are the same as in the neighbouring country; neither are there any uncommon birds. Eagles are seldom seen. Rooks abound greatly, and are very injurious to the husbandman. It may be observed, that the bulfinch, which is said to be a new bird in Scotland, is known to have hatched in this parish, more than forty years ago. The wood-lark is frequent in this part of the country. On the approach of snow, great flocks of small birds of the migratory species, and of vast variety of plumage, spread over the fields. They are here called *snow-flights*; and are said to come from the Orkneys. It has been observed, that, in blowing weather, in spring and autumn, great quantities of gulls pass this way to the westward, but have never been seen to go east by the same rout.

Glasgow

\* The date, upon the pedestal, was 1595.

Glasgow being the great mart in this country, servants wages, the price of labour, and the value of provisions, &c. &c. are regulated, throughout the country by the rates there. From the nature of circumstances, many things are a little lower here ; but people being always eager to resort to the best market, it is generally best supplied, and prices are often cheaper at Glasgow.

The two principal roads, through this parish, were made and are upheld by turnpikes. They are generally kept in pretty good order ; though, from the softness of the soil, and the scarcity of materials, hard enough to stand the fatigue of the many heavy carriages which pass, it is attended with considerable difficulty and expence. Nobody here entertains any doubt of the advantage of turnpike roads, since, at least, three times as much weight can be drawn in a carriage, as was sufficient to load it before they were made. If any objection can be made to the turnpike roads of this country, it is to the manner in which they have been laid out, being generally conducted over the summit of every eminence in their course ; when with a little judgement and attention, a direction might have been found equally near, and incomparably more easy and convenient.

The cross roads in this parish being numerous, and the soil soft, many of them are still in very indifferent repair : but several of the most frequented have been much improved of late ; and there is scarcely a brook in the parish, which has not a bridge over it, where necessary.

A commutation in money is now generally levied for the statute work ; but this, according to some, is a mistaken policy. If a parish were divided into small districts, and each of them directed to work, under a proper overseer, upon the road, in which they had most interest, the people are become so sensible of the advantage of good roads, that they

would do much more work, it is said, than can be done with the commutation in the hands an undertaker, who proposes to make profit by the job.

But this parish has still the prospect of being better accommodated with roads. From the new lines going on and proposed,—from the spirit for enterprise and improvement which prevails,—from the experience obtained from former errors, it is probable, there will soon be easy and commodious access in all directions, and the internal commerce of the country greatly facilitated and enlarged \*.

\* The present magistrates of the town, who have been in office for several years, have been, during their administration, indefatigable in their attention to the improvement of the streets, which are now made as easy and convenient, as the situation can possibly admit,

## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF BLANTYRE.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR. HENRY STEVENSON.**Origin of the Name.*

THE name of the parish is evidently expressive of its local situation. The principal part of it lies on the banks of the Clyde, and is surrounded by rising grounds. The lower part is but a few feet above the level of the sea, (though it is about 30 miles distant.) From its low sheltered situation, it obtained the name of Blantyre, which, in the Gaelic language, is said to signify *a warm retreat*.

*Situation and Extent.*—Blantyre is situated in the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is about 6 miles in length; but, at an average, only about a mile in breadth. From the church, which is placed nearly in the middle of the parish, to the banks of the Clyde, the ground is almost a plain; divided into small inclosures, surrounded with beautiful belts of planting. In the whole parish there is neither hill nor mountain.

*Soil.*—The soil is various. Some fields, adjacent to the church,



church, are a fine rich loam. From the church to the Clyde, towards the north-east, the soil is in general a strong deep clay; and when properly cultivated is exceeding fertile. At the northern extremity, which is surrounded by the Clyde, and where the banks become low, there is a flat that consists chiefly of a sandy soil. From the church, towards the south end of the parish, the soil is clay, but more light and free, than that in the lower part; and is in general of a very poor quality. In advancing farther from the church, towards the southern extremity, the soil becomes gradually more of a mossy nature; and, at last, terminates in a deep peat moss.

*Rivers.*—Blantyre is bounded on the north, and north-east, for the extent of about two miles and a half, by the Clyde; which abounds with excellent salmon, trouts, pikes, parrs, &c. The exclusive privilege of fishing salmon, belongs to the different proprietors, whose lands are contiguous to the river: but they are seldom caught in such plenty, as to become any great object for the market.—A considerable part of the banks are covered with wood; and, from the gentle bendings of the river, they form many beautiful and romantic prospects.—Clyde is not navigable above Glasgow.

*Mineral Springs.*—There is a mineral spring in this parish, the water of which is frequently and successfully used, for sore eyes, scorbutic disorders, and a variety of other complaints. The water is sulphureous; it is very strongly impregnated, and is accounted the best of the kind in this part of the country. About fifty years ago, it was the common summer resort of many families from Glasgow: but from the changes of fashion, so frequent in relation to such objects of medical regimen, it is now almost totally deserted.

*Iron Mines.*—In the banks of Calder-water, which divides this parish from Kilbride, there has, of late, been discovered, a vast quantity of iron stone, of an excellent quality, which is now wrought to great extent. Many different seams of it appear on the face of the banks, at the distance of a few feet from each other: and the seams are usually about 6 or 7 inches thick. The stone is dug out, by mines driven forward into the bank. It is carried to the distance of about 7 miles, to a furnace erected near Glasgow, and converted into pig iron. The iron company usually pay the proprietors of the land, at the rate of 6d per ton, for the iron stone; besides making compensation for any damages that may be done in digging.

*Figured Stones.*—Many of these iron stones appear to retain the original shape of the wood, from which, according to the opinion of some naturalists they have been formed. Some of them retain the original form of the branch of an exotic pine; and have rows of small protuberances winding round them, in an oblique direction; and some of them are covered with spines. Besides the stones, which retain the original shape of the wood, there are others, that are only marked with the impressions of the bark. These impressions are mostly chequered, some on a level, and others on a concave surface, answerable to the convexity of the original trunk or branch; and these impressions on the iron stone are sometimes very perfect.

*Population.*—The state of the parish, with respect to population, as far as can be traced back, seems to have been nearly, for many years, the same. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 496 souls. But in 1787, the number of inhabitants was immediately and greatly increased, by means of a cotton mill erected upon the Clyde. Before that period, the number

number of inhabitants above 8 years old, was about 400. The number of families, including every individual who possessed a separate lodging, was 130; and, calculating at the rate of 4 to a family, the number of souls might be about 520. The annual average of births, for ten years preceding 1787, was 17,—of deaths, during the same period, 11,—and of marriages, 6. Since the year 1787, when the cotton mill began to work, the population has been making continual and rapid progress; and, as the machinery is not nearly completed, they are still daily increasing. The numbers at the cotton mill were not exactly ascertained, till the 14th of March, 1791; and, at that date, they stood as follows:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Men, women, and children, employed in the mill         | 295   |
| Barracks children *, who are also employed in the mill | 60    |
| Piecers to the jeannies                                | 13    |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 368   |
| Wives and widows employed at home in family affairs    | 56    |
| Children, not of age, to be employed                   | 96    |
|  | <hr/> |
|  | 520   |

Thus, the number of inhabitants, in the parish, has been doubled;

\* These children are in general orphans, between 8 and 12 years of age. They are generally bound to the work by their relations, for a few years; and are fed, clothed, and lodged by the proprietor of the mill. He has a school-master employed in teaching them at their spare hours; a surgeon to attend them when sick: And much praise is due to such a guardian of youth, for his attention both to their health and education.

doubled, in the course of about 4 years, and may now amount to 1040 souls. In the mill there are, at present, 4096 spindles driven by water; and the company are still greatly extending their operations. There is another very large house built contiguous to the mill, which is to contain 15000 spindles, to be driven by the hand: but only a very small part of these machines are as yet finished. A considerable village is now built, for the accommodation of the people employed at this work, where formerly there was not a single house.

The employment at cotton mills, has, in general, been accounted unfavourable to health; and yet, what is singular, in the present case, is, that out of a great number, employed at work within the mill, only two have died since it was erected. Great care indeed is taken, to keep both the house and machinery as clean as possible; fresh air is carefully thrown in; and tar is burnt, to remove or counteract the noxious smell of the oil, that must necessarily be used about the machines.

*Heritors.*—There are at present 37 heritors, who pay cess; and of these, 10 do not reside in the parish. The landed property has very seldom been transferred: for, though there are few possessed of more than a plowgate of land, and some who have only a few acres, yet many even of these small possessions, have been inherited by the same family, for some hundred years. This retention of landed property, is plainly to be imputed to the industry, frugality, and amiable rural simplicity of the inhabitants. The whole parish consists of 24 plowgates of land, each plowgate containing about 80 acres; and, for the most part, the proprietor occupies his own lands.

*Produce.*—The parish consists, for the most part, of arable grounds; and oats are the crops most frequently raised. Pease,

few beans, barley, and wheat are also raised; but the quantity of these kinds of grain is but small, when compared with oats. Potatoes are also cultivated by almost every family, whether of farmers or labourers, for their own subsistence; and the practice of feeding cattle with them is become pretty general. Of late, more attention begins to be paid to the potatoe crop; because a ready market is found, for a considerable quantity, at the cotton mill.——The old Scots plow is almost universally used.—There are few sheep kept in the parish, not much exceeding 100. Flax is seldom raised, in any greater quantity, than what the farmer thinks sufficient for the use of his own family. A very considerable quantity of rye-grass, and clover hay, is cultivated in the parish, and carried to Glasgow, about 8 miles distant; where it always finds a ready market, and in general sells at about 5d per stone. Considerable quantities of butter and cheese, used also to be carried to the market at Glasgow; but there is now a great demand for these articles at home.

*Rent of the Parish.*——The valued rent of the parish is L. 1684 : 11 : 8 Scots: the real rent may be about L. 1400; but as the land is, for the most part, possessed by the proprietors, this cannot be exactly ascertained.

*Manufactures, and Price of Labour.*—There are no manufactures established in the parish, except the cotton branch already mentioned. The only tradesmen in the place, are such as find employment from the country people; except a few weavers, who are employed by manufacturers in Glasgow.—The iron mines in the neighbourhood, together with the operations of the cotton manufacturers, have contributed greatly to raise the wages of labourers. Before the iron age, (as it may be here called,) overtook us, a man's wages by the day, was never above 1s; but now they are advanced to 15d and  
16d.

16d. The average rate at which men-servants are hired by the farmer for the year, and who are maintained in the family, is from 8 to L. 9: and women-servants usually get from 3 to L. 4 *per annum*. The work in agriculture is, for the most part, carried on by hired servants.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The manse was built in 1773: but there is no record of the time, when the church was built. It bears evident marks of great antiquity; and is in a most deplorable condition.—Lord Blantyre is patron.—The stipend consists of 56 bolls of meal and barley, and L. 53:6:8 of money; with the addition of a manse, and glebe of about 12 acres.

*Schools.*—There is only one school in the parish, besides the one already mentioned, at the cotton mill. The schoolmaster's salary is about L. 6; but he has neither house nor garden belonging to the office. The number of scholars is usually about 50; and the whole living may amount to about L. 20 *per annum*.

*Alehouses.*—There are 8 alehouses in the parish. Before the cotton and iron works found their way to us, there were only two or three alehouses; but the increase of numbers, has also increased the demand for liquor. Upon the whole, however, there is very little alteration, to be observed, in the character and morals of the inhabitants. They are, in general, remarkably industrious, sober, and contented: And from the smallness of the parish, as well as their peculiar circumstances of independence, they have acquired a strong spirit of equality, and a sort of *esprit du corps*, that renders them ready to unite in supporting their common privileges.—There is no in-

stance can be remembered, of any person belonging to the parish, suffering any capital punishment.

*Poor.*—The number of the poor, on the parish roll, is usually about four or five. The parish have a stock for the support of the poor, amounting to about L. 200; the interest of which, together with the weekly collections, affords a comfortable supply for the indigent. All the heritors are joint managers of this fund; and also in appointing supplies to the poor, along with the minister and kirk-session. The stated meetings for the affairs of the poor, are on the first Tuesday of February, and the first Tuesday of August. At these meetings, a committee is appointed, consisting of heritors and elders, to collect each in their turn, at the church doors, for the following half year: a treasurer is appointed to distribute to the weekly pensioners; and in his hand, all the weekly collections are lodged. Occasional supplies are also given, to relieve those who fall into accidental distress.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used in the parish, is coal; which is generally brought from Cambuslang, at the distance of between 3 or 4 miles. It is sold at the coal pit at 9d per hutch, amounting to 400 wt. two of which make an ordinary cart-load; so that a ton, containing five hutches, or 2000 wt. costs 38 9d. There are plenty of good peats in the parish, which are used for part of the fuel; but the coals, being exceedingly good, are preferred.

*Antiquities.*—There are few remains of antiquity besides the ruins of the priory. A considerable part, of the walls of that antient building, is still standing. It was built on the top of a high rock, which rises perpendicular from the

the Clyde; the walls are in a line with the brink of the precipice; and to look down from them, is indeed, to look from the pinnacle of the temple. On the top of the opposite bank, which is lofty and bold, stand the majestic ruins of Bothwell-castle: so that few places are to be found, affording such awful monuments of the devastations of time; together with such a romantic prospect, formed by the bendings of the river, and the boldness of its woody banks.

Little account can now be found, of the origin and history of this religious establishment. It appears from some ancient records, that it was originally a sort of colony, from the monastery at Jedburgh. — It is also recorded, that, “Friar Walter, of Blantyre,” (probably he should be stiled, Prior Walter,) “was one of the Scottish commissioners, appointed to negotiate the ransom of King David Bruce, taken prisoner in the battle of Durham, in 1346.” — The following facts, concerning the Priory, are also mentioned in Hope’s *Minor Practics*, Appendix, No. 1. Chap. 2. Canon Regulars, page 420. “Blantire, in Clydesdale, a Priory of this order, was founded before the year 1296; for, at that time, Frere William, Priour de Blantyre, is a subscriber to Regman’s roll,” Prynne, page 663. “Walter Stuart, commendator of this place, was Lord Privy Seal, in the year 1595; and, shortly after, treasurer, upon the Master of Glamis’s dimison. He was made a peer, by the title of Lord Blantire, the 10th July, 1606; from whom is descended the present Lord Blantire.”

Urns have been dug up at different times, in several parts of the parish; and some of them were found lately, in a large heap of stones. In the centre of the heap, square stones were placed, so as to form a kind of chest, and the  
urns



urns were placed within it. They contained a kind of unctuous earthy substance ; and some remains of bones were scattered around them. They are now in possession of the College of Glasgow. Strong impressions of fire, were also evident on some of the stones.

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF STONEHOUSE.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES MOREHEAD.**Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of Stonehouse is in the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr;—18 miles from Glasgow,—7 and a half from Hamilton,—and nearly the same from Lanark. It is 5 miles in length, and, at an average, nearly 2 miles in breadth. No exact survey has yet been taken of it; but, by comparing what has been surveyed, and what has not, it may be reasonably supposed to contain nearly 6000 acres. Of the above, it is computed, that about 12 acres consist of moss, and about 24 of muir. All the rest is arable, excepting the banks of the river. The soil, at the top of the parish, is light; in the middle and lower end, it is also light, but mixed with some clay. It is laid out mostly in small farms. Four or five, perhaps, may pay between 60 and L. 80 of yearly rent; but, at an average, they do not exceed 20 or L. 30.—In the centre of the parish, there is a very thriving village, called Stonehouse. In the course of the last 20 years, 35 new houses have been built; and 2 or 3 more are to be built next summer. Some of these houses contain

tain 2, 3, 4, and even 5 families. The village is principally inhabited by weavers. A few have begun to carry on business for themselves: but, generally speaking, they are employed by manufacturers elsewhere. Some begin working the loom at nine or ten years of age. The females are remarkable for spinning fine. The village above is supposed to draw L. 500 annually for that article. Some years ago, there was one woman, who spun to the extent of ten spindles in the pound.

*Produce.*—The produce, which principally consists of oats, barley, and pease, is, in general, more than what is necessary for the consumption of the inhabitants. The surplus is sent to Hamilton, Glasgow, and Paisley. About 12 years ago, an attempt was made to raise wheat; but, after repeated trials, it was found not to answer, and is, therefore, mostly given up. Every farmer lays his account to raise 10 or 12 bolls of potatoes yearly; and to sow about a peck, or a peck and a half of lint seed, for family uses. They have no fields either of potatoes, flax, or turnip. In the middle and lower end of the parish, every farmer has some parts of his ground in ryegrass. What they peculiarly attend to, is the dairy. It is, in general, expected, that the half, and in some parts the whole, of his rent should be paid by the produce of the byre. They deal greatly in rearing calves for the butchers, which they sell from 20s to 3 or L. 4 each.

*Diseases.*—There is no disease peculiar to the parish. What has hitherto proved most fatal, is the small-pox, which returns every 4 or 5 years. In 1778, 18 children were carried off in the course of a few weeks. Some have begun to inoculate: In every instance where tried, it was successful; but the prejudices of the people against it are so strong, that it is not  
gaining

gaining ground. There are few instances of longevity. Some have attained to 90, but none, (at least for these 30 years,) to 100 years of age.

*Rivers and Mineral Springs.*—The Avon, which rises in the parishes of Avondale and Galston, passes through a part of this district, and runs into the Clyde, not far from Hamilton.—Near the village of Stonehouse, it has a fall which would answer for a cotton mill.—There is a mineral spring at Kitty muir, which has been found to be of service in scorbutic disorders. It would, probably, be more resorted to, if some attention were paid to the well, and if there were better accommodations near it.

*Mines.*—Some years ago, there was a good coal-work in the parish, the property of Mr Lockhart of Castle-hill, which was afterwards, in a great measure, abandoned. Of late, different trials have been made, and it is hoped, it will again be set a going. The parish, in the mean time, has not suffered much, being abundantly supplied with coal from 3, and now 4, different coalleries in the parish of Dalserf, the nearest, scarcely a mile, and the farthest, not four from the village. At present, they cost at the work, 10½d. per cart, which is more than double what they were 30 years ago. A cart is supposed to contain about 30 stone, Trone weight.—The parish abounds in lime; which has been much used of late, for the purposes of farming. It is generally sold in shells, at L. 2 : 10 the kiln, and to the tenants of the proprietors, at L. 2 : 5. A kiln contains 100 bolls of flacked lime. In the river, and on the top of the lime stone, there is plenty of excellent iron stone; which, in all probability, will become soon an object of importance.—There are also fine quar-

ries of free stone, easy to be got at, which has been of great service in the late buildings.

*Population.*—By a list taken in 1696, which seems to have been made out by Mr Foyer, the then minister, there appears to have been, at that time, 872 souls in the parish: of these 272 resided in the village, and 600 in the country. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 823 souls. By a list made out by the present minister in November last, there were found to be 1060; of whom 593 resided in the village, and 467 in the country. The village consequently has increased 321, and the country decreased 133, since 1696. The increase, on the whole, in the last 40 years, is 237. Of the above 1060, there are,

|                | Males. | Females. |
|----------------|--------|----------|
| In the village | 263    | 330      |
| In the country | 222    | 245      |
|                | 485    | 575      |

Majority of females, upon the whole, is 90.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Families in the village | 161 |
| — in the country        | 99  |
|                         | 360 |

Every family, at an average, will contain little more than four.

#### General Division.

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Farmers, who make it their business | 56     |
| Weavers                             | 131    |
| Shoe-makers                         | 15     |
|                                     | Masons |

|                          |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Masons                   | - | - | - | - | - | 9   |
| Wrights                  | - | - | - | - | - | 6   |
| Miners                   | - | - | - | - | - | 6   |
| Smiths                   | - | - | - | - | - | 4   |
| Different millers        | - | - | - | - | - | 6   |
| Tailors                  | - | - | - | - | - | 6   |
| Coopers                  | - | - | - | - | - | 2   |
| Married                  | - | - | - | - | - | 344 |
| Widows and widowers      | - | - | - | - | - | 57  |
| Under 20 years, supposed | - | - | - | - | - | 400 |

*Births.*—It is impossible to ascertain the number of births: though there is a register kept, yet it cannot be depended upon. Some of the antient Dissenters seem never to have registered their children at all. Many of the Established Church forget it. Since the late duty was imposed, there are many who refuse it. Some on account of the expence, and some from a mistaken notion of religion. Some who now reside in one parish, register in another, because it happened to be their former place of residence; and strangers sometimes register in this, because their children, by some accident, have been baptized in it. As it stands, the average will be found to be 25 precisely, reckoning from the beginning of the register, which was in 1696, till November 1790, there being 2275 baptisms recorded. No register appears for the years 1721, and 1722, excepting 2 at the beginning of 1721, and 4 at the end of 1722, which are not included in the above. Multiplying '91, the number of years, by 25, the number of children, the product is 2275, precisely.

*Deaths.*—It is difficult to ascertain the number of deaths. Of these there is no register kept. The only thing, that can throw any light upon it, is the account of the mortcloths, kept

kept by the treasurer for the poor. But this will not be found quite satisfactory; because some, who reside in this parish, bury in another, and consequently get a mortcloth from them; while strangers, sometimes, bury in this; and, supposing these to be equal, which it is probable they are, the matter will be uncertain, because mortcloths are seldom required for children under two years of age. As it stands, the annual average for these last twenty years, will be found to be 17 and  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

*Marriages.*—There is no authentic register of marriages. A list of proclamations, in order to marriage, is kept, both by the precentor and treasurer for the poor. These two have been compared, and found to agree. According to them, there have been, of proclamations, from the beginning of the year 1761, to the end of the year 1790, in all, 289: Of these 7 must be discounted, because the marriages did not take place. Of the remaining 282, in 133 instances, both parties resided in the parish;—in 75, the man resided, but not the woman; and in 71, the woman resided, but not the man. These facts being ascertained, every person will be able to strike an annual average, according as his views are, in making the inquiry.

*Dissenters.*—It is not easy to ascertain the precise number of dissenters from the Established Church, principally, because many scarcely know to what particular sect they belong. Such heads of families, as have come to a determination on this point, are as under:

|              |   |   |   |                      |    |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------------------|----|
| Cameronians  | - | - | 4 | Presbytery of Relief | 21 |
| Antiburghers | . | - | 5 | Burghers             | 5  |

On the supposition, that the above heads are followed by  
their

their families, and according to the average of families above mentioned, the number of dissenters will be somewhat more than 140.

*Rent, &c.*—The valuation of the parish is L. 2721 Scots: the real rent cannot be exactly known. The heritors at present amount to 18. Four of these only have L. 100 of valuation; and none such reside in the parish. More than one half is the property of Mr Lockhart of Castle-hill; who is also patron.

*Poor.*—The stated poor on the list, in the year 1790, were 13. The expence of maintaining them amounted to L. 37 : 12; L. 4 or L. 5 more were distributed in, what is called, occasional charity. The funds, for defraying the above expence, are raised in the following manner :

|  |     |       |       |   |
|--|-----|-------|-------|---|
| By collections, (at an average)                | - - | L. 14 | 0     | 0 |
| Interest of L. 120 of principal stock          | - - | 6     | 0     | 0 |
| Money arising from mortcloths, (at an average) |     | 4     | 0     | 0 |
| ————— from proclamations of marriage           |     | 0     | 8     | 4 |
|  |     |       | <hr/> |   |
|  |     | L. 24 | 8     | 3 |

If the above is not sufficient, as has been the case for some years, then a stent is laid upon the parish, one half of which is paid by the heritors, according to their valuation, and the other half by the inhabitants, according to their circumstances.—None of the parishioners are allowed to beg, though we are much troubled with beggars from other parishes.

*Stipend.*—The stipend of this parish is 97 bolls, 7 pecks and a half of meal, and L. 16 : 12 : 6, in money. Some years



years ago, it was paid by 60 different hands; at present by 42. The glebe is about 4 acres of arable ground, and about an acre of pasture. At an annual average, stipend and glebe will amount to a little more than L. 84 sterling. The manse was built in the year 1761: it cost the heritors, besides the old manse, valued at L. 20, to the extent of L. 153.—The church was rebuilt in the year 1772; the expence betwixt 400 and L. 500.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The prices of provisions in November, 1790, were as follows:

|                       |   |   |   |         |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---------|
| A boll of meal        | - | - | - | 16s 6d. |
| Beef, per stone       | - | - | - | 5s 6d.  |
| Hens                  | - | - | - | 18 3d.  |
| Eggs, by the dozen    | - | - | - | 5d.     |
| Butter, by the pound  | - | - | - | 9d.     |
| Best cheese, do.      | - | - | - | 4½d.    |
| Inferior, or scam, do | - | - | - | 3d.     |

*Wages.*

|  |   |   |   |             |
|--|---|---|---|-------------|
| A man servant, exclusive of victuals, <i>per annum</i> | - | - | - | L. 8 10 0   |
| A female, do. do.                                      | - | - | - | 3 10 0      |
| A labourer by the day, without victuals                | - | - | - | 0 1 0       |
| In hay or harvest                                      | - | - | - | 0 1 6 or 5d |
| Women in harvest                                       | - | - | - | 0 1 0       |
| Masons   | - | - | - | 0 1 0       |
| Taylors  | - | - | - | 0 1 0       |

*Horses, Cows, and Carts.*—The parish, in former times, was divided into forty ploughgates. On the supposition, that every plough has 5 horses, young and old, 12 cows, and

3 carts, the amount will be 200 horses, 480 cows, and 120 carts. The carts are always drawn by one horse only.--There are some sheep, mostly in the upper part of the parish. They are supposed not to exceed 5 score.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads are not in good repair; and it is not easy to say, how they can be made better. They are much hurt by the carriage of coal and lime. Materials to mend them are ill to be got. There are no turnpikes within the parish.—Two bridges over the Avon were both swept away by one flood, in the year 1771: but they were rebuilt in a year or two after,—partly by private contributions, and partly from the county funds.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The produce of the year 1782 fell short of what was necessary, for the consumption of the parish. The deficiency was made up, by some of the more wealthy inhabitants, who purchased foreign grain, and sold it without profit.—By sobriety, frugality, and a more diligent attention to business, the difficulties of that unfortunate season, were got over more easily than could have been expected.—The parochial school-master has 100 merks of salary, which at present is paid by 47 different hands. His perquisites, at an average, amount to 20s annually. The number of his scholars are about 50;—his wages 1s 3d. per quarter;—one third is deducted for the vacation quarter. The amount of the whole about L. 18:—his payments are ill made; and something ought to be done, to make his situation more comfortable. He has a house, and school-house allowed him by the parish. They were built in 1781; and cost the heritors upwards of L. 40.—Besides the parochial school, there is one generally at the head, and another, sometimes, at the foot of the parish. The expence is defrayed by the parents of the children.

There are 4 alehouses, who have taken out a licence, all in the village. No very bad effects, on the morals of the inhabitants, have yet been felt from them ; but many suspect, that this will not long be the case.--The difference betwixt employing cottagers and hired servants, in agriculture, cannot be ascertained here, few or none in the parish, having employed the former. —There is no jail in the parish ; or were any of the parishioners in prison, during the year 1790. Indeed there has been no justiciary trials of any of the people of this parish, for these 30 years, one excepted, who was punished by whipping.—The people in general, are of a middle size ;—healthy in their constitution ;—decent in their conduct,—and, though they may have some real, and some imaginary grievances, yet they are as much contented with their state, as most of their neighbours.

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER XVIII.

## PARISH OF LIBBERTON.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR. JOHN FRASER.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.*

THE ancient and modern name of the parish is Libberton\*. In the old session records, it is written sometimes Libberton, and sometimes Libertown. The origin or etymology of the name cannot be ascertained, unless we derive it from the Latin.

This parish of Libberton lies in the upper ward of Clydesdale, and belongs to the presbytery of Biggar, and the synod of Lothian, and Tweeddale.—The length of the parish, from north to south, is about seven, and the breadth, from east to west, about 4 miles. Its form is nearly a triangle. The face of the country, in this parish, exhibits so different an appear-

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ance,

\* The parishes of Libberton and Quothquan, were united in 1660. The name of Quothquan is now sunk into that of Libberton; and therefore, in the following pages, they shall be considered as one parish, under the denomination of the parish of Libberton.

ance, that the eastern and western parts of it, are a striking contrast to each other. That which lies towards the west, on the banks of the Clyde, is, perhaps, the most fertile spot in all the neighbourhood. Much of its fertility is, no doubt, owing to the inundations of the Clyde, which overflows the lower grounds, or, as they called in this country, the Haughs, often a dozen of times in the year.—The soil is a deep rich clay; and from time immemorial, has been cultivated for common crops, without receiving the smallest particle of dung. The eastern tract of the parish, is an irregular part of varied grounds. Though it be raised considerably above the level of the Clyde, yet it is not so high, as to deserve the name of mountainous; being, throughout its whole extent, a waved tract of ground, covered with heath, and, in some places, susceptible of tillage.

The air is dry and penetrating, and far from being unhealthy. The most prevalent distempers, among the people are rheumatisms, and nervous complaints. The cold and wretched hovels, in which they live, are certainly the cause of the former; the low diet, which they use, may occasion the latter.

*Rivers.*—Methven, which divides this parish from that of Carnwath, is divided into two branches, commonly called, the north and south Methven. The north branch takes its rise near Crosswood-hill, the partition which divides the county of west Lothian, from that of Clydesdale: the south, near Garvelfoot, in the parish of Linton. These two branches form a junction in this parish, within a mile and a half of the Clyde, and are a great accession to the waters of that rapid river. It is here, perhaps, necessary to observe, that there is a small branch of the south Methven, which runs off towards the east, near Garvelfoot, and dividing at Dolphington, the counties of Clydesdale and Tweeddale, falls into the Tweed. This particular

cular circumstance is a demonstrative proof of the great height of this country. Both these rivers produce trout. Those found in the Methven, are fatter, and much better, than those found in the Clyde; which is, no doubt, owing to the rapidity with which the latter runs. In many deep pools of the Clyde, there are likewise perch and pike. The fish caught in these rivers are never brought to public market, but sold to private families in the neighbourhood.

*Hills.*—The only hill, in this parish, is Couthboanlaw, now by corruption, called Quothquanlaw.——The late Dr M'Farlane, so celebrated for his knowledge in antiquities, was of opinion, that this hill derives its name from these two Erse words, *Couth boan*, which, in that language, signify a beautiful, or smooth hill: And indeed, it is one of the most beautiful little hills, that is to be seen in any country. It is about 600 feet above the level of the Clyde, and is green to the very top. On this hill, the common people, to this day, point out, with much fond admiration, WALLACE's chair, where he had his abode, and held conferences with his followers, before the battle of Biggar. The chair is a large rough stone, scooped in the middle.

*Population.*—From the session records, it appears, that the births in this parish, from April, 1683, to April, 1753, amounted exactly to 2205: the annual average of which is  $31\frac{1}{4}$ . The marriages, during the same period, amounted to 563; the annual average of which, is a little more than 8.—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 708 examinable persons, or above 8 years of age\*.

G g 2

parish

\* When Dr Webster made his inquiry, the minister of the parish

parish amount to 370; the females to 380, which makes the whole number of the inhabitants 750. Of these, none reside in towns or villages, there being none in the parish, except that of Libberton, which scarcely deserves the name of a village, as it only consists of a few scattered huts.

From 1783, (the time when the tax, imposed by parliament, on births and burials, commenced,) the records of this session have been kept with great accuracy: and from them it is found, that the births, from October, 1783, to October, 1790, were 122; the annual average of which is nearly  $17\frac{1}{2}$ . The deaths, for the same period, were 98; the annual average of which, is 14. The marriages for the same time, were 29; the annual average of which, is a little more than 4.

Of the 750 souls in this parish, there are 109 below 10; 130 from 10 to 20, 280 from 20 to 50, 199 from 50 to 70, and 22 from 70 to 100.

The number of professed farmers, in the parish, amount to 40. But several of these, have only the half, and some only the quarter of a plough. With their children and servants, they amount to 198.—There are 6 apprentices in the parish;—100 labouring servants, male and female;—1 student at the University of Edinburgh;—1 surgeon;—the Seceders, of all denominations, amount to 98.

From the facts, which have been already stated, respecting the annual average of births, from 1683, to 1753, it appears, with all the force of demonstration, that the population of this parish has decreased very near a half. It is evident, from the

rish of Libberton, was in the decline of life, and totally unable to take an actual survey of it. When the Doctor therefore applied to him, he sent his examination roll, which only contained those above 8 years of age. This the clerk of the parish, who has lived in it all his days, perfectly remembers.

the session records, that there is an annual, and gradual decrease of the births and marriages, from 1753, down to the present time. The annual average of births, from 1683, to 1753, is  $31\frac{1}{4}$ ; so that the number of souls in this parish, at that time, could not be less than 1400. For it must here be observed, that the rule laid down of multiplying the number of births by 26, the number of deaths by 36, in order to ascertain the population of any country, is, in several instances, very fallacious. The annual average of births in this parish, for these 7 years, is  $17\frac{1}{4}$ , which, multiplied by 26, would make the inhabitants amount to little more than 450. The annual average of deaths, during the same period, was 14, which, multiplied by 36, would make them amount to 604. Whereas, according to the list, which the incumbent took of them, in the course of his first visitation of the parish, they amounted to 790. And, according to that, which he took with great care, about 3 months ago, they amounted to 758.

The births from January, 1765, to January, 1775, amounted to 223; the annual average of which, is about 22. From 1775, to 1785, they amounted to 200; the annual average of which, is exactly 20. From 1785, to 1790, they amounted to 89; the annual average of which, is about  $17\frac{1}{2}$ . From these facts, taken from the session records, it appears, that the population of this parish is materially different, from what it was, 5, 10, and 25 years ago.

This depopulation may be attributed to the following causes: 1<sup>st</sup>, To the non-residence of gentlemen on their estates. When landed proprietors reside on their estates, there must be a number of servants, dependants, and workmen of different kinds. Houses would then be built, and marriages take place. Now there are 9 heritors in this parish, none of whom reside in it, except two small ones, of L. 30 a year. Whereas, in former times, 6 considerable families had their constant residence



dence in it, whose houses are now partly demolished, partly kept by a servant or two. A kind of epidemical rage seems to have seized them to flock to large cities. *2dly*, This depopulation may be attributed, to the demolition of the villages and cottages, and the letting out the lands in large farms. The village at Libberton has been a place of some note. Whereas it now consists only of a few scattered huts. That of Quothquan, has likewise been of considerable extent; and now there are not much above 100 souls in it. The old people remember double the number of ploughs in the parish, that are at present; and the ruins of demolished cottages, are to be seen in every corner. When a cottage falls, it is never rebuilt, because the farmer is not obliged to keep it up. Since 1760, the plan, in this country, has been, to destroy the villages and cottages, and throw the lands into as few hands as possible. The evils, which must attend the continuance of this plan, it is not difficult to conjecture. It is not too much to say, that unless speedily checked, it will depopulate the country, with an alarming rapidity.

Some defend this plan, of demolishing the cottages and villages, and letting out the lands in large farms, by asserting, that though country parishes be thereby depopulated, yet there is no real decrease of population, the people only changing the country for the town. But it ought to be considered, that towns never supply themselves with inhabitants. The country is the nursery of population, and large cities would soon decay, were they not constantly recruited from the country. It is a truth generally admitted, that, in large cities, fewer children come into the world, and immensely fewer arrive at maturity, than in the country, in proportion to the number of families.

There are, at present in the parish, 125 married men, widowers

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ers included, and 28 bachelors. Among the bachelors are included all above 22 years of age.

The number of inhabited houses, is exactly 168; which makes the number of persons, at an average, to each inhabited house, to be nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Produce, &c.*—The parish produces no vegetables, plants, nor trees, but what are common in Scotland. There is, indeed, very little planting in it. Though the waste grounds are well fitted for raising firs, and all kinds of hard wood, yet there is no parish, in the upper ward of Clydesdale, where less has been done to improve it in this way.—The number of horses in the parish, amount to 219; black cattle to 790; the sheep to 1149.

There are upwards of 6000 acres in the parish. Of these there are about 3500 in tillage, viz. 100 employed in raising barley,—30 in turnips and potatoes,—35 in flax—24 in fown, or artificial grasses,—1188 in pasture,—2123 in oats. All the rest of the land may be called waste, being fit for nothing but planting:—The parish supplies itself with all kinds of provisions; and exports a considerable quantity of meal, butter, cheese, and some horses and black cattle.

This parish has many disadvantages. From its high situation, it is much exposed to frost, which generally sets in very early, and is very late in going away. As it stands in the centre between the east and west seas, it is likewise exposed to the rains of both oceans, by which, the farmers often suffer in harvest. Another disadvantage arises from the want of shelter. There are few strips, or clumps of planting, to shelter the cattle during the severity of winter. The vast tract of waste land in the parish, which at present is not worth 6d an acre, might be turned to great account in that way, did the landed proprietors attend to the interest of their families.

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The only physical advantage, which it has, arises from the inundations of the Clyde. The overflowings of this river, deposit a kind of slime over all the haughs, which generally makes them produce good crops of oats, without receiving any dung.

The general rent of the best arable ground is L. 1 : 5. the rent of the inferior, 10s. The rent of the farms is from L. 79 to L. 30. The number of farms, as already observed, is greatly diminished, and will be diminished more and more in the course of four years; that being the time when a great many of the present leases will expire. Though the people be convinced of the great advantages of inclosing, yet the parish is in general uninclosed. The soil however is, in many places, especially about Libberton and Quothquan, excellently adapted for raising hedges, and inclosures of all kinds; and until the landed proprietors do something in this way, the country will never be improved. It is to no purpose to sow turnip and artificial grasses, while the fields remain open to the inroads of all kinds of cattle during the winter.

The land-rent of the parish, at present, is exactly L. 1819. But were the lands improved, as they ought, the rental might be raised much higher.

*Church and Stipend.*--The time of building the church, is uncertain, it being very old. It was repaired in 1759. The manse was built in 1761; and received some inconsiderable repairs in 1784.—In consequence of a late augmentation, the value of the stipend, including the glebe, and what is allowed for providing communion elements, amount to L. 110.—Mr Lockhart of Carnwath is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in the parish, is 12. The fund for their support, arises from the voluntary collections at the church

church doors on Sabbath,—from mortcloths,—and proclamation money,—and the interest of L. 50, at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The collections at the church doors, with the interest of the L. 50, &c. &c. amount to L. 17 per annum.—The burden of supporting the poor, lies entirely upon the farmers, and the other poor inhabitants in the parish. Though there be nine heritors, yet they never inquire into the state of the poor, nor contribute one farthing for their relief.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—The price of all kinds of provision is double what it was 60 years ago. A cow, weighing 20 stone, might have been bought then, for L. 2 : 15 sterling: a cow, of the same weight, will now cost L. 5. A fatted calf, which, at that time, brought 10s 6d. will now bring L. 1 : 1. The price of mutton, lamb, &c. &c. is raised in the same proportion.

The wages of labourers in husbandry, and other work, are generally 1s 2d. a day, except in the time of harvest; then the men, when hired by the day, get 1s 6d. the women 1s. The wages of masons a day, are 1s 10d.—that of taylor, 1s.

The wages of a ploughman, have, within these 5 years, risen from L. 5 : 10, to L. 7; and some of them get L. 8:—that of a barnman, from L. 4, to L. 5:5. The wages of female servants, are also raised from L. 2 : 10, to L. 3 : 5.

*Antiquities.*—From the monuments of antiquity in the village of Libberton, there is reason to believe, that it has been a place of considerable importance in former times. On the south and east, it has been surrounded with a strong dyke, or earthen mound, the foundation of which is still visible; and which separates the arable, from the waste lands.—In the village, there are likewise to be seen, the vestiges of three large

penned vaults; which were certainly erected, as asylums for cattle. For it is a well known fact, that while war and tumult occupied the attention of men, in this country, animal food was their principal support ; and the lands that were under grain, were all bounded by earthen mounds, and divided by *run-ridge*, among the inhabitants, proportionably to their respective interests, the out fields being allotted solely for the use of their cattle. The state of the times required this regulation;—for when the families of Douglas and Buccleugh were wardens of the south marches, they allowed their retainers, constantly to commit depredations on the inhabitants of this part of the country, destroying their grain, carrying off their cattle, &c. so that, upon a signal given, the whole villagers, (having all one interest), turned out to combat their spoilers: And, as an asylum for their cattle, erected these penned vaults; before the doors of which they always built a high wall, and, on the top of it, stationed men, with a quantity of large stones, which they threw down upon the enemy, when they attempted to get at the cattle, by breaking open the doors. Many of these vaults, and walls, were to be seen entire, some years ago, in this neighbourhood.

About a quarter of a mile to the southward of the village of Libberton, there are likewise to be seen, the ruins of a strong fortification, or camp. It stands on the edge of a high, and barren muir, about half a mile from the Clyde; and commands an extensive prospect of that river, to the south and west. Its form, which is round, is quite distinct: It comprehends more than an acre of ground, and is surrounded with a double wall of earth: between the walls, there is a deep ditch, or vallum. There is no appearance of any stone work about it, except in the middle, which seems to have been coarsely paved with free-stone. About 300 yards to the south, there is a free-stone quarry, out of which, these stones have been dug,

dug, as appears from their being of the same grain. From the entry, which has been upon the east, there was a strong earthen wall, which was plowed down a few years ago; and which run to the north, and separating the arable, from the waste lands, joined the village of Libberton. Upon the south, there is to be seen the foundation of another strong earthen wall; which likewise divides the arable, from the waste lands; and, running through a steep descent, joins a small burn, that runs through a glen. There is no tradition, concerning this camp, that can be depended upon. Perhaps it was erected by the Picts, during the time that they were in a state of hostility with the Scots: and this conjecture is supported by the following historical facts: It is well known, that the river Clyde was the divisive line, between the two contending nations. Now, as this camp is stationed on the very verge of the western boundary, of the kingdom of the Picts, there is every reason to believe, that it was erected by them. It may be added, as a further proof, of its being Pictish, that there is to be seen, on the opposite side of the Clyde, at Drumalbang, about 4 miles distant, the vestige of a Scots lodgement, or camp; to which they often resorted in their frequent excursions from Dunbritton, (Dumbarton,) their principal residence. It is also well known, that, when in danger of an attack from the Picts, they betook themselves to the strength of the hill of Tinto, which stands in full view, and within 2 miles of this camp. From all which, there is reason to believe, that this camp was erected by the Picts: But whether there has been any engagement at, or near it, history does not mention.

About 300 yards to the eastward of this camp, are three small artificial hillocks, which have all the appearance of being *tumuli*,

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—About a quarter of a mile to the southward of the village of Libberton, there are quarries of free-stone. These stones are very easily got at; and are generally used in building the few houses that are erected in the parish. In the east part of the parish, there is a coal mine. It has not been wrought for these many years, which is a great loss, not only to this, but to all the neighbouring parishes towards the east, as we are obliged, for want of it to drive our coals from places at the distance of 12 or 15 miles.

The fuel made use of in the parish, is peat and coal. There is little, or no peat moss here. They are mostly brought from Carnwath; where each of the farmers, on Mr Lockhart's estate, have, what is called a *room*, in a large peat moss, that lies to the southward of that village. Coal is brought partly from Douglas, and partly from Cleugh, in the parish of Carnwath. Fifteen stone of coals, (or what the people here call a load,) cost 5d. at Douglas; and at Cleugh, the same quantity is bought for 4d.

The number of ploughs in the parish may amount to 46. They are of the old Scottish kind, and made in a very clumsy manner.—The carts may amount to about 180.

The people in this parish are very economical, and far from being expensive or luxurious for their circumstances, except in the use of tobacco. Smoking is almost universally practised among both men and women.

The people of this parish enjoy, upon the whole, a considerable share of the comforts and advantages of life; and, from their outward appearance, they seem to be contented with their situation. The firm persuasion of a future state is their great support, in the midst of all their poverty. The first way to meliorate their condition, is to give them better houses: for at present, the cottages, and many, even of the farm houses, are fitter for the habitation of beasts, than of human beings.

Property

Property in land has not undergone many changes, as will be seen in the following facts: In the 11th century, this parish belonged entirely to two portioners, viz. the ancestors of the present Lord Sommerville, and of Mr Chancellor, of Shield-hill; both of whom came from Normandy, with William the Conqueror, in the year 1066. After the battle of Hastings, not being provided for in England, they were sent to Scotland, and with the concurrence of the Scottish king, were provided for as follows: The former, viz. Mr Sommerville, in the baronies of Libberton, and Carnwarth. This family gradually arose in power and influence, and soon became the chief, in the upper ward of Clydesdale. Mr Sommerville, being dignified, with the title of Sir Thomas Sommerville, was pitched upon, after the Battle of Durham, as one of the sureties for the ransom of King David II. Soon after he was farther dignified, with the title of Lord Sommerville, which greatly increased the power and influence of the family. But Gilbert, the eighth lord, being vain enough to entertain, for many weeks, James V. with his court, at his castle of Cauthalloy, (now by corruption, called Caw-daily,) reduced himself so much by these, and other extravagancies, that he was obliged to sell the whole estate to the Lords Marr and Buchan, and betook himself to the lands of Drum, in Lothian, which, it appears, were the patrimony of his eldest son's wife. The lords Marr and Buchan possessed it for near a century. It does not appear, however, that they made any improvements, on either the lands or villages. But there is reason to believe, that Lord Marr, passed a considerable part of his time in Libberton. For there is still to be seen, within the distance of 300 yards of the present church, the vestige of an old house, called Marr's walls, (probably those of a hunting house;) and many other parts of the lands, about the village,



lage, are called, to this day, Marr's braes, Marr's dyke, &c. &c.

The common people, even point out the place, where his horses were washed and watered. It stands at the distance of about 300 yards from his house.—These two lords, about the beginning of the 17th century, sold this great estate to Lord Dalziel, afterwards Earl of Carnwath, who possessed it, down to 1676, when it was purchased by President Lockhart, at a very easy rate; as the arrears, non-entries, &c. went all into the bargain, and which, when recovered, reduced the price very much. It is asserted, by some, that, at the period, when this purchase was made, so great was the extent of the estate, that the rental then was equal to the present rental, L. 6000, notwithstanding the odds of the value of money, in the course of 114 years.—The Lockhart family have sold, at different times, various parts of the land, which is the reason that there are now so many heritors in the parish.

As was observed above, the founder of the present family of Shield-hill, came down to Scotland in the 11th century, with Mr Sommerville, and had, for his share, the barony of Shield-hill, or Cauth-boan, where he built a most beautiful house, on the lands called Road-head, about 300 yards to the southward of the church of Quothquan; a most beautiful situation, having a commanding view of the Clyde, for many miles.—This family continued to flourish, till 1567, when the then Mr Chancellor, from a principal of loyalty, joined the Queen's party at Hamilton, and was engaged at the battle of Langside; the particulars, and consequences of which are so well known.—After the defeat of the unfortunate Mary, Regent Murray sent out a party to demolish the houses of all her adherents; and among others, they burnt down the beautiful house at Road-head; the vestige of which  
still

still remains. And here it may be remarked, her great error after the battle of Langside, was in crossing the Clyde. For, had she remained on the west side of it, among her friends, she might, with the rest of her scattered army, have kept Murray, and his party, at bay, until a treaty had been made between them; and consequently have avoided her dismal captivity, and ignominious death in England.

There are 2 bridges in this parish, over the river Methven. One of them was built by the county; and the other, out of the vacant stipend of this parish, when the present incumbent was settled. — The state of the roads is far from being good: they were all made by the statute labour, which, for some years, was exacted in kind. But the heritors, not thinking that the farmers wrought so well as they ought, agreed to commute it at 12s the plough: and, it must be confessed, that the work is done to much better purpose, since this alteration took place. — The parish, however, is so extensive, and the number of ploughs so few, that the roads will never be good, unless the heritors agree to be at more expence themselves. The general opinion among the people, is, that the advantages of turnpikes, are great. There are none, however, in the parish, except the great road, which is just now making, between Peebles and Glasgow, and which passes through the east corner of it.

There are 3 schools in this parish;—one in Libberton, one in Quothquan, and one in White-Castle. The rates of teaching of the 3 school-masters, are the same, being 1s sterling, a quarter, for English,—1s 6d. for writing,—and 2s for Latin, &c. &c. The salary of the school-master in Libberton, is L. 8:11 sterling; and the number of his scholars is about 35. The salary of the school-master in Quothquan, arises from a mortification, and amounts to L. 2:10: the number of his scholars is generally about 20. The schoolmaster in White-Castle

Castle has no fixed salary ; being employed by the inhabitants, in that part of the parish, to teach their children, merely on account of their great distance from the schools in Libberton and Quothquan.

There is only one alehouse in the parish, which retails whiskey, porter, and small beer. It does not appear, that it has any bad effect upon the morals of the parishioners ; the people in this country being much less addicted to drinking than they were 40 years ago.

Twenty-five cottages have been pulled down, or converted into stables, and stalls, within these 10 years, and 3 only have been built within the same period. This is an additional proof of the depopulation of the parish.

## NUMBER XIX.

## PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM.

(STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

*By the Rev. DR. LAMONT.**Origin of the Name:*

**T**HE origin of Kirkpatrick, or Kilpatrick, is evident. It is a church, cell, or burying-place, dedicated to Patrick, the tutelary saint of Ireland;—a person, whose name, in antient times, seems to have been held in high veneration, in the southern parts of Scotland. The origin of Durham is not so evident. It has given rise to many speculative opinions: but most probably it is derived from the Saxon words, *Durr*, which signifies, dry or barren,—and *Ham*, which denotes, a village, or the division of a manor. If this derivation be just, Durham becomes descriptive of a country that is dry and barren; an appellation that is peculiarly applicable to the situation, soil, and surface of this particular district.

*Extent and Situation.*—The parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham is about 9 miles in length, from south to north, and between 3 and 4 miles in breadth, from east to west. It lies in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and in the presbytery, and synod

of Dumfries. It is bounded by the parishes of Urr and Cross-michael on the south,—by Parton and Balmaclellan, on the west,—by Glencairn and Dunscore, on the north,—and by Holywood and Kirkpatrick-Irongray, on the east. The church is situated nearly in the centre betwixt Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and New-Galloway; and is within 2 miles of the great road from Carlisle to Portpatrick.

*Antiquities.*—In different parts of the parish, there are visible remains of circular walls and mounds, of artificial construction. What these have been, or for what purposes they were erected, cannot, at this remote period, be distinctly ascertained; as there is no written record, to perpetuate the memory of their origin, nor any incontrovertible tradition, to explain the uses to which they were destined. Some think, that they have been Roman fortifications, and others, that they have been Druidical temples: But the general opinion is, that they have been Danish encampments. The impartiality of history, however, presumes not to venture dogmatical assertions, on a subject, where the knowledge of truth, is either shaded by the drapery of fable, or lost in the fallacy of conjecture.

*Soil and Surface.*—The upper part of the parish, which gradually rises to the north, and which includes about one half of its extent, is, in a very large proportion, covered with heath. —Its average value, for pasture, is from 1s to 2s per acre;—the grain, which is produced on such spots as have been cultivated, is little more than sufficient to support the inhabitants. —The chief excellence, for which it is distinguished, is the store of game, with which it abounds. Kirkpatrick moor has long been celebrated for that production; and, on the return  
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of every shooting season, has ever invited the keen and active sportsmen of the neighbourhood, to enjoy their favourite amusement, on its rough and uncultivated surface.--The lower part of the parish, which gradually declines towards the south, is almost entirely arable. The soil is thin and sandy. When excited by lime, or other stimulating manures, it produces rich and luxuriant crops; and the grass, which grows upon those parts of the land which are improved, is kindly and nourishing. The average value of the best cultivated land, in the lower end of the parish, is from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10 per acre.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—The system of agriculture, which takes place in Kirkpatrick-Durham, is much the same as that which is adopted in other parishes in the south of Scotland: As the principles of that system have been fully explained, in the account of those parishes, the statistical history of which has already been presented to the public, it would be improper to detain the intelligent reader by unnecessary repetitions.—The quantity of grain, annually produced in the parish, cannot be precisely ascertained:—The reason is this: The improvement of land being only in its infancy, large fields, which formerly lay wild in a state of nature, are every year brought into a state of tillage; so that, upon a probable supposition, a tenth, or twelfth part of arable land, within the parish, which was formerly neglected, is put into a situation of bearing grain; and consequently, till the whole arable land, in the district, is reduced to a state of culture, it will be impossible to fix, with any degree of accuracy, the extent of the annual produce; because the account of any one particular year, is extremely different from that of another. It is, however, proper to remark, that, even in the present partial state of cultivation, there is much more grain produced in the parish,

than what is necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants, and the surplus is sent either to the Dumfries market, or to the manufacturing towns on the western coast of Scotland.—Experiments have been made to raise wheat, barley, and rye; but the attempts have not been so successful, as to induce a general imitation. The species of grain, which chiefly employs the attention, and which most liberally rewards the toils of the farmer, is oats; and it is highly probable, from the nature, both of the seasons, and of the soil, that oats will remain the staple grain of Galloway. Great quantities of potatoes are annually raised: a considerable proportion of them is used as food by the inhabitants; and what is not necessary, for the purposes of internal consumption is either sent to market, or employed in feeding hogs, which, by many, is considered as one of the most lucrative branches of rural attention.

*Mills and Maltures.*—The spirit of agriculture, in Kirkpatrick-Durham, is considerably checked, and the progress of improvement very much retarded, by a severe servitude, laid on a great part of the parish, in consequence of an astringent to the mill of Lochpatrick: This, after a deduction of seed and horse corn, amounts to about the twelfth part of the whole crop, produced on each farm, within the limits of the astringent. This is a burdensome, and most oppressive taxation: The farmers loudly complain of it; and, though their complaints are not heard, yet they seem to be reasonable.—For can any proposition be more evident than this,—that every tax, laid upon agriculture, is hostile to the interests of industry, and to the progress of improvement, and, of consequence, must be subversive of the public good? It is hoped, therefore, that proprietors of land, and persons of power and influence, will be roused to exert themselves, in order to procure relief both for themselves, and their tenants, from this, and every other remaining

maining shackle of feudal oppression : And, it is not doubted, that the liberal spirit of the British Legislature, will give countenance to any regular application, that may be made to them, for a just and equitable repeal of those laws, which are not only burdensome and oppressive to the subjects of the country, but even, in some degree, inconsistent with the principles of a free constitution, and contrary to the common rules of civilized society.

*Air and Climate.*—The air is extremely pure and healthful. Having, at all times, a free and full circulation, its salubrity is seldom injured by noxious vapours. Comparatively speaking, there is but little sickness or disease in the parish. The inhabitants, who are naturally of a sound constitution, and who meet with no remarkable occurrences to waste their strength, generally enjoy the blessings of life to a remote old age. There died lately in the parish, a woman, aged 108 years, whose faculties were fresh, and almost unimpaired to the last ; and there are living in it, just now, a number of persons on the borders of 90, who support the fatigues of their respective employments, with an astonishing degree of strength and ability, and who tell the tales of former years, with a vivacity and cheerfulness, almost approaching to the gaiety of youth.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—The river Urr runs along the western side of Kirkpatrick-Durham, from one end to the other. It rises from Loch-Urr, a lake of considerable magnitude on the confines of Balmaclellan, and, after a winding course of about 20 miles, discharges itself into the Solway Firth.—The fish, which are most frequently found in the Urr, are salmon, sea trout, burn trout, and pike.—There are 4 large lakes in the parish, and 5 brooks, or burns, which, rising from different



rent sources, and running in different directions, empty themselves at last into the Urr.

*Number and Occupations of the Inhabitants.*—The population of Kirkpatrick-Durham, in former times, cannot be fixed by any certain rule, as, from time immemorial, there has been no parochial register of births, baptisms, or burials. The return to Dr Webster, was 699 souls. The present computation is about 1000: Of these, nearly one half are males, and the other half females.

|                          |     |             |                |         |   |   |   |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------|----------------|---------|---|---|---|
| Dwelling-houses          | 210 | Blacksmiths | -              | -       | 4 |   |   |
| Heritors                 | -   | -           | 36             | Taylors | - | - | 8 |
| Heritors resident        | -   | 15          | Shoemakers     | -       | - | 5 |   |
| Clergyman                | -   | 1           | Millers        | -       | - | 2 |   |
| School-master            | -   | 1           | Coopers        | -       | - | 3 |   |
| Schoolmaster's assistant | 1   | Butcher     | -              | -       | 1 |   |   |
| Farmers or tenants       | -   | 69          | Baker          | -       | - | 1 |   |
| Masons                   | -   | 14          | Dancing-master | -       | 1 |   |   |
| Weavers                  | -   | 13          | Shop-keepers   | -       | - | 3 |   |
| Joiners                  | -   | 6           | Inn-keepers    | -       | 7 |   |   |

The population of Kirkpatrick-Durham, for the last 10 years, has increased with surprising rapidity;—and within the last 20 years, may be supposed, without any great deviation from probability, to have been doubled.

*Causes of Population.*—The increased population of the parish, is principally owing to the three following causes: 1. A public and most beneficial road, about 15 or 16 years ago, was made between the church of Kirkpatrick-Durham, and the Dub of Hafs, a harbour on the Urr, nearly where that river enters the Solway Firth; by which, a communication has  
been

been opened with the north of England, whence lime, that great source of improvement, has been imported; and thus, a spirit of agriculture having been excited, it has given employment to a great number of labourers, and artificers of different descriptions. 2. The proprietors of land, who were formerly accustomed to let whole estates to one tenant, for the purpose of pasture, (a practice which tended very much to depopulate the country, and to produce continual emigration,) have of late years been induced to divide their property into smaller possessions, and by that means, have greatly increased the number of tenants. 3. A village has lately been erected in the vicinity of the church, which, though projected only about 7 or 8 years ago, has advanced so rapidly, that there are about 50 dwelling-houses already built, and nearly as many feued, which, it is expected, will be built in the course of 2 or 3 years. This village, though as yet but in its infancy, has given a liveliness and animation to the place, formerly unknown in that part of the country; and has made a very considerable addition to the number of the inhabitants. But, as villages will always become nurseries of dissipation and profligacy, when the inhabitants are idle, plans have been formed to give them honest, and creditable employment. In the course of the last year, the three following societies, or copartneries, were established: 1. A society for carrying on a cotton manufactory, consisting of 6 members, whose operations were commenced on a capital of L. 120, or L. 20 each share. 2. A society for carrying on an woollen manufactory. This society consists of 5 members, and begins its operations on a capital of L. 100, or L. 20 each share. 3. A society of trade and commerce: This society consists of 80 members; and begins its operations upon the small capital of 80 guineas, or 1 guinea each share.

These societies have their respective regulations, drawn up, with as much care and attention as possible, to prevent error or fraud

fraud, and these are subscribed by all the members. The annual profits which arise from these different establishments, are proposed, in a great measure, to be added to the original stock, and thus, from small beginnings, to advance by humble and progressive steps to such a degree of importance, as the situation and circumstances of the country will permit: And though the smallness of the respective capitals, may excite, in some persons, the idea of insignificance, yet as the plans are evidently calculated to promote industry,—to give employment to the young,—and to advance, though perhaps in a small degree, the good of the country, they cannot fail to merit the approbation of every honest and virtuous citizen.

*General State of the Parish.*—The valuation of the parish is L. 3500 Scots: the rental about L. 3000 sterling.—The king is patron.—Dr Lamont is the present incumbent. The manse and offices, which were built about 15 years ago, and the church, which was erected about 40 years ago, are all in a state of complete repair. The ecclesiastical benefice, including stipend, glebe, &c. is worth L. 110 sterling, *per annum*.—The school-master's income, may be computed at L. 30 *per annum*; as, besides the legal salary, which is about L. 11, there is a free house, and the interest of near L. 300 sterling of mortification.

*State of the Poor, and their Provisions.*—There are few poor persons in the parish. Such as belong to that class, are supported by weekly collections at the church, and the interest of a small fund, saved out of the former collections. A few months ago, a society of a charitable complexion, was established in the parish. The appellation which it has assumed, is, *The Sympathetic Society of Kirkpatrick-Durham*; and the place where it meets, is at the village before described. The

intention of this society is to provide a source of relief for the sick, and the old, for widows, and orphans. The system on which the society proceeds, is this;—every member, at his entrance, pays down 2s6d.—and, as long as he continues a member, he gives in 6d. every month, which is added to the general stock. This money, under fixed and public regulations, is distributed by the office-bearers of the society, to such as are found to be proper objects of relief; and the office-bearers, who are annually elected, are responsible for their management, during the continuance of their office. Societies of this description are becoming frequent in different parts of the country, and they seem to deserve encouragement;—because the delicacy of the human feelings will be less hurt, when supplies are received from a source of this kind, than when received from the ordinary sources of charity: and likewise they will tend, in a great measure, to supersede, at least in this part of the island, the necessity of other charitable institutions; and to prevent the existence of those heavy taxes for the relief of the poor, which are so much, and, on some accounts, perhaps, so justly complained of, in the southern part of the united kingdom.

*Fair and Races.*—There is an annual fair in the parish, on the last Thursday of March. It is held in the village before mentioned; and in the afternoon, when the business of the day is mostly concluded, foot races, and other diversions, are exhibited, for the entertainment of those who chuse to attend them. This fair has increased most remarkably for the last 5 years; and if the manufactories, which are begun this year, should have any tolerable degree of success, it is probable that they will still increase more and more. About 4 years ago, a course was prepared, in a field adjoining to the village, for horse races, which have regularly taken place every year since

their commencement, and are proposed to be continued annually in all time coming. These races have given a wonderful degree of publicity to the place, and have been the means of collecting great numbers of spectators: At the last races, the persons present were computed to be not fewer than 8000. They are attended by the nobility and gentry of the neighbouring districts of Dumfries and Galloway; and the sports of the day are always concluded by a ball in the evening, which is held in an assembly-room, lately built in the village; that is finished in a style of elegance and accommodation, which excites the astonishment of strangers.

*Inns.*—There are 7 inns, or alchouses in the parish, which are said to be very well frequented; and which, it is believed, produce, in this parish, much the same effects as they do in other parishes;—that is, a mixture of good and evil: on one hand, they are productive of good, by affording entertainment to the traveller, and accommodation to those who have occasion to meet, upon private or public business;—and, on the other hand, they are productive of evil, by giving opportunity to the idle and dissipated, to indulge themselves in practices, which are but little connected with either the temporal or spiritual interests of society.

*Roads.*—A road from Kirkcudbright to Edinburgh, and another from New Galloway to Dumfries, cross each other, at right angles, at the entry to the village of Kirkpatrick-Durham. These roads have not hitherto been much attended to; but the high expediency, of having them put into proper repair, has of late attracted the notice of the gentlemen of the county; and committees of the commissioners of supply, and justices of the peace, have been appointed, to fix the proper lines for these roads, and to get them made as soon as possible. When properly

perly finished, they will be of singular advantage, not only to the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham, but also to the county at large;—as, in travelling from Kirkcudbright to Edinburgh, the road over the moor, will be at least 12 miles shorter, than that which goes by Dumfries and Moffat;—and farther, as it will open up an easy and beneficial communication, betwixt the lower part of the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, and the upper part of the shire of Nithsdale, by which corn and meal may be conveniently taken, from the stewardry, to Sanquhar, and the country around it;—and coals from Sanquhar, and limestone from Closeburn, or Barjarg, may be brought into the stewardry. This country is evidently only in the infancy of improvement; but a little attention and expence, properly applied, might soon bring it into a situation, equally advantageous to the interests of society, and honourable to those, whose public spirit induces them, by encouraging the exertions, and rewarding the industry of their countrymen, to promote the general benefit of the community.

*Import and Export.*—The articles generally exported from the parish, not including sheep, horses, or black cattle, which, at the proper seasons, are sent to different markets, are oats, barley, oat-meal, potatoes, and wool. The articles imported into the parish, are lime, coals, stone-ware, and those goods of all kinds which are retailed by the shop-keepers.

*Fuel.*—The gentlemen, who reside in the parish, generally burn coals, which they get from Sanquhar, Dalmellington, or Whitehaven. The smiths get the coals, necessary for the purpose of the forge, from Sanquhar, or Dalmellington. The other inhabitants use peats; of which there is such great abundance in Kirkpatrick-Durham, that the neighbouring parishes of Urr and Crossmichael, receive considerable supplies

from it every year. When once the roads above mentioned are made, peats will become of less value, and coals will probably be used, (at least in part,) by almost all the families in the parish.

*Price of Provisions.*—The prices of grain and meal are very mutable; but in general, the price of meal is from 1s 6d. to 2s per stone :—butter about 9d per pound ;—cheese about 4d ;—beef and mutton about 3d :—fowls from 8d to 1s. each, according to their weight or fatness ;—and eggs 3d, or sometimes 4d per dozen. The prices, of all the articles of consumption, have risen greatly within the last 10 years; and are expected to rise still higher, in proportion as the country becomes richer, more populous, and more cultivated.

*Price of Labour.*—The price of labour here is very high. The wages of an experienced man-servant, for the year, are not less than 7 or L. 8. The wages of an experienced woman-servant, for the year, from L. 2 : 10, to L. 4. The wages of a harvest-labourer, are from L. 1 : 5 to L. 1 : 10. of a day-labourer, 1s 3d. in summer, and 1s. in winter; of a mason, from 1s 8d. to 2s.

*The Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—The ecclesiastical affairs of this parish, as in every other parish in Scotland, are under the direction of the kirk-session. This court, anxious to regulate its proceedings, by a strict regard to law, justice, expediency, and decorum, never indulges a spirit of inquisitorial investigation, or perplexes itself with a train of idle or vexatious processes. There is no dissenting meeting-house of any denomination in the parish. There are a few Cameronians, and a few Seceders in it; but liberty of conscience, and the unquestionable right, which every man has to chuse his own religion,

religion, are principles so well understood, that few disturbances arise from the turbulence of faction, or the strife of controversy. Though a religious sect, called Buchanites, resided for sometime in the parish, yet that circumstance did not produce one instance of apostacy from the Established Church. In short, the wildness of superstition, and the bigotry of fanaticism are giving place to liberal sentiment, and rational religion:—and every good Christian beholds with pleasure, the dictates of reason, and the maxims of morality, happily connecting themselves with the doctrines of faith, and the duties of devotion.

NUMBER



## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF NEWTON UPON AYR.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

*By the Rev. MR. PEEBLES.**Origin of the Name.*

**I**N the charters granted to this burgh, Newton, is called *Nova villa de*, or more commonly *Super Air*. It is now generally known, by the name of Newton upon Ayr. It evidently derives that appellation, from its vicinity to the adjacent royal borough. Though built at a later period, it appears, that Newton originally possessed, as it still does, distinct and independent privileges, and hence it is called, not the *Newton of Ayr*, but *Newton upon* the banks of the river of that name.

*Situation and Extent.*—Newton lies in the county, presbytery, and synod of Ayr. It was at first included in the parish of Prestick, but was erected into a separate parish in 1779. Its extent is very inconsiderable, not above a mile and a half in length, and a mile in breadth. It is bounded by the parishes of Prestick and St Quivox, and, in every other quarter by the river Ayr, and the sea.

*The Burgh.*—Newton is a burgh of barony, or regality, holding

holding directly of the king. By whom it was erected, is uncertain, as the original charters are lost; but tradition says, that Robert I. who, in his old age, was seized with a scrophulous, or leprous disorder, granted Newton and Prestick the privileges they now enjoy, in consideration of the kindness shown him upon the occasion of his illness. The same king, it is also said, endowed an hospital for old infirm people, called *King's Cafe*, which still exists, and is situated near the boundary of this parish.——The oldest paper in the custody of the community of Newton, is dated in 1574, and contains a short precept, directed to the two baillies of the burgh, empowering them to exercise authority in the town; but there is no signature affixed to it. All the privileges, formerly given to the borough, were renewed by James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England, by a charter, dated the 24th of September 1595; and another charter, to the same effect, was granted, about 5 years after.

In these charters, no mention is made of the internal regulations of the burgh; but from antient and constant usage, its constitution has acquired certain peculiarities. The number of freemen or burgeses, is limited to 48, which compose the community. Each of these freemen possesses, what is called, a *lot or freedom*, containing about 4 acres of arable land; besides the common, on which the burgeses have an exclusive right to pasture their cattle. No houses are annexed to these freedoms; but every burges must reside in the burgh, or possess a house as his property, which he may rent to any of the inhabitants. The community meet every two years to elect their magistrates; and, at this election every freeman has a vote. They choose two baillies, one treasurer, and six counsellors, who have the management of every thing belonging to the burgh; but on urgent occasions, they call meetings of the community. Of late, little or nothing has been done without taking

taking the sense of the freemen. This method, however, on account of their numbers, is sometimes a hindrance to business. The accounts of the treasurer are open to the inspection of every freeman, and he is accountable to the community at large. The right of succession to their freedoms is limited. A son succeeds to his father; and a widow, not having a son, enjoys the property of her husband as long as she lives. But as the female line is excluded, the lots or freedoms frequently revert to the town, who dispose of them to the most industrious inhabitants of the place, on their advancing a certain sum of money, which is placed in the public fund. Each freedom is valued at L. 25, though none have given so much for it. The common revenue of the burgh, exclusive of these freedoms, is small. It arises from certain feu duties; the rent of a mill, a ropework, some carpenters yards, and other small properties, which produce about L. 60 *per annum*; but of late years, they have derived considerable profit from the coal works in their estate. This fund, however, is precarious, and uncertain.

*The Town,—its Grounds, and Surface.*—The town principally consists of one large street, about 680 yards in length, and about 80 feet in breadth. It is unfortunately incumbered near the bridge, with a mill, &c. the removal of which, would be a great convenience and improvement. There are three other streets in the parish, but their extent is not great. In that part of it, called Garden-street, there formerly stood a large dwelling-house, denominated Newtonca-stle, which was, for a long time, the property of the Wallaces of Craigie; but now some part of the wall, which inclosed the garden, alone remains. Thirty houses have been built in the town within these thirteen years; but ten of them on old foundations.

The

The greatest part of the ground, belonging to the community, is a dead level, lying to the east, and north-east of the town.—The soil is a light blowing sand, so that the land, along the coast to the north-east, wears a gloomy appearance. It might be meliorated, by rearing plantations of Scots fir, and of the larix, but, above all, of the pineaster, which is called the maritime pine, from its thriving so near the sea. No durable inclosures can be made but at a great expence. The more inland part is rather of a better soil, with a stratum of moss on the surface. It was once a morass, but was drained many years ago at some expence. By this drain, the water is conveyed, that serves the mill, belonging to the community.—A plan of all their grounds was drawn up sometime ago by the Town-Council; and another was lately executed by the company, who rent their coal. The arable ground consists of above 200 acres, and the common about 150. The whole is valued in the cess-books at L. 117 Scots, and the property is estimated to be worth in all L. 4000 sterling. From the nature of the soil, which is mostly a bed of blowing sand, to a considerable depth, the ground is far from being fertile; it requires constant manuring to render it moderately productive. The best and most profitable crop is rye-grass and clover. Oats and bear are the grains commonly sown. The seed-time for oats, is from the middle of March to the middle of April: and that for barley, from the 20th of April, to the 25th of May. It is thought, that the inhabitants sow their grain much too late. Rye is sometimes cultivated with advantage; but this crop impoverishes the ground.—Sea-weed is found to answer as manure; but the quantity cast on the shore is not great.—The soil, in tolerable seasons, produces excellent potatoes.—The whole parish is open and unsheltered. No a tree to be found, and no thorn hedges of any growth, owing to the violence of the westerly winds, which often blow

severely on this coast, during the winter season. The property of the borough, however, might be much improved, and its value greatly increased. — The only public road, is the high way leading through Prestick, to Kilmarnock and Glasgow, which is always kept in tolerable repair. On this road there are two turnpikes within the parish; one of which rents at L. 100, and the other at L. 285 *per annum*.

*Population of the Parish.*—Not above a century ago, Newton contained few inhabitants; probably from 300 to 400. Within the last 40 years, the number has greatly increased. This increase was chiefly owing to an extensive herring fishery, at that time, carried on along this coast, particularly near the mouth of the river, which continued upwards of 15 years. — When the coalleries on the Newton and Blackhouse grounds began, the number of the inhabitants still increased. In the year 1778, when the present incumbent made his first parochial visitation, the number from 7 years of age, and upwards, was 1200; and that of souls, 1600. Since that time, no enumeration of souls hath been taken. For some years afterwards, the number rather decreased, owing to the failure of the coal-works. But since these have been resumed, which was about 5 years ago, the number has been increasing. At the last visitation, in summer, 1790, there were found 1350 persons, from 7 years and upwards: Of these, 610 were males, and 740 females; the number of families amounting to 380; the number of souls to about 1750. — The following is a statement of the births and marriages, for the last 10 years :

*Abstract*

*Abstract of Births and Marriages.*

| Years. | Births. | Marriages. |
|--------|---------|------------|
| 1781   | 46      | 10         |
| 1782   | 53      | 11         |
| 1783   | 40      | 13         |
| 1784   | 44      | 7          |
| 1785   | 40      | 6          |
| 1786   | 36      | 20         |
| 1787   | 43      | 13         |
| 1788   | 57      | 20         |
| 1789   | 48      | 12         |
| 1790   | 58      | 17         |
|        | 465     | 129        |

From the above statement, the number of births, at an average, amounts to above 46, and of marriages, about 13 annually. No exact account can be given of the number of deaths, as no proper burial ground has been allotted for the use of the inhabitants: the greatest part burying in Prestick or Ayr, in St Quivox, and the burying ground belonging to the Seceding meeting-house, in the parish of St Quivox. Burial-ground is much needed; which the community might provide at a small expence, by inclosing a part of their waste land, in the vicinity of the town. The number of deaths is supposed to amount to 30, annually.—The whole of the inhabitants belong to the Established Church, a few families excepted, (about 12 in all,) who are mostly of the sect, called the Antiburgher Seceders.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—The next article, that deserves

erves attention, is, the erection of Newton into a separate parish. The borough lying at the distance of 3 miles from Monkton, formerly the parish church, where the inhabitants had little or no accommodation, the community, from the funds of the town, generously built the present house for public worship, in the year 1777, which was at first established with consent of the presbytery, on the footing of a chapel of ease. Finding this plan attended with some disadvantages, the community, in the year 1778, applied to the Lords Commissioners for plantation of kirks, and valuation of tiends, to have their town disjoined from the united parishes of Monkton and Prestick, and erected into a separate parish. In consequence of this application, they obtained a decret for that purpose, in 1779; having previously purchased the right of patronage to their church, from the patrons of the united parishes of Monkton and Prestick. By the above decret, it is established, that the community shall choose, every year, 13 of their number to manage the secular affairs of the church, who are styled delegates. When a vacancy takes place, these 13 delegates have the sole power of electing a pastor, and of granting a presentation, with this proviso, that 9 of the 13 must be unanimous in the choice.

The stipend, at first, amounted only to L 65; but it has since received an addition of L. 10 *per annum*, in lieu of the coal below the glebe. In 1780, the town granted a glebe of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres; part of which is now occupied by the manse and garden. The ground being poor, and of a light sand, it rented, before the manse was built, only at 5 guineas *per annum*, though in the vicinity of a populous place. All that is allowed for grafs, is the liberty of keeping a cow, and her follower, on the common belonging to the town. The glebe is not well inclosed, which lessens its value. The melioration of glebes by inclosing, which has been under the consideration of  
the

the General Assembly, deserves every possible encouragement. —A manse was first built in 1787. —A house is also appropriated for the parish school. The number of scholars that attend it, is from 40 to 50. The wages are 2s per quarter for English; 2s 6d for writing; and 3s for arithmetic. There are some private schools in the town; and a few of the inhabitants send their children to the schools of Ayr, being almost equally near.

*Poor of the Parish.*—Owing to the want of manufactures of every kind, and to the constant influx of beggars from Ireland, few places, in proportion to their extent, are more distressed with poor than this parish. Many of them, indeed, who reside only a short time in the place, can lay no legal claim to supplies from the kirk-session, but they are still a burden to the inhabitants, by their begging from door to door. The number of monthly pensioners is daily increasing, while the only fund, to be distributed among them, is small and precarious. There is no fund indeed, for the purpose, but what arises from collections at the church doors, on Sundays, and sacramental occasions, amounting in whole to L. 50 *per annum*. At present there are 18 pensioners on the poors roll, each of which receives from 2s to 4s 6d per month; besides others who are supplied occasionally. No stent or tax has been laid on the inhabitants for the support of the poor; but if their demands continue to increase, as they have done for several years past, that measure will soon become unavoidable. Attempts have often been made to establish regulations, concerning the poor in this part of the country, but, from various causes, they have proved unsuccessful.

*Coal.*—A considerable quantity of coal is found in the grounds belonging to the community, and has been wrought for



for many years. It was rented from the town, at L. 250 *per annum*; but the work was abandoned about 10 years ago, and the lease was consequently broken. It was resumed in 1786, by a company of respectable gentlemen at Edinburgh, and has ever since been carried on with success. The tacksmen pay a duty of 6d. to the town for every tun they raise. The first 3 or 4 years, the town's profits amounted to above L. 300 *per annum*, which makes the number of tuns above 1200 yearly, but, for the two last years, the produce has not been so considerable.—The greatest part of the coal is shipped for Ireland.—The present company, at some expence, have made a waggon way from the pits to the harbour, the road reaching to the key, which renders it exceedingly convenient for loading vessels.—The price of the coal is 5s 6d. per tun, each tun weighing 24 cwt. The quantity of water in the pits is so considerable, that it was found necessary to erect a large steam engine. The pumps are of 14 inches bore; and the quantity of water discharged is 36 gallons at each stroke, the stroke being repeated about ten times in the minute, or 360 gallons in the minute. This discharge continues 20 hours in the 24.—There are two seams of coal, about 4 feet thick each, the upper seam is 30 fathoms deep from the surface; the greatest part of which near the town, is already wrought. The lower seam, which is 20 fathoms deeper than the upper, is still untouched. No probable conjecture has been formed, what quantity of coals remains in the grounds of the community. There is another coal pit in the parish, belonging to a private individual, wrought by the above tacksmen, for which, they pay a duty of 10d per tun; but it is of small extent, and will soon be exhausted. The coal in the Blackhouse grounds, in the neighbourhood, being in the parish of St Quivox, comes not within the limits of this description.

*Harbour.*

*Harbour.*—Newton upon Ayr is a sea-port town; the north east side of the river, lying in the parish, which, with the other side in the parish of Ayr, forms the harbour.—The town, like that of Ayr, is situated at a small distance above the place where the vessels ly.—A few houses, of late, have been built nearer the quay.—The entrance to the harbour has always been precarious, by reason of a bank at the mouth of the river, formed chiefly by the sand that is carried down the river by land floods; of late years, the access has been still more difficult. The bed of the river is narrow, and the depth of water, at spring tides, not above 12 feet; so that vessels, exceeding 140 tons, register burden, cannot be brought over the bar.—In December, 1789, considerable damage was done to the shipping of this place: no less a number than 12 vessels, in one night, were stranded, some to the south, and others to the north of the harbour; — one of them was totally wrecked, and all the hands in it perished: several men, on board the other vessels, at the same time, lost their lives. This deplorable calamity pointed out the necessity of erecting a light-house. The design was accordingly carried into execution, by the gentlemen who rent the coal belong the community. At their own expence, they erected, last year, two reflecting lights, both of which stand on the north-east side of the harbour, in this parish. A small duty is paid by each vessel for maintaining them\*.

Though

\* The following directions are to be observed, by vessels coming into the harbour at any time of the night: “ 1st, One of the lights  
 “ continues burning all night; the other is lighted at half flood,  
 “ and continues burning till half ebb. 2d, Both lights must be  
 “ brought under one, which brings the vessels into the right chan-  
 “ nel of best water, over the bar. The bearing of the lights  
 “ coming in by the compass, is S. E. by E. half E. 3d, Vessels  
 “ drawing

Though these lights were only erected in October, 1790, they have already been found very beneficial. The greatest attention has been paid to them, so that no accidents have happened through neglect.

The principal trade carried on at present, in the harbour, is the exportation of coal. For four years past, above 300 vessels have been annually loaded with coal, which go to Dublin, Belfast, Learne, and other places in Ireland. A few vessels are also employed in bringing fir in logs, and plank, from Memel, and other parts in the East seas.—Since the annexation of the Isle of Man to the Crown, and particularly since the late acts of parliament concerning smuggling, any species of illicit trade is now little practised in this, or in any other part of the neighbourhood.—There are two packet boats to Greenock, one to Liverpool, and sometimes one goes to Campbleton. No regular stated communication has hitherto been formed between this port and London.

*Ship building and Ropework.*—For many years past, ship building has been carried on at this harbour,—but it is only of late, that this branch has met with any particular encouragement. By the activity and diligence of some individuals in the parish, a number of vessels have been constructed, and the business seems to proceed with spirit and vigour. It is carried on chiefly on this side of the river, as affording many more conveniences than the other. Fifty hands are employed in this branch of business, whose wages are from 20d to 22d per day.—Oak wood is brought from England and Wales, fir from Dantzick :  
the

“ drawing 7 feet water may make for the bar, as soon as the second lamp is lighted. 4th, A flag is hoisted in the day-time, at half flood, and continues till half ebb.”

the extent of the trade, at this time, will be about L. 5000 *per annum*.

The only rope-work in the neighbourhood is on this side of the river. Some years ago, little was done in this line; but it is now beginning to revive. Ten hands are employed in manufacturing ropes. The extent of the business is from L. 1500, to L. 2000 *per annum*.—The hemp is imported from Peterburgh.

*Fisheries*.—A salmon fishing is carried on at the mouth of the river, and along the coast, as far as the parish extends, to the northward. This fishing, it is said, originally belonged to the burgh of Newton; which is the more probable, as fisheries are particularly mentioned in their charter: but it was purchased from them, or otherwise got possession of, by the Wallaces of Craigie, who retained it in their hands till within these few years, when the estate was sold. It was then purchased by a society of writers or attornies, in the town of Ayr, who paid L. 1100 sterling, for it; and now it rents at L. 80 *per annum*.—Four boats are employed in this fishing, and four men to each boat; their wages is 1s per day.

White fish, haddocks, cod, and ling, with a few mackerel, flounders, and lobsters, are taken in this bay. This fishing is carried on by some of the natives of the town, but chiefly by a set of fishers, who, within these 20 years, came from the parish of Pitligo, and the adjacent places in the north country. Most of them reside in this parish, and they are an industrious set of people; but their profits are not considerable. Nine boats, and 4 men to each boat, are employed in this fishery.

Seal fishing is also followed by a few of the inhabitants. One of the fishers in this branch obtained, for several years

past, a considerable premium from the Trustees of the fisheries, for his diligence and success.—Several go to the herring buffes, in the West Highlands, and Islands; but the two last years were remarkably unfavourable, so that they were great losers by the expedition. The number of hands employed at sea, from this parish, exclusive of the salmon, the seal, and white fishing, amounts to 50; some of whom, at one season of the year, go abroad in trading vessels, and, at another, are engaged in the herring fishery.

*Diseases.*—We shall conclude this account with a few remarks on the health of the inhabitants.—Though the grounds of the parish ly low, yet the air is pure and healthy; owing to the vicinity of the sea, and the dry and sandy bottom of the soil. No epidemical disorders are peculiar to the inhabitants; and infectious diseases seldom prevail to any great height. It is, however, affirmed by some of the medical department, that the air is too pure for constitutions inclining to a consumptive habit;—few of the natives of the place, however, fall a sacrifice to that distemper.—The health of the inhabitants is much injured by the too frequent use of spirituous liquors. And it would be advantageous both to their health and morals, if there were fewer alehouses. Though the town is of small extent, it is computed, that there are 12 publichouses, besides several places where spirituous liquors are sold. On the whole, however, though the inhabitants, in general, do not arrive at extreme old age, there are few places, where the inestimable blessing of health is enjoyed to a greater degree; so that this part of the country has, with some justice, been called the *Montpelier* of Scotland.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF KIRKINTILLOCH.

(COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM DUNN.

*Extent, Situation, Surface, &c.*

**T**HE district, which now constitutes the parish of Kirkintilloch, made, in the time of the Romans, a part of the northern boundary of the province of Valentia. When, at an after period, the country was divided into parishes, it acquired the name of Wester Leinzie. Under that denomination, it was given, by Robert I. of Scotland, to Sir Robert de Fleming, in consideration of the eminent services, he had performed, in the course of the long and bloody contest, which that monarch carried on with the English, for the possession of the Scottish throne.

The great Roman wall, commonly called Graham's dyke\*,

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passing

\* *Roman Wall.*—The remains of the Roman wall, and of three large forts, and as many watch-towers built upon it, may still be distinctly traced in this parish. The wall proceeds through Kirkintilloch for the space of 5 miles, between east and west. The first

passing through the whole length of the parish, its former name was probably derived from that circumstance, since Leinzie, may, by no very fanciful etymology, be considered as a provincial corruption of the Latia term, *Linea*. Its present appellation, Kirkintilloch, or rather Caerpentilloch, is said to signify, in the language of the ancient inhabitants of North Britain, "the end of a long tongue or promontary of rising ground," which is exactly descriptive of the situation of the town, standing on the extremity of a ridge, advancing  
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first of these posts upon the east side, stands upon the top of the Barr-hill; a situation so elevated, as to command a view of almost the whole length of the wall, both east and west. The fort is a square area of 150 yards. Some vaults belonging to it, have lately been discovered. These are still entire; and are covered above with flat bricks, and floored with a mixture of lime and black and white gravel, resembling sand from the sea shore, very unlike any that is now to be found in this neighbourhood. The next of these forts, proceeding westward, is situated three miles distant, at the village of Auchindowie: this appears an oblong rectangular figure, extending 150 yards one way, and 70 another. It is now almost defaced; one part of the area being now a corn-field, while another is occupied by the houses of the village; and the rest has been cut away in opening the canal between the Forth and the Clyde.—Two miles onward, in the same direction, is the fort of Peel; situate on a piece of rising ground, at the western end of the town of Kirkintilloch; oblong and rectangular, 90 yards in length, 80 in breadth; singular, in being situated on the north side of the wall, whereas the others stand upon the south side.—Stones, bearing inscriptions, have been dug up among the ruins of all these forts: But the only words of these inscriptions, that could be read, were, *LEGIO SECUNDA AVGVSTA FECIT.*

from the south, into a plain on the banks of the Kelvin. From the town, the name came at length to be extended to the whole district.

The parish is situated in the shire of Dumbarton, or Lennox, in the presbytery of Glasgow, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is of a triangular figure, no where exceeding  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length. Its breadth varies considerably.—The face of the ground, although diversified throughout by a succession of waving swells, is no where broken into abrupt precipices; and, excepting in one place of inconsiderable extent, no where deformed by rugged rocks.—There are no lakes in the district. The Kelvin is the principal river, which, of itself, is a considerable body of water, and, which is joined in its course along this parish, by many smaller streams; in particular, by the Skinna, and the Luggie. The latter passes through the town of Kirkintilloch.

*Soil, Fossils, and Animals.*—The husbandman finds a considerable diversity of soils, through the lands in this district. The ground along the southern part of the Kelvin, is of a deep, marshy nature, and is often overflowed by the river. The soil of a small tract, towards the north-east angle, is of a light reddish earth, upon a whinstone and gravelly bottom. Around the town of Kirkintilloch, the soil is a light black loam, 16 or 18 inches deep, on a reddish tilly bottom. A strong natural clay prevails through the southern, and the eastern parts of the parish. Tracts of moss, affording a black peat earth, are interspersed here and there, throughout the whole district.—Lime, coal, and freestone, are found in great abundance.—The streams by which the parish is watered, afford salmon, trout, perch, and pike.—We have the common domestic animals,—horses, cows, swine, and a few sheep.—Our draught-horses are strong, gentle, and handsome



some. Our milch-cows often yield 8 English gallons of milk in a day.

*Cultivation and Produce of the Lands.*—The lands in this parish are almost entirely arable;—and we have happily abundance of the best manures. Our farmers, accordingly, are chiefly employed in agriculture. Oats, barley, hay from sown grasses, flax, pease, beans, and a small proportion of wheat, are our chief articles of crop. Turnips begin to be cultivated among us. Düng, lime, a compost of earth with other materials, and an addition of simple earth, of a different nature from the soil of the field upon which it is laid, are the manures principally made use of.

A chaldar of lime, consisting of 16 bolls, each of which contains 3 firlots, wheat measure, is, at present bought, at any of the lime-works, in the neighbouring parish of Campsie, for 6s 8d.

The average produce of oats and barley, through these lands, may, in moderately favourable seasons, be about 5 or 6 bolls an acre: And, in years of moderate plenty, their average price in the market, is from 13s to 14s, a boll. The farms are in general small; consisting commonly of about 50 acres each. The farmer is often proprietor, in feu, of his own farm. The lands may be estimated as either actually yielding, or, at least, capable of yielding from 15s to 20s an acre, of yearly rent.

*Town, and the Employments followed in it.*—The town of Kirkintilloch is a very antient burgh of barony. It was erected about 1170, by William, King of Scots, in favour of William Cumin, Baron of Leinzie, and Lord of Cumbernauld; and still holds of the barony of Cumbernauld, for the payment of 12 merks Scots, of yearly feu-duty. The privileges with which  
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it has been endowed, are very ample. Its burgesſes elect their own magiſtrates, independently of the lord of the barony. The magiſtrates are two baillies; and are annually choſen. They are impowered by the charters of the burgh, to hold courts, levy fines, imprifon offenders, or even baniſh them from their liberties; and in ſhort, to exerciſe every right, with which the baron himſelf was veſted, before the erection of the burgh. Theſe rights, the community have continued, ever ſince that period, to enjoy, undiſturbed. They were, in no degree, affected by the act, by which the Britiſh parliament, in 1748, aboliſhed the heritable juriſdictions in Scotland. A large tract of land was alſo annexed to this burgh at its erection; and is now feued out, from time to time, in moderate parcels, as purchaſers offer. —Lincens and cottons, of different ſorts, are manufactured here. —The weavers are the moſt numerous claſs of mechanics in it. Many of the other mechanical employments, which ſupply the neceſſaries, and the ordinary conveniencies of life, are likewiſe practiſed. —Mr Stirling, younger of Glorat, a gentleman of diſtinguiſhed public ſpirit, lately erected a ſmall cotton-mill. Hand-machines, for ſpinning cotton, were, at the ſame time, introduced. The undertaking is in a very thriving condition. And, as the pariſh affords ſeveral other happy ſituations, it is probable, that theſe may ſoon be occupied by more works of the ſame kind.

*Highways, and the Canal.*—One of the great roads between Glaſgow and Edinburgh, paſſes through the town of Kirkintilloch; which is 7 miles diſtant from the former, and 49 from the latter. —None of our rivers are navigable; but the great canal between the Forth and the Clyde, paſſes through the whole length of this pariſh. After having been frequently propoſed, ſince the Union, this canal was at length begun in 1768, and  
finished

finished in 1790. The trade upon it is already great, and is rapidly increasing. One of its first effects has been, to equalize, in a great measure, the price of grain, throughout all the corn-countries in Scotland; to the temporary loss of the landholders, in the southern, and to the gain of those in the northern districts.

*State of the Landed Property.*—In the beginning of the 14th century, the whole parish, excepting the burgh lands of Kirkintilloch, and the small barony of Wester-Gartshore, (which has, for many generations, been possessed by that ancient and respectable family, the Gartshores of Gartshore,) were the entire property of the noble family of Fleming. But, in the long series of years, which has elapsed since that period, that great estate has been gradually dismembered, partly in forming establishments for the younger branches or connexions of the family; and partly by supplying the enlarged expences, required by those new modes of life, which have been introduced in the progress of society. The last remainder of it was sold off, in 1757: And nothing now continues in the possession of the former proprietors, but the feu-duties, and some other casualties of feudal superiority.

*The Poor.*—The poor of this parish are not numerous. The weekly collections at the church-doors, have hitherto been found more than sufficient for their support. These happy circumstances are to be ascribed chiefly, to the minute subdivisions of the landed property in the parish, and to the general manners, and personal habits, which usually attend agricultural industry. But, it is to be feared, that if a greater proportion of the inhabitants, shall be induced to apply themselves to manufactures, one disadvantage which must necessarily arise from this increase of industry, is such a change in the manners of  
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of the lower classes, as may reduce them much oftener to a state of helpless poverty.

*State of Population.*—The whole inhabitants of this parish, have been found, upon a very accurate survey, to amount, at present, to the number of 2639.

Of these 1536 reside in the town.

Among whom are 185 weavers

11 stocking-makers

15 smiths

20 house carpenters, and cabinet-makers

10 masons

10 shoemakers

4 faddlers

6 coopers

A good many taylor's; and a few hairdressers.

In 1751, the Rev. Dr. Erskine, at that time minister of Kirkintilloch, now of Edinburgh, found the number of the families in the town, to be 195.

The families in the country 226.

The persons in the town, from eight years of age, upwards, 575.

Those in the country, from 8 years of age, upwards, were 796.

The addition of the Seceders and Quakers, at that time in the parish, to these numbers, make up 1400 examinable persons in the parish. The return of souls to Dr Webster, was 1696. Hence, it appears, that the increase of numbers, within these last 40 years, amounts to 943.

*Character and Manners.*—The inhabitants of this parish are, in general, a virtuous and industrious people. That pride of

mind, and impatience of contradiction, which the possession of landed property frequently inspires, perhaps may occasion too many law-suits. The present minister was told, before he came amongst them, that they were often disposed to treat their clergymen with neglect and unkindness; but he has experienced nothing in his ministry, that could justify such an accusation. The existence of Seceders, and of seceding meeting houses, has perhaps no bad effect upon the manners and sentiments of the people, either here, or any where else throughout the kingdom. They are in some degree spies and checks upon the members of the established church; and the discourses of their clergy are often adapted, with singular felicity, to the capacity and the prejudices of the least enlightened classes in the community.—The small number of the poor, dependent upon alms, and the liberal provision made for them, by voluntary contributions, are facts implying; in so populous a parish, no common praise: they bespeak industry, sobriety, frugality, and charity, to be the leading features in the moral character of these people.—As to their external appearance, they are of a middle stature; and, being free from hereditary diseases, while they enjoy the advantages of an open situation, and a pure, although rather moist air, they are, in general, vigorous and healthy. Some, indeed, particularly the females, are not a little subject to hysterics; a disease, the prevalence of which in this place, has, with some shew of probability, been attributed, partly to the dampness of our earthen floors, and partly, to the effects of spinning, for which, the women in this neighbourhood are deservedly famous\*.

*Probable*

\* The women, when engaged in spinning, especially in winter, sit by the fire-side, and keeping, as their custom is, always the same station, the one side side is exposed to the chilling cold of the

*Probable Improvements.*—It is easy to see, that the parish of Kirkintilloch, situated as it is, in the vicinity of a great, an opulent, an industrious, and a commercial city, and in a tract of country, where a passion for manufactures is so prevalent, intersected by a canal which joins the two greatest navigable rivers in the kingdom, and which promises to spread cultivation, opulence, and industry, every where along its banks; divided, too, by the great road between the two principal cities in Scotland; possessing such varieties of excellent soil, and so plentifully supplied with fuel, manure, and materials for building:—With such advantages, it is easy to see, that the population, wealth, and industry of this parish, can hardly fail to increase considerably, even before the close of the present century. The value of the lands may yet be greatly raised, by the introduction of more improved modes of agriculture: and scarcely any place can enjoy circumstances more favourable to manufacturing industry. It is, indeed, probable, that either manufactures or agriculture, might long since, have attained a state of still greater improvement, if they had not mutually checked one another's progress. The facility, with which a piece of ground has been hitherto obtained, in feu from the burgh, has generally tempted the trader and the manufacturer, to retire too early to en-

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the season, and the other is relaxed by the warm influence of the fire. Besides, in turning her lint-wheel, the person who spins, commonly employs but one foot, and uses chiefly the hand of the same side, in making the thread. Thus the labour is very unequally divided, by which the health of the body must naturally be affected. Lastly, the waste of saliva in wetting the thread, must deprive the stomach of a substance essential to its operations, whence, all the fatal consequences of crudities, and indigestion, may be expected.

joy the consequence, which landed property confers, and to the pleasures which imagination fondly, but too often fallaciously, ascribes to a life spent in rural employments: Whilst again, the profits of spinning, and the manufacturing spirit of the country, have commonly induced the farmer to pay only a partial attention to the cares of husbandry.

*Corruption of Morals likely to attend the increase of Industry.*

—One unhappy circumstance, that may attend the increase of industry, and the introduction of new manufactures among us, is too important to be overlooked: Children becoming sooner able to subsist by the profits of their own labour, will, of consequence, sooner disregard the authority of their parents, acquire earlier habits of expence; and, being exposed to the infection of vice and dissipation, before the powers of their minds are in any degree matured, or their characters formed, —will be much more worthless in manhood, and more helpless in old age. It would be a happy circumstance, therefore, if politicians could contrive some means, to preserve the virtue and morals of the people, while they are endeavouring to increase their numbers, to enliven their industry, and to augment their wealth\*.

\* The advantages resulting from our late improvements is attended with one circumstance, of which, we have reason to complain, which is this, that the use of lime upon our lands, the filth, which is conveyed into our rivers, from the coal-works in the neighbourhood, and the machinery which have been erected, have already rendered a salmon fishery, which was considerable, very insignificant; and, indeed, there is too much reason to apprehend, that the fish in our rivers will be almost totally exterminated by the joint effects of these different sources of destruction.

## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF MOFFAT.

(COUNTIES OF DUMFRIES AND LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR ALEXANDER BROWN.**Situation, Boundaries, and Name.*

**T**HE principal part of the parish of Moffat lies in the stewartry of Annandale, now united to the shire of Dumfries. Two farms only belong to the shire of Lanark, and remain under the civil jurisdiction of that county.

The parish is bounded on the south by Wamphry; on the east by Ettrick and Line; on the north by Tweedsmuir and Crawford; on the west by Kirkpatrick-Juxta. Its greatest length, from east to west, is about 15 miles; its breadth, from south to north is 9 miles. Its form is irregular, particularly on the west, where it joins Kirkpatrick-Juxta.

The name is said to be Gaelic, and to signify *Long-holm*. The village of Moffat stands by the side of a holm, which, with a few interruptions, extends full 20 miles along the banks of the Annan. There is a river in the parish, which is likewise called Moffat. But whether the village derives its name from the river, or the river from the village, is uncertain.

Moffat



Moffat is distant from Dumfries 21 miles; from Annan 17; and these are the nearest sea-ports.

*Rivers.*—There are three rivers, which run through the parish, to wit, Evan on the west, Moffat on the east, and Annan in the middle. These three rivers join near the southern boundary of the district; and the united streams bear the name of Annan thence to the Solway firth.

*Soil.*—Upon the banks of the Annan, and the Moffat, there is a good deal of meadow and arable land. The soil is a mixture of clay, loam, and sand washed, down in the course of ages, from the mountains and high grounds. Above these, rising towards the hills, the other arable lands are of a light dry gravelly soil, in most places tolerably deep; and with lime, which the farmers begin to use, producing excellent crops of oats. There is very little wheat or barley sown. But there are large crops of excellent potatoes. Turnip and clover also are very successfully cultivated. Lime is brought near 30 miles.

The extent of arable land is not known, having never been measured. It is guessed at about 3000 acres: about 300 of these are supposed to be in crop, besides meadows. The land, in general, is very mountainous.

*Market.*—There is a weekly market in Moffat, which is supplied from the lower parts of the country. It is thought, however, that the whole grain produced in the parish, would not do more than supply the inns in the village.

*Air.*—The climate is thought remarkably healthy. Though the rains are frequent, and sometimes heavy, yet in general, the air is wonderfully pure and dry. Every opening of the clouds

clouds discovers a sky of a beautiful azure; and this, together with the dryness of the soil, it is believed, contribute greatly to health. Fevers seldom make their appearance in Moffat; and are generally much milder than in the lower parts of Annandale. Agues are not known. The people in general enjoy good health. Many live beyond 80, and some beyond 90 years.

*Lake.*—Lochkeean is the only lake in the parish. It is 1100 yards in length, of unequal breadth. Where broadest, about 400 yards. The depth is not known. There is a small island in it, where the eagles bring out their young in great safety; as the water is deep, and no boat upon the lake.—The only fish in Lochkeean are fresh water trout, generally large; some of them 12 inches long, which are very fine in the season. The rivers in the parish are plentifully stocked with trout of the same kind; and a species much smaller, sea-trout, also, sometimes come up the rivers in summer, and a few salmon.

*Cascade.*—The water issuing from Lochkeean forms a considerable rivulet; and, after running near three quarters of a mile, falls from one precipice to another, from a great height, dashing and foaming, and thundering, between two high, steep, and rocky hills; forming the cascade known by the name of the Grey Mare's Tail. It is seen to the greatest advantage after a heavy rain; when it appears like one unbroken sheet of water, from top to bottom.

*Antiquities.*—The rivulet, a little before it falls into the Moffat, has carried away a part of a circle, in form of a Druid temple; a small portion of which, however, still remains.

The Roman road, from Esk to Stirling, passed through part of this parish, to the west of the village of Moffat. The vestiges

tiges of that road, and of some military stations near it, are still visible. Some large Roman encampments; also, can be distinctly traced in the neighbourhood. A piece of gold was found, a few years ago, in a moss not far from the road, part of some military ornament, marked with the number of the legion to which it belonged.

There are vestiges of an encampment, supposed to be British, near Moffat water, three miles south-east of the village.

There is a moat of considerable height, of a conical form, with a deep ditch round it, near the road which leads from Moffat to the well;—a beautiful object from that road at present; and which will soon become more so, being inclosed and planted by Lord Ellick, upon whose property it stands. Another smaller moat stands at the distance of a few hundred yards west from it.

A mile east of the Roman road, and not far from one of the Roman encampments, are two caves, cut out of a freestone rock, fit to contain a number of cattle. But, when formed, or by whom, is beyond all memory. They are in a deep sequestered glen; and were probably made for shelter in troublesome times. They serve at present for offices to the farmhouse placed near them.

There are ruins of many old towers in different parts of the parish. None of them appear to have been large. They have been built with lime made of sea shells. They have probably been designed as places of security, against the invasions of the borderers, or retreats for the inhabitants, when returning from their own predatory excursions.

*Mountains*—The highest mountain in the parish, and perhaps south of Forth, is Hartfell. Its altitude was taken, with great care and accuracy, by Dr Walker, professor of natural history in the university of Edinburgh. It is within a

trite of 3000 feet higher, than the village of Moffat, which may be 300 feet, or more, above the level of the sea. There is a large and beautiful plain, upon the top of Hartfell, of extent enough for a horse race. The prospect on a clear day is immense: Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Northumberland, are seen on the south; the ocean, both on the east and west, and, to the north, the view is terminated by the Highland hills. There is a spring well near the top of the mountain. The spring, called Hartfell Spaw, issues from the foot of it.

Most of the hills in the parish are very high, though they all fall short of Hartfell. They are mostly green, with very little heath: Some of them much broken with rocks. One hill, called the Yoke, is so narrow at the top, that a person can sit with a leg on each side of it, as upon a saddle, and see to the bottom on both sides, where two beautiful rivulets flow.

*Mines and Minerals*—No mines have been discovered in the parish, though some slight trials have been made. Coals are brought from Douglas; a few from Sanquhar; both distant near 30 miles. Fuel is consequently dear at Moffat; seldom, even in summer, can coals be bought, under 10d. the hundred weight; and, in the winter season, they cost from 1s. to 16, or 18d.

Peats or turf are brought 4 or 5 miles, and sold at 2s. the single cart load in summer, and, in winter, at 2s 6d. They are generally very good; and yet, dear as coal is, it is thought the cheapest fire of the two.

It is said, that there is a considerable body of allum rock in the parish; but no trial has been made of it. Indeed its mountainous situation, and its distance from fuel, and from the sea, would render it of little no value.

There is a species of clay, which the smiths use for fixing

their bellows in their furnaces, and of which the country people make, what they call, Hudds, to set in their chimnies behind their fires, which, they say, does not calcine or split with heat; and which, after it has stood the fire for years, and become hard as a stone, upon being exposed for some time to the common air, it turns soft, and may be wrought and fashioned with the hand as before.

There is a vein of free stone, which runs through the parish, from south to north. It is red, but uncommonly soft and brittle; and is, for that reason, of little or no use in building.

There is a slate quarry lately opened in the parish. The slates are strong, and, it is believed, durable. They are not very smooth: and are of a colour between blue and grey.

*Animals.*—The quadrupeds, of the wild kind, are foxes, hares, wild cats, fulmarts, otters, badgers. The foxes are in great numbers. The farmers often sustain considerable loss by them; and it is thought, that few of them kill sheep, in comparison with those, who live upon poultry, game, and the smaller animals. Great numbers of them are killed by the farmers, and by the county huntsmen, almost every season.

It is probable that, in former times, the mountains abounded with deer; as several places in the parish derive their names from that animal, as Hartfell, Harthope, Raecluegh, &c.

*Game.*—There are both red and black game in the parish: not much, indeed, of the latter; but they are increasing, and as the plantations get forward, it is expected, that they will become more numerous. There are abundance of partridges in the  
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the lowlands, and plovers in the muirs. Birds from the sea-shore come in the season to hatch.—The common migratory birds, are the cuckow, the swallow, and the woodcock. The bulfinch has appeared within the last 7 years; and seems to multiply fast.

*Cattle.*—Black cattle are few in proportion to the extent of lands in the parish; chiefly milch-cows, kept by the farmers, and the people in the village of Moffat. They are generally above the middle size; many of them excellent milkers. The number in the whole district is about 200. Hardly any bullocks, or heifers are fattened in the parish; and only a few cows, not exceeding 30.

In the neighbourhood of the village of Moffat, a cow is graffed at L. 1 : 10 sterling. New milk is sold for 1d. the Scots pint; skimmed milk for  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Butter for 9d. per pound; ewe-milk cheese for 6s. the stone; both heavy weight.

*Sheep.*—The sheep farmers, or store-masters, are not much disposed to publish or make known the amount of their respective flocks; but it is supposed, that there are, in all, from 18,000 to 20,000 sheep.—The prices of sheep stocks, of late years, have been, for aged sheep, from L. 12 to L. 14 per score; for young sheep, from L. 8 to L. 9; for lambs, from L. 3 : 15, to L. 6.

*Wool.*—Besides the wool consumed in the parish, about 200 packs are annually exported. It has gone mostly to England, for these three years past. Prices have been from 6s. to 6s 3d. per stone. Within the last 7 years, wool was sold under 4s. per stone; some under 3s. Within these few years, there has been a considerable rise of the value both of sheep and wool.

An intelligent farmer in the parish, (David Irvine of Polmoody,) has tried a very important and successful experiment for improving his wool. In the years 1787, 1788, and 1789, he put Eskdale and Tiviotdale rams, of the white-faced, polled kind, the same with the Cheviot breed, to his ewes, of the horned, black-faced kind. In the year 1790, he sold the wool of the sheep, produced by that cross, at 10s. the 6 fleeces; the wool of his other stock, which were of the horned, black-faced kind, and went exactly on the same pasture, only at 6s 3d. the 7 fleeces. He has found the sheep produced from the white-faced polled rams, as healthy as his other sheep; and that an equal number may be fed on the same pasture. The weight of the carcase has not been materially altered.

The ideas of the other farmers do not, as yet, coincide with this; and many of them are eminently skilfull in the management of sheep. Yet Mr Irvine's farm, is as high ground, as almost any in Scotland. Should his plan of improvement be justified by farther experiments, it would double the value of the wool produced in the parish, by increasing the weight a seventh part, and the price more than a third\*.

Few of the farmers wash their sheep. They smear heavily; and apprehend, that the wool would lose more in weight, by omitting that operation, than the additional price, (were it unsmear'd,) would compensate.

It is not long since the sheep, in this part of the country, were of the four horned kind; a few of which, it is said, remain still in some parts of Nithsdale. Their body is smaller, but their  
wool

\* There can be no doubt, that the fine, close, short woolled breed of sheep, is the proper sort for a hilly country; and that their wool may be brought even on the Moffat hills, to 30s. say, perhaps, to 40s. a stone.

wool finer, than those of the present breed. Their want of weight for the butcher, and greater difficulty and danger in lambing, have banished them from this place. The mutton of the present breed is excellent; not large, weighing only from 10 to 12, or 15 pounds per quarter. The market is generally well supplied with this and other articles of provision. The price is ruled by that of Dumfries.

*Population.*—There are 220 families in the village of Moffat, and 80 in the country part of the parish. The number of persons, young and old, rather above 1600. In 1755, they amounted to 1612, according to the report made to Dr Webster.

There are no houses uninhabited. Some new ones were lately built in the village, and more are building at present; yet the inhabitants can hardly be accommodated.

As there are, as yet, no manufactures in Moffat, many young persons of both sexes go to other places for employment. An woollen manufacture is intended to be established soon, and the necessary buildings were proposed to be erected in summer, 1791. As those who have engaged in this business, are possessed of the important requisites of capital, judgement and activity, and bear most respectable characters, it is hoped, that they will succeed, to their own interest and honour, and to the advantage of the neighbourhood, and of the public at large. In that event, more of our young people will find business at home, and fewer will emigrate.

There are, at present, in the village and parish of Moffat, 50 weavers, 6 shoemakers, 6 taylor, 4 smiths, 8 merchants, 1 watch-maker, 2 bakers, 1 butcher, 1 barber, 5 masons, 6 wrights, 1 physician, 1 surgeon.

*Roads.*



*Roads.*—The road from Carlyle to Glasgow, passes through the parish, from south to north, for upwards of six miles.—The mail-coach between these places, passes and repasses every day; and, at an average, about 70 cart load of merchant goods, every week. The trade mostly consists of cotton-yarn, and cotton cloth.

The road from Dumfries to Edinburgh joins the Glasgow road at the village of Moffat, and parts with it four miles north of that village, on the hill, known by the name of Erickstane-brae. A little further north, the rivers Tweed, Clyde, Evan, and Annan, take their rise: And though the Tweed falls into the German ocean at Berwick, the Clyde into the western sea below Glasgow, and the Evan and Annan united, fall into Solway firth, their sources are so near each other, that one rivulet, which was formerly a branch of the Clyde, now falls into the Evan.

The trade on the Edinburgh road is not so considerable as on the one which leads to Glasgow. A mail-coach from Dumfries to Edinburgh was lately set on foot, but has been given up. When that road is completely repaired, it will probably be re-established. Both roads are made by act of parliament, and are maintained by the tolls.

*Woods and Plantations.*—There is one natural wood in the parish, about 50 acres in extent; consisting of oak, ash, birch, alder, &c. It is the property of William Campbell, Esq. writer to the signet, who hath inclosed it properly, and pays every attention to its preservation. It is upon the north side of Moffat water, and adds greatly to the beauty of that part of the country. There was another natural wood opposite to it, on the south side of Moffat water, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Queensberry; but it was lately cut down, and, being  
left

left uninclosed, is lost in future to the proprietor, and to the public.

Near the foot of Moffat water, where it joins Annan, there are many large and thriving plantations, made by the late Sir George Clerk Maxwell; consisting of Scots, spruce, silver, and balm of Gilead firs; oak, ash, larix, elm, beech, and varieties of other barren timber, which do honour to the judgement and taste of that public-spirited gentleman; and have rendered a place, formerly bare and bleak, one of the most delightful spots in Annandale.

The Earl of Hopetoun has likewise made several considerable plantations, to the North and West of the village of Moffat, which will soon be a great ornament to the place, and a lasting monument of his Lordship's zeal and patriotism.

*Village.*—The village of Moffat, though in a high country, is pleasantly situated. It stands upon a rising ground, gently declining towards the south, to which the principal street looks, and hath a fine prospect of the valley below. It is encompassed on the west, north, and east, with hills of different heights, partly inclosed and cultivated, and partly in pasture. The street is wide and spacious, handsomely formed and gravelled, exceedingly smooth, clean and dry in an hour after the heaviest rains; and is a most agreeable walk to the inhabitants, and to the company that come for goats-whey, or the mineral waters.——Annan runs on the west of the village, at the distance of a few hundred yards, dividing a fine holm, which is beautifully diversified, by the windings of the river, the meadows and corn-fields. The planting, on all sides of the village, is seen from the street, and every year appears with increasing beauty. There is one capital inn in the village, where the post-office is kept. There are other lesser inns, and several

ral excellent lodging houses, where the best company may be accommodated.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are two mineral springs in the parish; both well known, and justly celebrated for their medicinal virtues.

The first has long ago been distinguished by the name of **Moffat Well**, and is a strong sulphureous water, about a mile and a half from the village; with an excellent carriage road to it, and a long room and stables, and other conveniences, upon the spot, for the use of the company, when they are drinking the waters. This well was discovered more than 150 years ago; and has ever since been much resorted to, from all parts of the kingdom. It is generally allowed to be a very effectual remedy in all scrophulous and scorbutic cases, and is seldom known to fail, when the lungs are sound. Most wonderful cures have been effected by it. For many years past, it has been generally used, and with equal success, for creating appetite, and promoting digestion; for bilious and other complaints of the stomach and bowels; for the gravel and the rheumatism. It is a remarkably light water, and so powerfully diuretic, that many of the common people are known to drink 8 or 10 bottles of it daily, throughout the season, without the smallest injury to their health. It sparkles in the glass like champagne, and is so remarkably volatile, that it cannot be drunk in perfection, unless at the fountain. It is also used as a wash. A chemical analysis was made of it, in the year 1659, by Mr M<sup>r</sup> Kaile, and since that time by Mr Milligan and Dr Plummer.

The other mineral spring is known by the name of the **Hartfell Spaw**, and is four miles distant from the village. It is a powerful chalybeate, and therefore taken only in small quantities. It possesses a very singular property, of being strongest after heavy rains; but when taken up then, and properly

perly corked and sealed, it will carry to any distance, and preserve its taste and virtues many years. It is very successfully used in complaints of the breast, stomach, and bowels; in all diseases peculiar to the fair sex, and is a valuable restorative. It has also been found very effectual as a wash, in healing obstinate ulcers, and cutaneous eruptions. A chemical description of it is given by Dr Horseburgh. It was discovered by John Williamson, more than 50 years ago. A monument, erected on his grave in Moffat church yard, by the late Sir George Maxwell, is meant to transmit his name, and the date of the discovery, to future times.

There is likewise a petrifying spring, about 4 miles north west from the village, but little attention has been paid to it.

*Goat Whey.*—As an additional inducement to the invalid to repair to Moffat, a considerable number of goats are kept in the neighbourhood of the well. The pasture is thought to be excellent, and the milk of the best kind. It is sent to the village new every morning and every evening; or, it may be got at the farm-house, where it is milked, hard by the well, from the first of June to the end of August.

*Stipend, Church, &c.*—The stipend is 100 guineas. The glebe measures 12 acres, and has been let at L. 16 sterling. The manse was built about 20 years ago; and, though a small house, is a very sufficient and well executed building. The church was built about two years ago; is a large plain edifice, completely fitted up in the inside, upon a regular plan, and may accommodate 1000 hearers conveniently.—The Earl of Hoptoun is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor, receiving alms weekly from the parish funds, is under ten at present. Besides, there are

upwards of 30 that receive occasionally. The ordinary collections at the church, amount to L. 30 *per annum*. Particular collections are sometimes made for special exigencies; and, upon such occasions, the people are very liberal.

*General Stats.* — The valuation of the parish, in the county books, is about 13,000 merks. The present rents of the landward part, including the parks and pasture about the village, amount to L. 3300 sterling. The rents of the houses, in and about the village, cannot be exactly ascertained: Many houses are possessed by the proprietors; but estimating the rents of them proportionally, with the houses that are possessed by tenants, we may state the whole rents of the village, at L. 600. Total L. 3900.

Half the parish belongs to the Marquis of Annandale, and to the Earl of Hopetoun. There are 11 or 12 other heritors, only one of whom resides in it. — There are many feuers in the village.

The parish has never been measured. A few parks near the village, and some individual farms, have been surveyed, but no map has been made of the whole district, nor is it easy to estimate what its contents may be.

## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF GALASHIELS.

(COUNTIES OF ROXBURGH AND SELKIRK.)

*By the Rev. MR. DOUGLAS.**Extent, Situation, &c.*

THE parish of Galashiels, in the presbytery of Selkirk, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale, lies partly in the shire of Roxburgh, and partly in that of Selkirk. The Tweed, which is here an inconsiderable river, divides it into two parts. The southern part belongs to the former, the northern to the latter county. It is of an irregular triangular form; but, at an average, may be about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth.

*Surface, &c.*—The country is hilly, and may even be called mountainous; Meagle, or, perhaps, Meg-hill, or Maygilt, being 1480 feet above the level of the sea. The hills are mostly green, though some of them have a little heath. They are remarkably dry, and furnish excellent sheep pasture. In some places, spots of rock appear, either a kind of rotten slate, or rotten granite; the latter, a few feet below the surface, is hard, and useful for building; and stones, of considerable size, of both kinds, are not unfrequently found upon the

surface, remarkably hard and durable. One or two of the hills are conical; but are so completely covered with grass, or turf, that nothing like lava can be seen. Nor are there any figured stones, coal, minerals, marble, freestone, or petrifications in the parish.

*Soil and Agriculture.*—The soil is various; and the striking difference, between the soil on the south, and that on the north of the Tweed, deserves particular attention. In the former, it is, in general, deep, heavy, cold, and wet, on a bottom of clay or of rock. It is, in some parts, perfectly red, and iron stones are found amongst it. In other places, it is very porous; but though light, is not sandy, or lying on gravel.—There are several small lakes, and mosses, which yield excellent peats; and, when drained, some of them are full of shell marle, of a good quality.—Oats, a small quantity of barley, and a few pease, were the only crops raised, till within these few years, that marle began to be used. Turnips, red and white clover, are now introduced, and the annual quantity of pease and barley, is considerably increased. Of 500 acres, which, for the last five years, have been annually ploughed, not above four-fifths, have, at an average, been sown with oats; whereas, formerly, that grain was sown upon, at least, nine-tenths of the ploughed ground. The other fifth is employed in turnips, clover, pease, barley, and a few potatoes; and, sometimes, in low grounds, there are small spots of wheat.—They sow as early as the season will permit, which is never before March; yet they reap late, seldom before September, and sometimes have corn in the fields in November.

Though only 500 acres, or thereabouts, are, at an average, in corn every year, yet, of the 2700, of which this part of the parish consists, at least 1500 acres have, in a kind of rotation, been torn up, partly for the sake of enriching the soil with marle,

marle, but chiefly, because unskilful farmers, after having overcropped one part, by raising oats for many years successively, are forced to give it rest, and to break up what has long lain in pasture. Notwithstanding the wetness of the soil, and climate, the sheep walks are sufficiently dry, owing to the natural declivity of the ground, and, in some places, to draining.

On the north of Tweed, the soil, in general, is dry and shallow, lying partly on gravel, a good deal on till, and some on rock. It is remarkably full of small stones, which almost every where cover the surface. It has been found, however, by experience, dangerous to remove them, unless the shallow soil, is, at the same time, deepened and enriched. They are said both to reflect heat, and to retain moisture; and to them is to be attributed, in some degree, the luxuriance and excellent quality of the crops, in this part of the district; which, considering the small depth of the soil, are truly astonishing. Even here, there is a considerable portion inclining towards clay; some of it is stiff and deep, though, on the whole, not difficult to work. In some hollows, there are swamps, and a kind of moss, yielding very bad peat; and all the spots, where moss appears, if laid together, would scarcely exceed 10 acres. — No marle can be found, by all the trials which have been made; and, though it may appear incredible, and cannot easily be accounted for, it is nevertheless confidently asserted, by some, who have made the search, that there is no marle in the whole range of country, from Tweed to the vicinity of Edinburgh, except in some places of the Merse.

On the clay soil, and high grounds, both oats and pease are sown as early, and reaped as late, as on the south of Tweed. But on the dry soil, which, though shallow, produces the surest and best crops, oats are never sown, excepting in a very tempting season, till the very end of March, or beginning of April,



April. When the seed time of oats is over, potatoes are planted, and the land, designed for barley, receives a second furrow.—From the 28th of April, to the 12th, or even the 15th of May, pease are sown; and from that time, barley, till the beginning of June. This late sowing, supplies, in some measure, the defect of soil; generally secures a sufficient growth of straw, and never endangers the loss of a crop, from the lateness of reaping. In every season, the latest sown grain, on dry gravelly sand, ripens before the earliest sown on clay land; and grain of every kind, sown on dry soil, earlier than the above periods, seldom turns well out, except when the ground is very full of manure.—Though harvest has been known to commence early in August, and to be mostly over in September, yet it more commonly begins with September, and ends about the middle of October.

This dry land may consist of 500 acres, of which 300 are annually in oats, and the remaining 200 in barley, pease, clover, potatoes, and turnips, nearly in equal proportions. But as the three last are produced in great perfection, it may be expected, that the increase of these green crops, will diminish the quantity of oats, still annually sown, and help to check the ruinous system of impoverishing land, by a succession of white crops. A few acres here, as well as in the southern district, are sometimes dedicated to wheat. The rest of the land in tillage, on the north of Tweed, which is either inclining towards clay, or lying in a high exposed situation, consisting mostly of irregular spots on the sides of hills, cannot be so accurately ascertained, but may be safely computed at 200 acres; on which hardly any other grain is sown, except oats, the small quantities of barley and pease being scarcely worthy of notice.

*Superficial Contents and Produce.*— On the whole, the number

ber of acres in the parish, are calculated at 8000. Of these, upwards of 1200 are annually in tillage, of which above 900 are in oats, and about 300 in barley, pease, clover, potatoes, and turnips. The difference in the quality of grain, should also be remarked. In the worst season, oats, on some dry grounds, will yield at least at the rate of 8 stone of meal per boll, Linlithgow measure; while, in the same season, they will not, on wet lands, yield, 5 stone. Barley will also weigh, on dry grounds, 18½ stones, (the Linlithgow boll,) and on marled ground, scarcely 12 stones; and, in general, all grains are heavier on a sharp soil. — There can be no doubt, but that more grain is raised, than consumed in the parish. But as a great deal of wheat, flour, and bread, is bought for consumption here, and, on the other hand, as large quantities of every sort of grain, wheat excepted, are exported to Edinburgh, Dalkeith, and Peebles, the surplus of grain produced, more than what is used, cannot be calculated with any degree of certainty.

*Ploughs and Cattle.* — There are 37 ploughs in the parish, mostly made after Small's model, some with moulds of cast metal, and some in the old Scottish form; which many, after trying the other, think most suitable to a stony soil. They are, in general, drawn by two horses, though four are sometimes seen in a plough, or two horses and two oxen. There are 109 horses in the parish; of which 92 are employed in draught, including ploughs, carts, and huckstering. The rest are young, occasionally, perhaps, yoked in the harrows, or employed as saddle horses. Single horse carts are mostly used, and their number may be 64; all, except 5, carrying, solely, coal, manure, grain, and wood. — The black cattle, may amount, at least, to 300, mostly young or milch cows, besides

sides those fed on turnips, the number of which cannot be ascertained.

*Sheep*—Horses and black cattle are here objects of inferior consideration to sheep, for which all parts of the parish are well adapted. According to the best information, their number must be nearly 5000; some farmers thinking it greater, and some less. This number, which cannot be far from the truth, is maintained on little more than 6000 acres; from which circumstance, some idea may be formed of the value of the pasture. They are, in general, of the long bodied kind; rather small, feeding only to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lb. rarely to 10 lb. per quarter, on the hill, but improving to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  lb. and even to 15 lb. per quarter, in sheltered inclosures. The dryness of the pasture, and small size of the sheep, give them a juice remarkably rich, and a flavour remarkably delicate. Their wool is not fine, yielding only about 12 s. per stone of 24 lb. English, and taking 8 or 9 fleeces to a stone. The value of it is lessened by the quantity of tar, with which, it is the universal practice, to salve the sheep, being fully equal to that of oil or butter; but, in this neighbourhood, farmers now begin to use, 2 and even 3 pints of oil, or melted butter, to one pint of tar, and think their wool is improved by this change. Judges assert, that smearing is, in general, unskillfully performed in this corner, the season being too far advanced, and the ingredients being both improperly proportioned, and carelessly laid on. Without entering into points, which must be determined solely by the experience of store farmers, it is natural to think, that this operation should take place early in the season, before the days shorten; because quantities of rain and snow, are then apt to fall; and when the sheep are once thoroughly drenched, they do not readily become dry enough to receive the salve to advantage. Besides, the first attacks of cold and wet are

are always most to be dreaded and guarded against. Perhaps also, when done early, the wool will be more easily laid aside, so as to let the salve reach the skin, which alone, and not the wool, it is intended to protect\*.—In justification, however, of the farmers of this parish, let it be remembered, that about one fourth part of their profit arises from raising corn; that their harvest is late, and that, without neglecting their crops, they cannot well attend, earlier than they do, to smearing their sheep. Let it also be observed, that, as their chief dependance is on their flocks, it is natural for them to be timorous in venturing on innovations, which may be attended with risk; and they can only be expected to adopt, by slow degrees, any alteration on the mode of treating their sheep, however promising it may be, until it is fully sanctioned by experience.

*Commons, Woods, &c.*—There is no land in common, or lying waste; but upwards of 60 acres are occupied by houses, gardens, orchards, stack-yards, and dunghills. About 200 acres are in wood, mostly planted, though part is natural. Lakes, mosses, and the beds of Tweed, Gala, and Ettrick, by all of which the parish is either intersected or bounded, will occupy, at least, 100 acres.—The produce of the orchards is trifling, consisting only of a few common apples, pears, and plumbs. But the woods are valuable. Oaks, ashes, and elms, grow to a large size, and are of an excellent quali-

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\* It seems farther probable, that good oil, being known to defend against water, to meliorate wool, and destroy vermin, if substituted for butter, and used in a larger proportion to the tar, might both increase the weight and the quality of the fleeces. The farmers, however, in general, prefer butter to oil.

ty: Scots firs, planes, and birches, are in great abundance, and equally thriving: And the larix, the beech; the mountain-ash, and several kinds of willow, though less frequent, are in great perfection.—The woods are frequented by the birds and quadrupeds, which are common through Scotland: Snipes, woodcocks, swallows, sea-gulls, and wild geese, are annual visitants. Wild ducks remain through the year.—Little damage has ever been done by wind, thunder-storms, or inundations. In spring, 1782, both Tweed and Gala were swelled higher, than they had been for 30 years before, yet did no mischief worthy of being mentioned.

*Population.*—From traditional accounts, as well as from the vestiges and ruins of houses, the population, both of the parish and of the village, must have been considerable about a century ago; and the general opinion is, that it has diminished. According to the return made to Dr Webster, in 1755, the number of souls then amounted to 998. Since 1770, when the present incumbent was admitted, the population has been on the increase. By a list, taken at that time, the inhabitants were between 870 and 880. A second list, taken in January, 1789, made their number 901; of whom, 412 were males, and 489 females; 352 were under 14 years of age, and 20 were above 70. By an accurate list, taken in January 1791, their number was as follows:

|              |   |       |     |                   |   |     |
|--------------|---|-------|-----|-------------------|---|-----|
| Males        | - | -     | 426 | Below 10 years    | - | 253 |
| Females      | - | -     | 488 | Between 10 and 20 |   | 181 |
|              |   |       | —   | Between 20 and 50 |   | 344 |
|              |   | Total | 914 | Between 40 and 70 |   | 115 |
|              |   |       |     | Above 70          | - | 21  |
| Married      | - | -     | 280 |                   |   | —   |
| In widowhood | - | -     | 53  |                   |   | 914 |
|              |   |       |     |                   |   | In  |

In the village of Galashiels, 581;—in Lindean, 51;—in the country, 282. There are 209 families; of whom, 18 are farmers, 28 are cottars, whose residence depends on their remaining in the same service; and all the rest are leaseholders for a longer or shorter time.

The number of deaths, marriages, and births cannot be ascertained, because many bury at Lindean, and some in other parishes; and many, from neighbouring parishes, bury at Galashiels. Many of different sectaries also are not married by established clergymen; and a still greater number neglect to register the births of their children. Yet the rapid increase of population, and thriving state of the parish, are plainly evinced by this circumstance, that, on the estate of Mr Scot of Gala alone, there have been built, within these 20 years, six farm houses, with complete office-houses, and 32 good dwelling houses, in the village; besides 39 dwelling houses, (on a part of the parish of Melrose, which lies immediately contiguous to it,) containing 201 inhabitants, not included in the above statement; all of whom, except 4 families, removed from Galashiels, for the sake of getting feus, in a spot more convenient for carrying on their business. This suburb, to which hitherto no reference has been made, must necessarily be included in the following information, relative to the diseases, employment, character, and religious opinions of the inhabitants.

*Air, Diseases, &c.*—From the nature of the soil, the air must be dry and healthy. There never was, in the memory of man, any destructive epidemical distemper in the parish. Even the small-pox, measles, and chincough are not fatal, nor very infectious. Though each of these has repeatedly visited the village, during the last 20 years, yet none of them, at any time, became general or violent among the children. One

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half of them, at least, escaped the infection, and very few of the other half died. Inoculation is gradually gaining ground. Perhaps the mildness of the natural small-pox, makes its progress slower, than it otherwise might be. Agues, and slow fevers are the most prevalent diseases; rheumatisms and piles are not unfrequent. Fluxes and dysenteries sometimes make their appearance. But the far greater number of deaths is occasioned unquestionably by severe labour, and want of proper attention to cleanliness, diet, and health.

*Manufacture of Woollen Cloth.*—The manufacture of coarse woollen cloth is here carried on to great extent. It has rapidly increased within these few years, and is now brought to great perfection. From Midsummer 1774, to Midsummer 1775, only 722 stones of wool were manufactured into cloth by the clothiers, and scarcely as much more could be made by private persons; whereas, in the current season (1790) 243 packs of wool, (each pack containing 12 st. of 24 lib. English) have been purchased by the manufacturers; besides which, they receive from different quarters, wool, yarn, and weaved cloth, to a considerable amount, to be dyed and dressed for private use, or for sale. The highest price given, per stone, for wool, this season, is 19s, and the lowest 7s 9d; but in general, the quantity purchased is of that fineness, as to raise the average price to 15s per stone. The wool, being bought in fleeces, as it comes from the sheep, must be assorted, scoured, and freed from refuse, in which process, it loses at least one-fourth of its weight. A stone of the finest of it, weighed after being thus prepared, will yield 32 slips of yarn, each containing 12 cuts, and each cut being 120 rounds of the legal reel. Of this yarn, 1300 threads is the greatest number put into the breadth or warp of any web, which, when finished, exceeds seven-eighths of a yard in breadth, and fetches, in  
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ready money, at least 5s per yard wholesale from a dealer, or about 6s, when sold in retail. The coarsest cloths are made of wool, which yields only, when scoured, 8 slips per stone. They are wove with no more than 600 threads of warp in the loom, are about six-eighths of a yard in breadth, when finished, and are sold, in wholesale to dealers, at 1s 4d per yard.— From these facts, it seems fair to conclude, that the average produce of wool must be 20 slips of yarn per stone, and that the average price of cloth should be 3s 2d per yard wholesale. Yet, in fact, notwithstanding the high average price of wool, and its consequent fineness, the average quantity of yarn produced does not exceed 16 slips per stone, and the average price of cloth wholesale, is scarcely 2s 6d per yard;—a striking proof of its excellence. For all manufacturers know, that wool, spun beyond its fineness, makes unthrifty cloth; whereas a thread, coarser than the wool will admit, is both more easily drawn; and more equal; and consequently makes the finest and most durable cloth. In spinning wool, 241 women are constantly employed, besides occasional spinsters. Such of them, as have no avocations, will make 12 cuts in a day, for which they are paid 6d. But as family concerns, field and harvest work, and such other bye-jobs, take up a great part of their time, let 100 days in a year be allowed for these avocations, and still, in the remaining days of the year, they would spin, at the above rate, more yarn, than can be produced from the 243 packs of wool, purchased for the current season. Yet not only are they always furnished with as much wool as they can spin, but three machines also, with 30 and 36 spindles each, which, at an average, spin at least 24 slips in a day among them, are employed always two, and often three days every week. In like manner, there are 43 looms in the village and suburbs, 9 of which are only occasionally used by the aged and infirm, and by young boys. Supposing these 9, to be



be equal to 2 looms constantly occupied throughout the year; and supposing the 36 looms, thus made up, to weave only, at an average 7 yards raw cloth, which is equal to  $4\frac{2}{3}$  yards, dressed cloth, each day, for 300 days in the year, they would thus weave several thousand yards of more cloth, than can be made out of the above number of packs. Now, as many weavers are known not to be a week idle throughout the year, and some of them, for a course of weeks in temperate weather, work 12 and even 15 yards per day, the above computation is abundantly moderate. Again, every slip of yarn is allowed, by the manufacturers, to make, at an average, a yard of cloth, consequently, from the 243 packs, containing 2916 stone, and each stone yielding 16 slips of yarn, there should be produced 46,656 yards of cloth; yet, from the most accurate enquiry, the actual number cannot be found to exceed 43,740 yards. To reconcile these seemingly inconsistent circumstances, let the following observations be attended to: 1st, Many neighbouring farmers reserve some part of their wool, and many families in the village purchase small quantities, which are spun at home during winter, or given out to be spun at the ordinary rate. The yarn is sent to the weaver, the web to the dyer, or perhaps the wool, from the beginning, is committed to a clothier, to be manufactured into cloth. A great part of the cloth, thus made, is intended for the market, though most of it is generally for private use. Nor is it unusual, for the manufacturers themselves, to buy woollen yarn, and webs from the loom, to bring forward into cloth for sale. In this manner, about 30 packs of wool may annually be spun and woven, besides the quantity purchased by the manufacturers. 2dly, The manufacturers do not employ all their wool in making cloth. A considerable quantity of blankets, flannels, and worsted stuffs for womens gowns, and childrens frocks, are made both by them and private families. And  
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some of the coarsest of their wool is sold, and carried off for other purposes. And thirdly, The weavers, are occasionally employed in working linens, cottons, and other stuffs, from mixtures made of linen, cotton, and worsted. As the actual number of yards woven annually by them, cannot be collected from their memories, or such accounts as they keep, it must be calculated, by taking the whole 43 looms, at the low rate of 4 yards each of dressed cloth per day, and reckoning 300 days in the year, which will make them amount nearly to 52,000 yards of cloth of all kinds, ready for the market.

The price of weaving, including winding and preparing the yarn, &c. is from 2d. to 3½ per yard. Taking the average at 2½, a weaver earns about 18 7d. each day; and the 43 looms will draw about L. 1000 a year. A journeyman clothier gains 4s per week, besides board; and being in constant employment through the year, without the expence of providing implements, for carrying on his work, his wages may be considered, as nearly equal to those of the weaver.

Of those who purchase wool, and superintend the whole process of making it into cloth, there are 13 masters, who employ, at present, 50 journeymen and apprentices, in assorting, scouring, and scribbling the wool, before it is given out to spin; and in scouring, milling, dyeing, cropping, pressing, and finishing off the cloth. The unwearied attention, which they bestow on all the various departments of their complicated employment, and the proficiency, which they have attained, have obtained for them, many years successively, almost all the premiums advertised by the Trustees for cloth of 5, 4, 3, and 2s. value per yard. It is, however, on the whole, reckoned a disadvantage, that so many different objects must occupy their attention. In England, there are *wool-sorters*, who buy, and prepare the wool for spinning; *spinners*, who buy it, and sell the yarn to *weavers*; who again sell the webs af-  
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ter they are wrought and scoured. In some places they are purchased by *dyers*, and after being milled and dyed, are sold again to *those*, whose province it is to fit and polish them for the market. In other places the persons both dye and dress them.—From the materials thus becoming the actual property of those, through whose hands they pass, in the different stages of the work, it may be presumed, that the several parts of it will be more expeditiously and better done, to insure its selling quickly, and to good advantage. As spinsters will learn to examine the wool, weavers the yarn, and dyers the web, before making a purchase, all of them are thereby stimulated to take the greater care, to avoid all faults and blemishes, which would hurt the sale, or lessen the profits of their labour. Besides, it seems probable, that the fewer employments any man follows, the greater will be his proficiency in them. They, who constantly and exclusively are kept scribbling wool, will work more, and to better purpose, than others, who are accustomed equally to perform every branch of the manufacturing line. In like manner, the finest dye will always be given by him, whose sole business it is, to mix and prepare the colours, and fix them on the cloth. And the sweetest polish will come from the hand, which is only put forth to the shears, the teale, and the press.—In opposition, however, to this reasoning, specious and conclusive as it may appear, some intelligent manufacturers here prefer their own method, of conducting the whole process from first to last; asserting, that, from universal experience, the yarn and webs, which they purchase, are greatly inferior to those which are made under their own eye; and assigning, as the reason of this inferiority, that, having the absolute direction both of spinning and weaving, and a perfect knowledge of the respective abilities of such as they employ, in these departments, they must easily perceive, and can keep out of their

webs,

webs, all faulty yarn; they must be acquainted with all defects in weaving; and, if they are of a nature not to be corrected, or concealed by the subsequent operations, which the cloth undergoes, they can make both spinsters and weavers accountable for their several mistakes, which cannot thus be amended. And the excellence of all cloth depending, in a great measure, on the equality of the yarn, both as to fineness and twisting, they have the advantage of knowing and employing the hands, which come nearest to each other in these respects, and the weavers, who excel in working finer or coarser yarn.

Spinning machines possess one eminent advantage over common wheels. The yarn on 30, or 36 spindles, is all equally twisted, and drawn to the same fineness. And from the nature of the motion, the twist cannot be hard, nor the thread fine, which renders the cloth soft, firm and durable. The most dexterous spinster cannot twist so equally, and so gently, twenty slips of yarn, from wool of the same quality, as a machine can do twenty thousand. And it is now universally agreed, that both warp and woof, twisted as gently as the loom can admit, is most susceptible of being driven close by the mill, of receiving the strongest dye, and of acquiring the smoothest surface.

*Artizans.*— Besides the manufacture of woollen cloth, which is no doubt the staple of the parish, other branches are carried to a considerable extent. Ten persons are employed, as skimmers and tanners, who pay, for the white and tanned leather, which they make, from L. 66 to L. 98, of excise to Government, at an average, yearly. Seventeen are wrights, who, besides jobbing as cabinet-makers, and house carpenters, and wheel and mill wrights, and making all the common implements of husbandry, drive a very considerable trade,

by purchasing growing timber, blocking it into ploughs, carts, hay-rakes, &c. annually, all which are sold to plough and cart-wrights, and farmers, at a considerable distance. There are 3 black-smiths, 3 bakers, 5 shoemakers, and 9 taylors. The number of merchants and shop-keepers cannot easily be ascertained, as almost every body buys and sells or bar- ters.

*Church, Living, and School.*—The parish church was originally situated at Lindean, to the south of Tweed, but was removed, in the course of the last century, to Galashiels.—The living, which is in the gift of Mr Scot of Gala, was, in 1775, augmented from L. 800, to L. 1090 Scots, with L. 4 : 3 : 4 sterling, for communion elements; and the glebe, (including 9 bolls, 3 firlots of barley, Linlithgow measure, which the minister receives annually, for a part of it lying in Lindean,) will rent about L. 15 sterling.—The school-master has L. 6 : 7 : 2 of salary, and from 80 to 120 scholars; a tolerable house, but no garden. There is also a school at Lindean, with a small salary, said to be a part of the parish salary, granted when that village was considerable for the number of its inhabitants.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—There are only 6 heritors; 4 of whom have dwelling houses in the parish, and two of these four are resident. Their *cumulo* valued rent, is L. 8225 : 13 : 4 Scots: And their real rent may amount to L. 1600 sterling, over and above all public burdens.

*Poor.*—The poor, at present, upon the roll, amount to 14, (13 of whom are females,) and that number may be taken as the average for 15 years past. Several others receive occasional aid. The sum levied and contributed, for their support, annually

annually, is about L. 30, but it is gradually increasing. As most of them can work, their allowance is but small, in general, not above 9d. per week, except in times of scarcity.

*Disadvantages.*—The greatest disadvantage, which the parish and suburbs labour under, is no doubt their distance from lime and coals; both of which they bring from Middleton, 21 miles from Galashiels, and upwards of 24 miles from several places in the parish. Notwithstanding this great distance, lime is found to be cheaper mature, and coals cheaper fuel, than the marle and peats in the southern district, though both are excellent of their kinds.——Want of a post, is another material disadvantage, to which the village is subjected. Offices are established at Stagehall, Selkirk, and Melrose. The first, a single house, though farthest distant, is most convenient, being on the road to lime and coals; but, notwithstanding the obliging care of the postmaster there, the arrival of letters, 7 miles from a post-office, must always be tedious and uncertain. There is a certainty that the revenue, which is drawn there, would be at least trebled, were the office removed to Galashiels.—A third great inconvenience, which the manufacturers suffer, is want of a stock to carry on their work to a sufficient extent; of consequence, they are obliged to purchase on credit, and at a high rate, every necessary article of manufacture, and to sell the produce instantly, at whatever ready money it will fetch. Whereas, were they able to pay at once for all they purchase, they would both have more profit, and they could continue to manufacture their goods, without being reduced to the necessity of disposing of them, till a proper price could be obtained.

*Character of the People.*—In the parish and suburbs of the  
R r 2
village,

village, there are no less than 15 houses, where ale or spirits are retailed. Yet the people, in general, are sober and industrious in the extreme. Not one is addicted to dram-drinking or tipping; and very rarely is a tradesman, especially a manufacturer, seen in liquor. A respectable number attend public worship in the established church, and about 200 receive the sacrament of our Lord's supper annually. At the same time, there are many, who adhere both to the Burgher and Antiburgher principles, and a few belong to the Church of Relief. There are also some classes of Independents, and Baptists; besides several who disclaim all attachment to any sect whatsoever, and seem to have no fixed principles of religion. Concerning the numbers, and the peculiar tenets, of these various separatists from the establishment, the present incumbent has never been led to make any particular inquiry, from an opinion, that while they are peaceable and good members of society, and "live soberly, righteously, and godly," the speculative points, on which they may differ, are of very little importance. And it gives him much pleasure, to find a spirit of forbearance and toleration universally prevailing, among all ranks and denominations in the parish\*.

\* For an answer to the queries relating to Roman and other antiquities, vid. Pennant's Tour, printed in 1772.

## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF COCKPEN.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.)

*By the Rev. MR EBENEZER MARSHALL.**Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

THE parish of Cockpen, in the presbytery of Dalkeith, synod of Lothian and Tweddale, and county of Edinburgh, extends, from south to north, about 2 miles, and from east to west, where it is broadest, a mile and a half. The southern part of it is divided by the river South Esk; over which, a stately bridge is thrown at Cockpen. Every where within the parish, the banks of the river are bold and beautifully fringed with natural wood.—The soil is a strong clay; which, with proper cultivation, produces excellent grain, and in sufficient quantities.—The climate is dry and pure.—In every part of the parish coal is to be found, and has, in several places, been wrought successfully. Good free-stone abounds in it; and there is a sort of moss, from whence copperas has been extracted.

*Proprietors.*—There are 6 heritors; of whom, the Earl of Dalhousie, has the largest property. His Lordship, and Sir James Murray, have their principal seats in the parish.—The castle



castle of Dalhousie, a building of great antiquity, constructed in the old Scottish taste, is pleasantly situated on the northern bank of the river, which runs at a few yards distance from the foot of the walls. This castle was modernized by the late Earl of Dalhousie, and has thereby lost much of its former venerable aspect. The grounds around it are, by nature, peculiarly adapted for extensive and romantic pleasure grounds. A little lower, on the opposite bank of the same river, stood the mansion house of Cockpen; lately purchased by the Earl of Dalhousie, from Mr Baron Cockburn, by whom the adjacent lands had been inclosed and greatly improved. Along the steep and woody banks of the river, he had also formed various walks, at a great expence, and in the finest taste, which are still the delight of every visitant; but a few bare walls are now all that remains of his hospitable mansion, serving, however, to increase the wild, and romantic beauty of the surrounding scenery.

*Population.*—By a list, found among the papers of the then incumbent, it appears, that, in 1749, there were in the parish, 160 families, containing 299 males, and 349 females, or 648 individuals; of which, 454 were above, and 194 under 10 years of age. The return to Dr Webster was 640 souls. By an enumeration made by the present minister, in 1790, it was found, that there were 288 families in the parish, and 1123 individuals; 5 of whom were above 80, and 195 were dissenters from the Established Church. Thus, it appears, that the population has increased 475 in the space of 40 years. There has been an increase, even since 1783, of 123. This addition was chiefly on the property of Mr Calderwood Durham, and has been occasioned by a very flourishing coalliery, and by giving small fees to industrious labourers, mechanics, and manufacturers.——The annual average of baptisms, for 7 years

years, from 1741, was 25. For a like period, from 1784, it was 30.

*Farms.*—About 40 years ago, a number of small farmers cultivated the lands in the parish, and lived in some degree of plenty: at present, 7 families, of that description, occupy almost entirely the whole district. They discover a great spirit of enterprize and zeal for improvement, and live in a degree of affluence, unknown to their more humble predecessors.

*Scarcity in 1782,—and the Poor.*—During the scarcity which afflicted the kingdom, in the years 1782, and 1783, L. 43:10:3 was expended in relieving the necessities of the poor in this parish. Of that sum, L. 30 was raised by an assessment upon the heritors and tenants. For some years afterwards, the number of poor was greater than usual; but it is now diminishing, and the expenditure of 1789, for their support, was no more than L. 13:16:9. This sum is almost wholly collected at the church doors, from the labourers, mechanics, and farmers; who are, in general, very regular in their attendance on divine worship.

The number of poor relieved, from the funds of the parish, at present, is 11; and the most necessitous of them, do not receive above 3s 6d. monthly. Even this sum, which is more than what is generally given, is but a scanty provision for a family, consisting of 2 or 3 persons, who must depend upon their own industry, and labour for what they find to be farther necessary.—In the country part of the parish, instances of deep wretchedness, not unfrequently occur, from the inadequate means of relief, and the want of employment, suited to the strength, or state, of the feeble and the aged.

*Rent, Stipend, Patron, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3068 : 19 : 8 Scots. The real rent may amount to L. 1450 sterling. The minister's stipend is paid in victual and in money; and, according to the prices of grain, may, at an average, be worth L. 95 sterling yearly. The glebe, by an exchange of part of it, which is to take place at the term of Martinmas 1791, will consist of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres arable, and one of pasture. The Earl of Dalhousie is patron. The schoolmaster receives of salary yearly L. 7 : 1, and has a very good dwelling-house and garden. The fees quarterly for teaching are 1s 2d for English, 1s 6d. for writing, and 2s 6d. for arithmetic.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—With the improvements of the country, which are every where advancing rapidly, the price of labour has been greatly increased. A day-labourer now earns from 10d to 14d per day. A servant-maid receives of wages yearly, from 50s to L. 3, and a servant-man from L. 6 to L. 7 sterling. A mason gets 2s. a day, and a carpenter 1s 6d. From the growing wealth and improvements of this country, the labourer, the mechanic, the manufacturer, trader, and landholder, are daily gaining some advantage; but those of stated and fixed incomes are thereby suffering a considerable diminution, in the value of what they receive, proportionally to the rise that takes place, in the price of labour and provisions.

*Rotation of Crops.*—Every farmer, in this part of the country, puts a certain portion of his land into summer fallow. This he manures with dung and lime, and then sows it with wheat. When it is thus freed from weeds, and enriched, the land produces, in wheat, from 8 to 10 bolls an acre, and sometimes 12. A crop of pease is generally taken after the wheat, and then a crop of oats or barley. With the oats or  
barley,

barley, the ground is sown with grass feeds for a season or two. When it is broken up it is sown again with oats, and afterwards put into fallow. Turnip and potatoe crops are little used, and even barley does not always succeed upon the clay soil. The farmers have a ready market for their corn at Dalkeith, which is held weekly through the whole year; and is, perhaps, the greatest corn market in Scotland. — An acre of good land lets here at 25s yearly.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A few years ago, a silver penny, of Edward I. of England, was found in the glebe, and is now in the possession of the minister. It might, perhaps, have been lost at the battle of Roslin, which was fought not far from this. — Sir Alexander Ramsay, of Dalhousie, who lived in the 14th century, is celebrated as one of the bravest warriors of that age. The Scottish youth were emulous of learning, under him, the art of war. His gallant behaviour at the battle of Otterburn, is celebrated by Froissart. He was appointed by his sovereign, warden of the borders; and, from envy, was treacherously murdered by Douglas of Liddisdale. — Some years ago, an attempt was made to encourage the raising of flax, and, by the aid of the Trustees, a mill was fitted up for dressing it; but it was attended with no success. There is, in the parish, a bleachfield, which, at present, is managed to considerable advantage. — For some years past, a large and heavy harrow has been employed with much effect in covering the seed upon the clay lands. A fine and deep mould is thereby formed, even in the driest season.

## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF CRAILING.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.)

*By the Rev. MR. DAVID BROWN.**Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Jedburgh, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. In the records of presbytery it is called, the united parishes of Crailing, Nisbet, and Spital. Crailing and Nisbet were distinct parishes, and Spital is said to have been an hospital, belonging to the abbey at Ancrum. The time of annexation is very antient. It is of a circular form, near 4 English miles in diameter. The river Teviot flows eastward, in beautiful windings, through its centre \*, where it is joined by the Oxnam from the south, nearly at right angles.

About three fourths of the parish are arable land, very rich and fertile. The haughs, about a mile broad, in the middle of the parish, are of a deep loamy dry soil. Towards the south, the

\* The centre of the parish is 13 miles from Hawick, 7 from Kelfo, and 45 from Edinburgh.

the ground rises gradually from the valley; the soil becomes of a sharper, and more stoney kind, and then runs out into sheep pasture. On the southern boundary there are considerable plantations of wood; mostly fir, except on the banks of the Oxnam, where there is a quantity of timber, of various sorts, along the borders of a small and romantic glen; in the bottom of which, there is a flat of rich pasture. The river winds through it, but occasionally touches high and steep rocks, partly covered with natural wood. At the foot of this glen, are situated, Crailing house on one side of the Oxnam, and the manse on the other. This spot is well adapted for beautiful pleasure grounds; in the keeping up, and improving of which, the present proprietor is at considerable pains and expence. The grounds, on the south side of the parish, are mostly inclosed and subdivided with hedges, and rows of trees.

The north side of the parish contains little haugh land, the ground beginning to rise more immediately from the river. The soil is rich and dry, fit for any crop. On the northern boundary, there is a considerable extent of sheep pasture, in which, there is a beautiful green hill, called *Penelbeugh*, the only one in the parish. The grounds on that side, though interspersed with a few clumps of fir trees, are mostly open; except towards the west, at Spital, now called Mount-teviot, where there are large inclosures, with hedge rows and belts of planting, and a considerable quantity of full grown timber.

This parish is a small portion, but; at the same time, the lowest, warmest, and most fertile, of that beautiful tract of corn country, on the banks of the Teviot, 20 miles in length, from Hawick to Kelso, which is commonly known by the name of Teviotdale.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate is dry and wholesome. No diseases are peculiar to the parish; and the people are generally long lived. One man died a few years ago, who was said to be 106. At present there are several persons in the parish about 80, and likely still to see many years.—There is a circumstance, which may be mentioned here, as a proof of the mildness of the climate, and fineness of the soil of this parish, which took place in the late attempt, that was made to cultivate tobacco in Scotland: In one season, a tenant, in this district, drew L. 115 for tobacco plants, and afterwards raised a crop on 12 or 13 acres, which he sold upon the ground, for L. 320; but an act of parliament intervening, (the policy, or the justice of which, need not here be entered into,) the purchaser was unable to fulfil his bargain, and the farmer was compelled to dispose of his tobacco to Government, at only 4 d. per pound; at which rate, it brought him only L. 104. It appeared, from the trials made at that time, that tobacco would thrive well in the southern parts of Scotland.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The valued rent is L. 8733 Scots. The real amounts to about L. 2500 sterling. The rent of the best land in the parish, is L. 1:10 per English acre. The land, in general, is let, not by the acre, but in the lump.

*Number of Proprietors, Tenants, &c.*—There are two great and one small proprietor, or feuer in the parish. One of these, Mr Hunter of Crailing, resides at his country seat during the summer. Mount-teviot-lodge, (a seat of the Marquis of Lothian,) has not been occupied by the family for some time past. There are four farmers, who pay L. 100; other four, upwards of L. 200, one L. 300 *per annum*; besides

a number of smaller tenants. But there is not now in the parish, above one-third of the number, that there were 40 years ago.

*Population.*—The population of the country part of the parish, has, of late years, greatly diminished, owing to the monopoly of farms. But, on the whole, the increase is considerable, when compared with the report made to Dr Webster, in 1755, where it is stated, at only 387 souls. The number of persons, at present, in the parish, by actual enumeration, are as follows :

|  |   |                     |       |
|--|---|---------------------|-------|
| Of the Established Church                        | - | -                   | 280   |
| Their children, under 10 years of age, or there- |   |                     |       |
| by   | - | -                   | 172   |
|  |   |                     | — 452 |
| Seceders   | - | -                   | 130   |
| Their children                                   | . | .                   | 90    |
|  |   |                     | — 220 |
|  |   |                     | —     |
|  |   | Total in the parish | 672   |

The proportion of Seceders has been much about the same for many years.

The following is a statement, extracted from the parish register, of the births, marriages, and deaths, for the last ten years :

*Abstract*



*Abstract of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.*

| Years.            | Births.   | Marriages. | Deaths.  |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| 1781              | 10        | 7          | 10       |
| 1782              | 18        | 10         | 14       |
| 1783              | 13        | 5          | 5        |
| 1784              | 24        | 4          | 2        |
| 1785              | 15        | 5          | 4        |
| 1786              | 22        | 5          | 1        |
| 1787              | 14        | 7          | 3        |
| 1788              | 18        | 5          | 7        |
| 1789              | 16        | 3          | 2        |
| 1790              | 13        | 9          | 7        |
|                   | <hr/> 163 | <hr/> 60   | <hr/> 55 |
| Yearly aver. near | 16        | 6          | 5        |

The list of deaths is not very exact, as no record has been kept, of persons belonging to this, who have been buried in other parishes.

*State of Agriculture.*—It is believed, that there is not, in any part of the kingdom, a better system of agriculture. No expence is spared in procuring manure. Marle is got at Eckford, one mile distant; but lime is brought from Northumberland, about 23 miles. And one of the most considerable farmers in the parish, is this year making trial of gypsum, or plaister of Paris, which has, of late, been much recommended. The marle is sold so high, that lime is reckoned cheaper, notwithstanding the distance of carriage. The turnip, and every species of drill husbandry, is carried on here in the highest

highest perfection. The plowmen of this parish, have, at no competition, been excelled in the neatness of their work; and the farmers are remarkable for keeping capital horses, and equipping them to the best advantage. No sight can be more delightful, to one who is fond of a country life, than to survey the rich haughs of Crailing, and the fields of Nisbet, in a fine morning, during the best seasons, for the toils of agriculture.

*Crops.*—This parish produces a great proportion of wheat, besides all the other kinds of grain of the best quality. The culture of turnips is much attended to, and with great success. They are generally eaten by sheep on the fields. The sheep are inclosed by nets, made for the purpose; by means of which, 400 or 500 are confined within the bounds of 4 or 5 English acres at a time, till the turnips are all consumed. The ground being well prepared for the turnips, and thoroughly cleaned while the crop is upon it, the necessity of summer fallowing is precluded, and is, therefore, seldom practised in this parish. The sheep leave the ground richly manured, and wheat is generally sown upon fields thus prepared, any time before Christmas. There are, upon an average, about 220 acres of turnip annually consumed in this parish, by sheep from neighbouring parishes, and from the English border, which are thereby thoroughly fed for the market, to the number of about 2200, allowing 10 sheep to an acre. Such turnips, as are not consumed in this way, (which are not a few,) are given, by the farmers, to their young stock, both of cattle and sheep. The turnips, that are late of being consumed, are succeeded by a crop of barley, which is frequently accompanied with grass-seeds. The crops of this parish, and of Eckford to the east, are generally more early, than even those of the Lothians.

*Price*

*Price of Labour.*—The average wages of a man-servant, living in the house, are about L. 7; those of a woman about L. 3:10. The wages of men-labourers, furnishing their own meat, are 10d. a day, from Martinmas to Candlemas, and 1s the rest of the year, except in time of harvest, when they are somewhat higher. The wages of women are, at turnip-weeding, and other farm-work, in summer, 7d a day, and at shearing in harvest, 1s, furnishing their own victuals.

*Carts and Ploughs.*—There are 48 carts and 44 ploughs. The ploughs are of Small's construction; and though all made in the parish, they are not inferior to his manufacture. They are always drawn by a pair of horses, and one man both drives and holds the plough.

*Animals, Fish, &c.*—There are about 140 horses and 350 black cattle in the parish. The stock of sheep is about 2400. The breed is between the best border ewes, and Bakewell's and Culley's tups. The lambs, for some years past, have sold at from 8s to 11s a head; the wool is all laid, and sells at about 86s per stone of 24 English lb. from 3 to 8 fleeces go to the stone. Such is the attention here paid to the culture of sheep, that many are bred and reared even on the best grounds.

The rivers Teviot and Oxnam, already mentioned, abound with great variety of trout. Vast numbers of sea trout come up in summer and autumn, and afford excellent sport to the angler. There are some pike of a large size in the back waters or deserted channels of the Teviot. There are a great many grilse, and some salmon in that river.

*Mineral Spring.*—The only thing of the kind in the parish, and that even scarcely worth mentioning, is a small spring near the manse, within a few yards of the minister's well, of which

which the common people talk very highly, as a cure for the cholic.

*Villages.*—There are three villages in the parish, viz. Crailing, and, Upper and Nether Nisbet. But, indeed, they scarcely deserve the name of villages, being inhabited only by such labourers and tradesmen, as are necessary for the purposes of the neighbouring farmers.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—The present church and manse were built about 35 years ago. The church is small, but handsome, well finished, and in good repair. It stands remote from all other buildings, on a small eminence near the south bank of the Teviot, where that river is joined by the Oxnam, which is about the centre of the parish. When this church was built, the church of Nisbet was thrown down, and not a vestige of it now remains. The hospital and chapel at Spital were long ago demolished, and even the burying-ground there has been totally abandoned for many years. Nothing but a few tomb stones now mark the place, and these are almost grown over with trees and weeds. But the burying-ground at Nisbet is still used, by all the Nisbet and Spital side of the parish.—There are no remains of the old church of Crailing, which stood within a few yards of Crailing house; but the parishioners on Crailing side, and some also, who have left the parish, still insist upon using the old burying ground, although the proprietor of Crailing has, in lieu of it, given them an ample space around the new church; and although their late minister set them an example, by erecting there a tomb for himself some years before he died.—The manse stands upon the old site of Crailing manse, nearly about half a mile south from the present church. The king is patron. The living consists of 85 bolls of meal, and a little more than 75 bolls of barley, Linlith-

gow measure. The minister is titular of the vicarage tithes, consisting of lambs, wool, lint, hemp, hay, &c. which he lets at present for L. 30 : 10 sterling. It is believed they may be rented considerably higher. There is likewise a glebe of 9 acres and 17 poles English, and a manse, &c. all which are in value according to the rate of the times.

There is no dissenting meeting-house in the parish. The Seceders here are accommodated at Jedburgh, which is about 3 miles distant.

*State of the Schools.*—There are two established schools in the parish, viz. one at Crailing, and one at Nisbet. The schoolmaster of Crailing has L. 5 : 11 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , as salary, and about L. 3, as being parish and session clerk. He has also the interest of money, left by bonds for his use, to the amount of L. 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  15 *per annum*. The schoolmaster of Nisbet has L. 2 : 15 : 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ , as salary, and 10s for collecting the poor's rates of the barony of Nisbet. The school-fees are very small, being, for English, 1s. per quarter, for English and writing, 1s 6d. and for English, writing, and arithmetic, 2s 6d. The annual average number of scholars, for the last 6 years, has been 48 at Crailing school, and 36 at Nisbet.

*State of the Poor.*—They are supported by poor's rates. It is found, by written records, that, between 30 and 40 years ago, the poor in this parish, in number about 8 persons, were supported, or relieved in their own houses, for about L. 14 sterling *per annum*. Of late years, about 14 persons, at an average, have been maintained in the same way, for L. 27 *per annum*.

*Roads, Bridges, and Boats.*—The turnpike road on the south banks of the Teviot, betwixt Hawick and Kelso, passes through this

this parish. The other roads are kept in repair by statute money. There is a bridge over the Oxnam, near the manse, which is the only one in the parish. It was built about 20 years ago, by subscription, and is still in good repair; it will no doubt be upheld by the turnpike funds.—The nearest bridge over the Teviot, is that at Ancrum, a short way above. But, for the conveniency of the parish, the heritors uphold a boat, and pay a boatman. To this they are bound, on account of the annexation of Nisbet and Spital to the church of Crailing; and on Sundays no fare is exacted, from persons attending the parish church.

*Antiquities.*—A Roman road or causeway passed through the west part of this parish, the traces of which are still to be seen. There are also vestiges of two encampments on the top of Penelheugh; and that they belonged to the Romans, we are led to conjecture, from their vicinity to that road. One of them seems to have been strongly fortified, and though now totally demolished, it still retains the name of the Castle.—The site of it is very high, and commands a most extensive prospect; taking in at once all the windings of the Teviot from Hawick to Kelso, and part of the several beautiful streams which join it in that course. The whole county of Berwick is also seen from it, and a part of the German ocean. The view is bounded on the south by the lofty mountains of Cheviot, and, on the north, by the Lammermuir hills.

Nisbet is noted, by tradition, for being a strong-hold of some of the antient marauders of the border. Many persons are yet living, who remember the ruins of two strong towers at the village of Nether Nisbet, and stones of excellent workmanship are still dug up from time to time. It also deserves to be mentioned, on account of its antiquity, and the singularity of its tenure; that the proprietor of the barony of Crai-

ling is bound to furnish, a guard of his own vassals, for the circuit Court of Justiciary, when it meets at Jedburgh. On this account, there is annexed, to that barony, the property of some acres of land at Lanton, in the parish of Jedburgh, which is called the Crowner's lands.

*Disadvantages.*—It is a disadvantage, to which the lowest haughs of the parish are liable, that the rivers sometimes swell to such a height, as to carry off either the corns when cut, or the manure, when lying on the surface, and thus to destroy the labours of the farmer. What renders these floods more destructive is, that they are often unexpected, and sudden, by great rains falling in the distant mountains, when no symptoms are perceived by the inhabitants of this, and of the neighbouring vallies.

But the chief and general disadvantage of this parish, is, the distance from coal, and the great expence of land carriage, on that and all other commodities. Although a considerable quantity of fire-wood is annually sold at Crailing plantations, yet it is generally thought, that coals are the cheapest fuel. They are brought from Etal in Glendale, and from Rycheffer on Reid water, a branch of the Tyne, both in Northumberland, and both distant about 23 miles. But still it is some comfort to observe, that these coals are of a very excellent quality.

*Means of Improvement*—The improvements of this parish, and of the neighbouring districts in general, have been very rapid for some years, owing to the establishment of turnpike roads, and to the great success in the culture of turnip; and it is hoped, that there will soon be an easy communication with the German ocean, by means of the proposed canal. If that should take place, it will necessarily lead to the establishment of manufactures, and thereby increase the population, extend the improvements, and double the value of estates in this part of the kingdom.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XXVI.

## PARISH OF MORHAM.

(COUNTY OF EAST LoTHIAN.)

*By the Rev. MR. CARFRAE.**Name, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Morham is, perhaps, the smallest, both with respect to population and extent, in Scotland. It has neither trade, nor manufactures of any kind;—it has neither mines nor minerals;—it has neither towns, nor villages, nor rivers;—it has neither any antiquities, nor natural curiosities of any importance;—nor has it been the scene of any remarkable transactions;—consequently, statistical investigation, must be extremely limited, and the answers to enquiries of that nature much confined, both as to their kind, and number.

It is not an easy matter, for a person, ignorant of the language of the antient inhabitants of this country, to explain, with accuracy, the origin of the names of towns and places. Indeed there is no point more undetermined. With a wide field, for fanciful speculation, there is no regular certain rule to direct our research. Names of places are often chimerical, arbitrary, and accidental: Some have arisen from circumstances long past and forgotten, and, which the most accurate inquiry



quiry cannot trace back; and others have been established by trifling accidents, which deserved no record at the time, and merit no investigation now. The most obvious, are those which obtained names from their local situation, from the lord of the manor, or the proprietor of the soil; and when these are obvious and apparent, it is idle to trace them to ideal foundations, which never existed. The writer of this paper must acknowledge himself ignorant of the origin or derivation of the name given to the parish. But, were he inclined to indulge himself in conjectural explanations, he would be apt to say, that Morham is the Great Town, or Village; for if *more* signifies *great*, and *ham* a *town* or *village*, the origin of the name is sufficiently plain. There is indeed no village now in the district, to establish that derivation; but many circumstances prove, that there was one in antient times, of considerable extent. In particular, there was formerly a castle in this place, situated on an eminence, near the church, of considerable magnitude and strength; the residence no doubt, of the lord of the manor, and built, as was the custom of the times, as a place of security and defence, against the hostile incursions of the enemy. A village, in former days, was almost the necessary consequence of a strong castle, and a powerful baron. In those ages of violence and hostility, when life and property were not, as now, secured by law, and protected by government, it was natural for the lower class of mankind, to look for protection from their immediate superior, and take up their dwelling under the shelter of his castle, where they would not only obtain employment and subsistence, in the various departments of his household, but also a safe residence, and protection against the sudden incursions of turbulent neighbours, or national foes. Although there is not one stone of the castle, now alluded to, left upon another, yet there are many people alive, who remember the remains of  
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it, and speak of it as a large and extensive structure. It had evidently been of such magnitude and strength, as to be the means of raising a considerable village; for although there are only a few houses remaining near the site of the old foundations, yet the village had extended considerably westward; for, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, a few cottages still remain, which retain the name of the *West Gate-end.*

*Situation, Extent, &c.*—Morham is situated in the county of East Lothian, in the presbytery of Haddington, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is bounded by the parish of Garvold on the south, Yester on the West, Haddington on the north, and Whittingham on the east. It is about 3 miles from the town of Haddington, where there is an excellent market, for all the articles, which the parish has occasion, either to sell, or to purchase. In regard to extent, it is little more than 2 miles in length from east to west, and from one to half a mile from South to North; containing, in all, about 1400 Scottish acres, divided into 6 farms; one of which, being of a moorish thin clayey soil, contains 500; the other five, having good soil, consist of from 150 to 200 acres each. The property is almost equally divided between two heritors, the Earl of Wemyss, (and Sir David Dalrymple) Lord Hailes.

The gross rent of the parish may be about L. 800 sterling. The lands are moderately rented, the proprietors being convinced, that it is for the mutual advantage of the landlord and tenant, that their farms should be let on such easy and reasonable terms, as will enable the tenant to provide for his family, and prevent his schemes of improvement from being cramped and impeded, by necessity. In consequence of this wise maxim having been adopted, agriculture is in a state of very high improvement, the parish is almost wholly inclosed, and will be entirely so in the course of a few years. The soil, inclin-

ing a good deal to clay, is not favourable to the culture of turnips and potatoes: both, however, are raised in a moderate degree, the last to the greatest extent; as, besides what the tenant raises for himself, every cottager, is, by bargain, or favour, allowed to plant a certain quantity for the use of his family. They esteem this root both a pleasant and nutritious food; and it is one of the principal articles, on which they subsist, for a considerable part of the year. Excellent crops of all kinds of grain are raised; but the modes of cropping are various, adapted to the varieties of the soil. The greatest improvement is that of turning the land frequently, for a few years, into pasture. It is found to be the best restorative, where adventitious manure cannot be had. Lime, of which there is great plenty, at the distance of 3 or 4 miles, is still moderately used. But lime, being a stimulus, and not a manure, has not the same advantageous effect, when frequently repeated.

As agriculture is the prevailing, and almost the only occupation in the parish, and the whole of the grounds being arable, there are a great many ploughs, in proportion to the extent of the district. The number kept by the tenants, is about 20; and, as they uniformly plow with two horses, the quantum of draught horses, can be easily ascertained; but, besides these, there are many young horses bred, as the high price they bring at market has tempted most of the tenants to rear them, not only to supply their own demands, but to sell to dealers, — There are no sheep bred in the parish; but a considerable quantity are fed in the inclosed pasture grounds for slaughter.

*Population.* — The return made to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 745 souls. That number, however, has since diminished. — The frequent union of farms, the ploughing with two horses

horses without a driver; the increased quantity of grass grounds, the decrease in the number of cot-houses, and the many improvements and changes, which have taken place in the mode of agriculture, since that period, has lessened the population of most country parishes; whilst the rapid progress of trade and manufactures has greatly increased the population of the towns. During the last 24 years, the period of the present incumbent's settlement, ending in 1790, there has been little difference in this important article; but the decrease on the whole, within these 40 years, amounts to 55. The population, as it stood in March 1791, was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Under 8 years of age  | 32    |
| At and above that age | 158   |
|                       | <hr/> |
| Total                 | 190   |

There are, at an average, from 5 to 6 births, from 1 to 2 marriages, and from 3 to 4 deaths in the parish every year.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—Sir David Dalrymple is patron. The stipend has too great an affinity to the parish, and consequently is small; but, the real rental being inconsiderable, a much greater income could not be expected. The manse and offices are in good condition. The people, in general, are of the established religion. From the parish lying in the vicinity of Hadington, there are houses of worship for most of the different descriptions of sectaries. There are a few Seceders, but these being all in the class of servants, and having no uniform local residence, their number must occasionally vary. There are none of the episcopal or popish persuasion.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a parochial school, with a legal salary. The number of the scholars is from 30 to 40. The English language, writing, and arithmetic, are principally

pally taught. The schoolmaster is qualified to teach Latin grammar, and has occasionally a few Latin scholars. — There are generally three or four old persons on the parochial poor's roll. They are supported by the interest of a small sum of money, and the weekly collections at the church door on Sunday. That fund is sufficient for the claims that are upon it; nor has there been occasion as yet for any legal assessment. The extent of the parish being so exceedingly small, it is the less necessary to make any particular observations with regard to climate, air, diseases, &c. In general, it may be observed, that the inhabitants of this, like those of other country parishes, detached from great towns, the nurseries of licentiousness and dissipation, are sober and industrious: As a proof of which, it may be said, in their favour, that during the last 24 years, and probably for a period still more remote, that nothing has happened to call for the intervention of the civil magistrate.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF GLENCAIRN.

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM GRIERSON.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**G**LENCAIRN has always been reckoned one of the most considerable country parishes, in the south of Scotland, for extent, valuation, and number of inhabitants. It lies in the presbytery of Penpont, and synod of Galloway, about ten computed miles from Dumfries. The length, from east to west, is about 11 computed miles: The breadth varies. To the west, it lies along three small rivers, called Castlefairn, Craighdarroch, and Dalwhat; which, are divided from each other, by very high and steep hills, mostly green, and meet at the village of Minniehive, which is the only one in the district, about two miles from the church. The rest of the parish lies on both sides of the Cairn, the name by which the three rivers thus united is known: and Glencairn seems to be so called, from the great hollow or glen, along which the river passes, and a huge cairn, or heap of stones, of unknown antiquity, where it first has the name of Cairn given to it.

*Ecclesiastical State, Schools, &c.*—The Duke of Queensberry

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is patron; but has no land in the parish.—The present stipend is L. 88 : 17 : 9½ sterling, including 100 merks for communion elements, all paid in money. It is the same now that it was about 60 or 70 years ago. With the addition of the manse and glebe, it may be worth about 100 guineas *per annum*.

There is an Antiburgher meeting-house near Minniehive; but that sect seems rather on the decline. There are likewise a few Cameronians in the parish: but neither of these, nor indeed both together, bear any proportion to those who attend the Established Church.

There are two public schools; the one for Latin, with a legal salary of L. 8 : 6 : 8 sterling; the other for English, writing, and arithmetic, with a salary of L. 4, by private donation. These schools used to be kept at the church, and at Minniehive, four years alternately at each, by order of the heritors; but that rotation has not been observed for several years past;

*Population and Villages.*—This parish is supposed to have been, at least, as populous formerly, as at present; as there are very many vestiges of houses and of cultivation, where, at present, there are none; and many farms, of late years, have been thrown into the hands of a few tenants, who often place only a herd upon one or more of them, where they themselves do not reside. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1700 souls. There are now about 1400 persons above 7 or 8 years of age, and consequently about 1700 in all.—No exact register of marriages, baptisms, or burials, having been kept, it is impossible to give any authentic information respecting their increase or decrease since that period.

A large addition, however, has been made to the village of Minniehive, within these 20 or 30 years, by Mr Fergusson of Craigdarroch's

*Craigdarroch's feus.* It is divided from Dunreggan by Dalwhat-water, over which, there is stone bridge.—— Dunreggan, which is on the property of Mr Fergusson of Cailloch, is little inferior to Minniehive, in extent or number of houses, which are annually increasing. The far greater part of them has been built within these 20 or 30 years. In the two villages, there are 98 families.

*Poor.*—Public collections, in particular cases of great distress, are sometimes made; but the interest of L. 120 sterling, and the common weekly collections on Sunday, are all the stated supplies for the ordinary poor of the parish. For these 8 or 10 years past, L. 30 has been annually expended on the poor, from these sources, one year with another.

*Rent.*—The valuation of the parish is 12,062½ merks. As several of the heritors possess their own lands, it is difficult to ascertain the real rent; but it is believed to amount to between L. 8000 and L. 9000 sterling.——There are about 90 farms in this district, several of them considerable; and frequently united in the possession of one tenant. In four of the smaller sort, two of which are led, (i. e. the tenant does not reside upon them,) there are 25 persons, old and young, 20 score of sheep, 110 black cattle, and 6 horses; and the rents may amount to L. 170 sterling. This may serve to give some idea of the value of the whole.

*Antiquities.*—There is a mount, commonly called a Moat, about half a mile from the church, very steep, and of considerable height, occupying about an acre of ground; and evidently made by art. It is of an oblong form, with an earthen turret at each end, having a deep trench on the inside of each turret. One of these turrets, and the base of the mount, in  
that



that part, are a good deal impaired, through time, by a rivulet. There is another moat, or artificial mount, precisely of the same form, and quite entire, at the march of the parish, south-west, but within that of Balmaclellan. Concerning the one in this parish, there are some fabulous and superstitious traditions, not worth mentioning. The most common and credible account given of it is, that it was intended to be a kind of watch-tower, or a place for the exercise of archery, in times of public danger.

*Loch.*—At the south-east side of the parish, there is a loch, called Loch-Orr, out of which the river Orr issues. It borders with the parishes of Glencairn, Dunfcore, and Balmaclellan, and is about 3 English miles round. It is 9 fathoms at the deepest, and surrounds a small island, where there are the remains of a stone wall, which appears to have been originally of great strength, and contains within it several apartments now in ruins. Its water appears extremely black, the ground under and about it, being generally moss covered with heath. A vast number of water fowls bring forth their young on the island, where there are some bushes. Eagles have been known to breed on it. At the extremity of the loch, there is a peninsula cut by a deep trench. The only fish in it are pike, (some of which are said to be about 5 feet 10 inches long,) and a few very large trouts.

*Miscellaneous Observations and Manners.*—There are no manufactures carried on in this parish, the greater part of the inhabitants being employed in farming, droving, handicrafts, and common labour. If the great road from Wigton to Galloway were completed, and that from Ayr to Dumfries, by Dalmellington, brought into this parish, at the head of Craigdarroch, (which only wants about 5 miles), considerable  
advantage

advantage might be expected to this part of the country in general, and particularly to Minniehive. That village, and its neighbourhood, are much at a loss for fuel. Peats must be brought at the distance of at least 6 or seven miles; and coals from Sanquhar, which is not less than 13 computed miles.—Trials for coals, at different times, have been made in several places much nearer, with a good prospect of success; but, after all, they have hitherto proved fruitless.

The land in general is good. The holms and meadows upon the sides of the rivers, are fertile. Next to these, on the rising grounds, there is a light, warm, kindly, arable soil; and, in the highest parts, there is fine pasture for all sorts of cattle, particularly sheep. The rivers are very rapid, and often overflow their banks, to the great damage of the land adjacent.

The people are, in general, healthy; and several, now alive, as well as others lately dead, have arrived at 80 years of age, and upwards. Their houses and dress, of late, have been much improved; and, in the latter of these respects, people of every class seem to be running into an extreme. The manners of the people, in general, are very agreeable, mild, courteous, and obliging; and they are distinguished for hospitality, and natural civility to strangers.—The diseases, which prevail most, are rheumatisms, and pains in the stomach and bowels; owing, perhaps, to the low and damp situation of their houses, most of which are placed too near the rivers.—The water is of an excellent quality; light, clear, and soft. The streams abound with trout, as the hills do with game.

Property has, of late, been much divided, by the sale of some large estates, particularly, that of Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwelltown. There are now 27 heritors. Some years ago, there were only 18.

The charity and benevolence of the rich, has in general

been found adequate to the necessities of the poor, who are pretty numerous, as their occupations, while in health, can only supply their present exigencies, and do not enable them to lay up for old-age and disease. The charge of living, and the hire of labourers, and servants of every denomination, continually increases. A common labourer gets L. 6 or 8, and some L. 10, in the year, besides bed, board, and washing; and 8d. or, indeed, at some employments, 1s. per day, besides victuals. There are, however, as yet, but few who get so much as L. 10 a year; and these are commonly such as have the charge and direction of others, besides working themselves. But if things go on, as they have done for some years past, such high wages will doubtless become more frequent. All these circumstances bear very hard upon those, who have but a limited income, such as was barely sufficient for a decent support, in their respective stations, 60 or 70 years ago.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XXVIII.

## PARISH OF WHITTINGHAM.

(COUNTY OF EAST LOTHIAN.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN EWAN.

*Situation, and Extent.*

THE parish of Whittingham is situated in the presbytery of Dunbar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It extends, from north to south, between 10 and 11 miles, and from east to west, (where it is broadest,) about 4. It may be considered under two distinct heads, the Lamer-moor, or upper, and the arable, or lower district.

*Lamer-moor.*—The word, Lamer-moor, imports, it is said, the moor which reaches to the sea\*.—It deserves attention, that, in the Roman province, which was situated between the wall of Hadrian, and that of Severus, we meet with no other moorish hills, that extend quite to the sea. They begin at Coldinghame, in the Merse, and Dunglafs in East Lothian; both which places stand close upon the sea, and run west-

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\* *Moor sur la mer.* Others imagine, that it is the moor where lambs were more abundant, than in any other part of Scotland.

ward, with a broad surface, from 30 to 40 miles, and at length terminate at Soutra-hill. They are intersected by various openings, lying in different directions, with streams of water collected from the eminencies on each side, running through the bottoms.

Within these hills there are six sheep farms, belonging to the parish of Whittingham \*; most of which are extensive. The greatest part of the land, in that part of the country, is covered with heath, excepting some narrow stripes, which are sometimes plowed, and, when the season is favourable, produce tolerable crops; but, as it is very late, before the crops arrive at maturity, if the frost sets in soon, the grain is destroyed. The most dreary, wild, and uncomfortable of these farms, is Kilpallet, consisting of about 1500 acres, rented only at L. 16.

*Camp.*—In this part of Lamer-moor, on the farm of Priest-law, at the south east extremity of the parish, there is a strong encampment, or fortification; all the parts of which are still entire. The country people are generally of opinion, that it was a Roman camp; but the appearance of it renders this opinion improbable;—for it is well known, that the Romans marked out their camps in the figure of a square. This antient work stands on a kind of promontory, formed by the junction of the water of Whittater, on the north, and Kinfly on the east. The elevation of the ground, on the side of Kinfly,

\* In one of these sheep farms, the river Whittater, or White-water, takes its rise, near the outside, towards the north. It runs, with a winding course, through the Merse, and falls into the Tweed, about 4 miles above Berwick. It is noted for plenty of excellent trout.

ly, will be about 100 feet, and on that of Whitewater, about 150: on the south side, the ground is nearly level, to some distance from the fortification, and then rises gradually up to the summit of Priest-law. The camp is of an oval form, with the broadest end, which is inaccessible, towards the north. On one side are four ditches, parallel to each other, and the distance, between each, may be 12 yards.—On the north side are three ditches, and the outer ditch is carried round the whole. The circumference of this military work will measure about 2000 feet.—In one place, on the north, the rock is cut in a slanting form, down to the bed of Whittater below; and, it is probable, that, through this passage, the camp was supplied with water. There are three gates or entries, one on the south side, which is 40 feet wide; another on the east, and the third on the west, which are 20 feet wide each. It is probable, that this fortification was constructed by the Scots, the English, or the Danes.

*Sheep.* — The pasture, in this part of the parish, is only fit for breeding sheep. The farmers, therefore, every year, sell as many of them as they can part with, to the graziers, in the low country, who carry them to their rich pastures, and fatten them for the butcher. The number of sheep, kept on these farms, exceeds 300 scores in summer, but is much smaller in winter. The farmers, of this district, bring annually to the market, about 1700 stone of wool. This commodity has sold, for the three last years, at from 6s. to 8s. 6d. some at 9s. per stone. The average is from 7s. to 7s. 3d. per stone: 14 years ago, the average would be about 6s. 9d. or somewhat less; but in 1782, it did not exceed 4s. What would now bring 6s. was not then worth more than 2s. per stone.

The farmers, in, this part of Lamer-moor, sell annually, at an average, about 30 score of ewes, and about 60 or or 65

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score

score of wedders. The ewes, for the last 3 years, have fetched from 9s 6d. to 12s 6d. a head. The whole of these sheep are not fed on the farms; about 20 score of wedder hogs being annually brought from Tweeddale, at from 8s. to 10s. a head. Scarce any black cattle are bred here; perhaps 6 or 8, in a season, which sell from L. 3 to L. 5.

*Smearing Sheep.*—Smearing is a practice, which universally prevails throughout all Lamer-moor. A composition is made of tar and butter, or oil; and this mixture is laid on, or spread over the whole body, soon after the separation of the fleece, or at the commencement of winter. It is thought, that this greatly contributes to preserve the animal from vermin; to improve, and even increase the quantity of wool, and to secure it firmly to the body, so as to hinder any part of it from falling off. This fact having been controverted, some storemasters have made an experiment of the effects, that would be produced by omitting this operation; and, it is said, the result was, that the animal was more infested with vermin, more sickly and diseased, and, that the quantity of wool was much less, than if smearing had taken place. Whether this is owing to the peculiar nature of the breed of sheep in these hills, which are covered with fleeces, loose, open, and shagging, and not thick, close, and matted, or whether smearing is necessary with every sort of hill sheep, has not yet been fully ascertained. The large English breed of sheep have also been tried on these hills, but unsuccessfully. It was found, that they grew lean, meagre, and pined away, and were neither calculated for the climate, nor the pasture.

*Lower Part of the Parish.*—The lower part of the parish is all arable, and excellently cultivated. The greater part of it is inclosed with hedge and ditch, and a few places with stone dykes.

dykes. From the foot of Lamer-moor hills, to the village of Whittingham, the ground gradually descends, but unequally, as it occasionally rises and falls. The soil on the south side of the water of Whittingham, is much inferior to that on the south. A great part of it is light and sandy, with a gravelly bottom. Other parts of it consist of a thin poor clay; but it should be added, that there are several fields, in this part of the parish, of a rich fertile soil.—To the north, the soil is of a much superior quality. Some of it is a rich deep loam; but the greatest part consists of deep, strong, reddish clay, capable of producing finer crops, when the season is favourable, than any land in the country. But it must be observed, that this kind of soil is extremely precarious, and very difficult to manage to the best advantage; as either too much rain, or too much drought, renders it unfit for cultivation.—The land on the east of Whittingham, rises in a slow and gentle manner, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  English miles, to the top of Blaikieheugh; but the ascent is easy and insensible.—It is remarkable, that the soil on this elevated ground, is of a rich, and even superior quality to any in the parts adjoining.

*Traprene-Law*.—About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile northwest from the village, stands Traprene-law; a little hill, or rock, of an oval form, rising by itself, in an open country. On the south side it is inaccessible, and on the other sides, round the extremity of the summit, there are the remains of an old dyke or wall, the materials of which are large rough stones, rudely piled up one above another.—It is probable, that it was constructed, by the inhabitants of the adjoining country, in the days of barbarism, and was intended as a place of safety, when they were invaded by the Danes or the English. On such occasions they went thither for shelter, and carried their cattle and effects along with them.—This solitary rock was antiently called *Dumpender-law*;



*Dumpender-law*; but after Mary Queen of Scotland, so famous in history, was carried off by the Earl of Bothwell, to Hails-castle, which stands to the north, on Tyne river, about an English mile below, it was called *Traprene law*, from the two French words *trape* and *reine*. From the summit of this law, there is one of the finest prospects in Scotland, taking in East and Mid Lothian, the county of Fife, the isle of May, the Bafs, the firth of Forth, and the German ocean.—— Several years ago, a small plantation, of different kinds of trees, was made on its summit, by way of experiment, and inclosed with a stone dyke, or wall, six feet high. The trees succeeded very well, while they were sheltered by the wall; but, since that time, they have not made the smallest progress.

*Seats.*—There are only two gentlemen's seats in the parish, to wit, Whittingham-house and Rushlaw; both of them exhibiting evident marks of great antiquity. The former is most delightfully situated. It is built on elevated ground, surrounded by many natural beauties, improved by the embellishments of art. The adjacent banks, for the space of an English mile, are covered, from top to bottom, with various sorts of trees, in the most flourishing state. Between the banks, there is a glen or valley, through which the Whittingham rolls along its gentle limpid stream, in a winding course, sometimes approaching one side, and sometimes the other. Through the adjacent grounds, several beautiful walks are interspersed; and, what rarely happens, in other places, they have always a dry bottom, both summer and winter, and are so conducted, that on some one of them, it is generally pretty easy, at any season, to find shelter from the wind and the storm.

*Village.*—Whittingham is the only village in the parish, and is but thinly inhabited. Within these few years, several houses

ses have been pulled down ; and, it is probable, that several others will soon share the same fate.—There is a public house in this village, which is the only one in the whole parish. It has had no bad effect on the morals of the people. There are, indeed, very few, if any, addicted to the vice of drunkenness. The people are all virtuous, and distinguished for an unremitting attention to their own business. This may be partly owing to their being so widely dispersed, and being occupied principally with the wholesome and innocent labours of the fields, and having seldom an opportunity of associating in crowds, or corrupting one another. As their morals merit commendation, so the generality of them are not deficient in their zeal for religion. The great body of the people have a proper sense of their obligations as Christians, and regularly attend public worship. It may be subjoined, that there are few Seceders, or sectaries in the parish.

*Climate.*—Both the higher and lower parts of the parish are remarkably healthful. Lamer-moor is reckoned one of the best and most salubrious climates in Scotland. This may be owing, partly, to the free and open circulation of the air, and partly, to the salutary exercise, which the inhabitants are constantly under the necessity of taking, in traversing the hills with their flocks. Besides, the wind, confined by the openings of the hills, rushes forward with increased velocity, and sweeps before it every noxious and pestilential vapour.—The lower part of the parish is likewise deemed extremely healthful. It is a dry and open part of the country, infected with no damps or marshy grounds : It stands on an elevation, of about 300 or 400 feet above the level of the sea ; and the extremity of it, on the east, reaches within 4 or 6 miles of the German ocean. The vapours, which are exhaled from the sea, and formed into clouds, generally pass over the level  
country,

country, and are driven by the winds, till they are intercepted by the neighbouring hills; by which, they are broken and forced to descend in rain. This circumstance renders the climate of East Lothian, one of the driest, most pleasant, and delightful in Scotland.—It is not remembered, that this parish has been ever visited with any epidemical distemper; and instances might be given of great longevity.

*Arable Land, and Crops.*—There are 56 ploughgates in the parish; each ploughgate containing about 50 acres of arable land. The crops, commonly raised, are wheat, barley, oats, pease and beans, turnips, and sown grafs; and the most intelligent farmers generally take white and green crops alternately. This method of cropping has a surprising effect, in cleaning, enriching, and meliorating the soil. Turnips and grafs crops, are certainly among the greatest and most valuable improvements, which have been made in agriculture. As a proof of the slowness, with which useful discoveries are extended, it may be observed, that it is only of late that the utility of these crops was universally known, even in East Lothian. It is only about 20 years ago, that turnips were generally introduced through the country. A trifling quantity of clover and rye-grafs feeds might be sown, upwards of 50 years ago; but it will not exceed 37 years, since it became the universal practice among farmers to adopt this species of husbandry

*Markets and Roads.*—The situation of the parish, for disposing of its several productions, is extremely convenient. Wheat, barley, oats, pease, and beans, are carried, every Friday, to Haddington market, at the distance of from 3 to 6 miles.—The public roads, leading hither, are kept in excellent repair. L. 56 are annually laid out for that purpose,

within the parish, every ploughgate being assessed in 20s. sterling. This is, no doubt, a heavy tax upon the farmers, but it is generally paid with the greatest cheerfulness, from a thorough conviction of the great conveniency and advantage of good roads. Before this improvement in the police of the country, the farmers were obliged to transport their corn, to Hadington, on horseback; especially during the winter season. Now they generally send, on a double cart, 8 or 10 times the weight, that a single horse was in use to carry. The gentlemen of the parish are extremely attentive to this important branch of police; for which, they are justly entitled to the highest approbation.

*Labourers.*—The labourers, employed by the tenants, consist of taskers, hynds, and household-servants; besides which, they hire occasionally women and the young of both sexes, for hoeing, weeding, &c. The taskers are those, who are employed in threshing out the corn; and they receive one boll of every 25, or the twenty-fifth part for their labour; and this has been their fixed and stated wages, as far back as can be remembered. Through the rest of the year, when unemployed in the barn, they are generally engaged to serve their masters as day-labourers, at a stipulated hire. A threshing machine was lately invented, and is now used by some of the great farmers, in this neighbourhood.—The hynds are generally married, and lodge with their families, in their own houses. They are easy and free from care, having nothing to attend to, but the business allotted to them by their masters. The benefit they receive for their labour, is in kind; and it pretty remarkable, it has remained unalterably the same, as for these many years past. This is owing to its quality, which is of such a nature, that it rises in value with every other article. It consists in grass for a cow in summer, and

straw in winter; 8 bolls of oats, 2 of barley, 2 of pease, and one boll of barley, for *oatler-bear*, as it is called. The household men-servants, who eat in their masters houses, &c. receive wages.

The rise, in the price of labour, throughout this county, during these 30 years past, will appear from the following statement :

| In 1760.   |                           | In 1790.                    |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A man servant's wages }<br>per annum,              | From L. 2 8 0<br>To 3 0 0 | { Fr. L. 6 10 0<br>To 7 0 0 |
| A maid-servant's wages<br>& perquisites, valued at | - 1 0 0<br>- 0 10 0       | { 3 0 0                     |
| A day-labourer's wages, per diem,                  | From 0 0 4<br>To 0 0 6    | { Fr. 0 0 10<br>To 0 1 0    |
| A woman's wages, for field work, 3d or             | } 0 0 4                   | } 0 0 6                     |
| A mason's per diem, 1 merk Scots, or               | } 0 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$     | } 0 1 8                     |
| A wright's wages, from 10d to                      | } 0 1 0                   | } 0 1 4                     |

*Tradesmen.*—No manufactures are carried on in this parish; and there are few tradesmen, except such as are necessary for the purposes of agriculture. There are 3 smiths, and each of them, without a servant, is able to manage his own work.—4 wrights; one of whom has an apprentice, and another two.—4 weavers; each of these work single without an assistant.—2 shoe-makers; one of these has a young man; the other, besides a journeyman, has three apprentices. It may be added, that there are 3 millers.

*State of Grazing in the Parish.*—As the grazing business is carried on, to a considerable extent, in the lower part of the parish,

parish, it will not be improper to state, in a general manner, how it is now conducted. Several corn-farms are just now either laid, or laying down in grafs, for the purpose of feeding black cattle and sheep. This circumstance, indeed, is merely accidental; and, it is probable, that these farms, after lying a few years in grafs, will be again converted into tillage. But, at present, the grazing business is carried on with great spirit, and to a considerable extent.

The number of black cattle, fed on grafs, during the summer season, is about 200, besides from 40 to 50 fed on turnips in winter.— Of ewes, lambs, and wedders, fed on grafs in summer, there are from 80 to 100 scores. Two-thirds of these may be supposed to be ewes and lambs, and one-third wedders.

No sheep, at present, are fed on turnips in winter.

Here it may be observed, that during these few years past, the grazing and feeding business, in this parish, has remarkably increased. It is computed, that, about 14 years ago, the number of black cattle, fed on grafs in a season, did not exceed 60 or 70; and of sheep, about 40 scores, and these were almost entirely ewes and lambs.

It is supposed, that the number of black cattle, bred at present in the parish, may be from 40 to 50.

The raising of turnips, between Whittingham water and the hills, is entirely in its infancy, and capable of very great improvement. It is expected, that, in a few years, much greater quantities will be raised; and, consequently, there will be a proportionable increase, both in feeding and breeding\*.

Y y 2

*Heritors,*

\* It does not appear, that the quantity of grazing ground, in the county of East Lothian, is greater at present, than 14 or 20 years ago; yet the number of cattle, both fed and bred in it, partly

*Heritors, Church, &c.*—There are 9 heritors. Two of them, till lately, resided in the parish, but have not for some time past.—The church is in excellent repair. The manse and offices in the same state. The glebe and garden are valuable.

*School*—The school-house is large, containing a proper apartment for the scholars, besides accommodation for the school-master's family.—The school-master's salary is 100 merks, which, with the other perquisites, exclusive of his income from the school, and a good garden, may be valued at L. 10 *per annum*. The average number of his scholars may be reckoned at, from 37 to 40. Should this be thought disproportionate to the population of the parish, it may be remarked, that a great many of the young people are so situated, that it is much more convenient for them, to attend other parochial schools.

*Poor.*

partly owing to the grass ground being better laid down, but principally, to the turnip husbandry, has certainly very much increased. About 14 years ago, both black cattle and sheep were, from 10 to 15 per cent. cheaper, than at present. But this is to be understood of lean cattle; for the fat then sold generally dearer, especially in the spring season. This difference might be owing to the small quantity of turnip then raised, and to the distillery's not being carried on to their present extent. But if the distilleries continue to flourish, and if such quantities of turnips continue to be raised, there will always be a great demand for half fed cattle; so that butcher meat has now little chance of being much dearer in the spring, than at any other season. Formerly there were a great many bad fed cattle killed at the end of autumn, which sold very cheap, and prevented good and well-fed cattle from fetching their value. About 20 years ago, butcher-meat was generally from 50 to 70 per cent. dearer at Whitsunday than at Martinmas.

*Poor*.—No person, residing within the bounds of the parish is permitted to beg; and indeed, there are few individuals, or families, who stand much in need of public charity. This is so remarkably the case, that it may be affirmed, there is hardly any tract of country, in Scotland, so large, so populous, and well cultivated, where the number of the poor is so inconsiderable. This peculiarity is evidently owing to the small number of cottagers. The great body of the lower people consists of hynds and servants, who are connected with, and supported by the tenants.—The average number of poor on the roll, for the last 10 years, is only 5. They live in their own houses, and the allowance granted them, consists either in money or oat-meal. When in money, they generally receive 10s per quarter; but this allowance varies according to circumstances. Besides the pensioners on the roll, interim supplies are occasionally given to other families, who, by sickness, or misfortunes, are reduced to necessitous circumstances. The average of the money, annually expended on the poor, for the last 10 years, may be estimated at about L. 19. This sum is raised by weekly collections at the church-doors, seat-rents, mort-cloths, marriages, gratuities, &c. When these funds are deficient, an assessment takes place. In 1782, 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 agreed to supply this useful set of men with oat-meal, till the middle or end of harvest, (when it was supposed the prices would fall), at the rate of 1s per peck. In order to ascertain the sum necessary for this purpose, a list was made up, of such industrious poor, as were thought proper objects of charity, and the quantity of meal was calculated, that would be consumed by every family per week, and consequently, that would be required by the whole, during the time, that this aid was to be continued. The sum requi-  
sits



site was advanced by the heritors, and entrusted to the management of the kirk-session, who met once a month, and gave each family, according to the quantity of meal they wanted, the surplus of the market rise, above 1s per peck.

*Population.*—The following is an accurate state of the population of the parish :

|                 |   |   |       |
|-----------------|---|---|-------|
| Males           | - | - | 296   |
| Females         | - | - | 359   |
|                 |   |   | <hr/> |
| Number of souls | - |   | 655   |

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, being 714 souls, it is evident, that there has been a decrease, within these 40 years, of 59 souls. This alteration has been produced by various causes; such as, the conjunction of farms, some farms being laid in grass, others being occupied by tenants, who reside in other parishes; two horse-ploughs being used instead of four, most of the land being inclosed; many cot-houses being pulled down, and others empty; one corn-farm being entirely depopulated, and laid under grass, and the inclosures belonging to it annually let by public auction, to the highest bidder.

Most of the cot-houses in the parish are now pulled down; the farmers being of opinion, that the advantage arising from them, was greatly overbalanced by the expence of keeping them up. There is one farmer, indeed, who judged differently from his brethren on this subject, and has kept up all his cot-houses. He thought, and with good reason, that it would contribute much to the advantage and conveniency of the tenant, to have always plenty of people on the spot, ready to assist him on any emergency.—It has been asserted, that many of the lower people, through different parts of the country, discover a predilection for the town; but it may be affirmed,

as a fact, that no such spirit has been discovered here; at least, among any of the inhabitants, who have resided some years in the parish.

|                       | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|--------|
| Average for ten years | 19      | 5          | 8      |

The list of births and marriages are extracted from the parish register, which is accurately kept. The list of deaths includes only such as are buried in the church-yard of *Whittingham* \*.

\* *Abstract of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths, in the Parish of Whittingham, for 10 years, preceding January, 1790.*

| Years.              | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|---------------------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1781                | 29      | 8          | 8       |
| 1782                | 25      | 1          | 14      |
| 1783                | 13      | 4          | 10      |
| 1784                | 22      | 11         | 7       |
| 1785                | 23      | 5          | 8       |
| 1786                | 19      | 4          | 8       |
| 1787                | 16      | 7          | 4       |
| 1788                | 20      | 3          | 8       |
| 1789                | 15      | 8          | 10      |
| 1790                | 7       | 3          | 4       |
|                     | <hr/>   | <hr/>      | <hr/>   |
|                     | 189     | 54         | 81      |
|                     | <hr/>   | <hr/>      | <hr/>   |
| Yearly aver. nearly | 19      | 5          | 8       |

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF LARGS.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

*By the Rev. MR. GILBERT LANG.**Situation, Air, &c.*

THE parish of Largs lies in that division of the shire of Ayr, called Cunningham. It is the most northerly parish in it; bordering on the shire of Renfrew, at a place, called Kellybridge. It is pleasantly situated along the firth of Clyde, from north to south; having the islands of Bute and Cumbræes opposite to its shore: beyond which, are seen the lofty mountains of Arran, with their heads often above the clouds. It is a magnificent prospect; the eye passing over the sea, from island to island, till at last the view is thus nobly terminated. To the east of the Largs, the land rises into a long range of mountains, which separates it from the parishes of Innerkip, Greenock, Kilmalcolm, Lochwhinnoch, Kilbirny, and Dalry; so that it is a very sequestered spot; and hence, perhaps, the common proverbial saying, "Out of Scotland in-  
" to Largs." The air is pure; the water clear and bright; snows generally melt as they fall, seldom lying near the shore. There are here scarce any fogs, while the rest of the country, forty miles round, is often buried in them: So that this parish

has been, by some, called the Montpelier of Scotland: It has been frequented a good deal of late, in the summer months, by many persons and families, for the sake of health or amusement; and it would be still more, if there were better accommodation.——From Kelly bridge, the parish runs nine miles south, along the shore, to Fairly, where it borders with the parish of Kilbryde. It may be very properly called, in general, a stripe of land, between the mountains and the sea; and in antient times, it is probable, that the sea covered the lower parts.

*Soil, Produce, &c*—The soil, upon the whole, is rather light, shallow, and gravelly. The land does not produce as much corn, as is necessary for the support of the people.——Perhaps it would be better, if there were still less corn, and if grass were more attended to; for the soil, of itself, runs naturally into white clover and daisy: and even the mountains, which are all green, afford excellent pasture for cattle.——There is a practice also, which renders it impossible to have great or rich farms, or good cultivation, in this parish; it being usual to hire almost all the farm horses in it, during winter and spring, among the neighbouring districts; and after the labour among them is over, they are returned home, often in a poor state, to go through the work of their own ill-judging masters. The saving of fodder, and the making of a little money, is the excuse made for this strange practice.——The soil is light, the harvests are as early, and even earlier than any in the neighbourhood. The plough is certainly rather neglected; but there is plenty of butter made, and many black cattle and sheep fattened.

*Population*.—In 1755, there was none who could properly make a return of the state of the population. In 1756, the

present incumbent took a list of examinable persons, of those above 8 years of age, and found that they amounted to 830. The number, an. 1790, was 805, of whom 389 were males, and 416 females; so that the population has not much varied. In Dr Webster's report, the number of souls is 1164. Probably, when the return consisted only of examinable persons, he had certain data upon which he calculated the number of souls. The population of the country part of the parish has certainly decreased; but the town of Largs, which contains about the half of the parish, has proportionally increased. The number of deaths varies considerably in different years; according as the small-pox, or any species of dangerous fever, prevails or not. In such cases, the number of deaths is above 40; but in ordinary years, between 20 and 30. Inoculation has been introduced several times; but, notwithstanding its self-evident utility, the least accident tends to discredit it. The number of births, one year with another, is about 30.

Though the Largs lies conveniently enough for some species of trade and manufactures, yet the want of coal, and more especially, the tax upon that necessary article, will for ever prevent the very existence of them. Perhaps Turkey itself cannot afford an instance of a tax more oppressive and more absurd. Among the trades people, who live in Largs, the weavers are the most numerous, particularly the silk-weavers; being employed by the manufacturers of Paisley, who have been of great benefit to the place\*. Fishing has been much less attended to, than it ought to be. There are several corn-merchants, who buy grain in Bute and Cumbræ; and also import it from the south of Scotland, and from Ireland.—

There

\* The trades-people are nearly as follows: 66 weavers, 29 carpenters, 10 shoemakers, 7 taylor, 5 smiths, 5 coopers, 4 masons.

There is no smuggling worth the mentioning, unless the pitiful and occasional help given to the poor seamen, in their little adventures, can be called such. The inhabitants, in general, are a quiet, sober, decent, people. Living chiefly among themselves, they are strangers, and so far, perhaps, happy strangers, to the more free and licentious manners of the world around them.

*Curiosities, Ruins, &c.*—Entering the parish and the shire at Kelly bridge, upon the shore, along which the road pleasantly lies, the land, to the east of it, which is high, ends abruptly in, what may be called, a perpendicular wall of stone, extending a full mile, at the foot of which is the road, and rising above it in some places, to the height of 50 and 60 feet, seeming to hang over it, and presenting to travellers, the likeness of an impregnable bulwark. It is a striking object, especially in frosty weather, if the sun happens to shine on it when it is all covered over with icicles. This mound of rock ends near the house of Kilmorly, which is an old castle, standing on a height, and commanding a noble prospect of the Clyde. Farther on, are the ruins of another castle, above the road, and seen from it; and higher up, is a mountain rising to a considerable height, in the shape of a cone, and green to the top; on which there is still the vestige of some work of antient times. Perhaps it might have served for a watch-tower; for it is too narrow for any thing else.—Coming farther south, the high grounds fall off gradually, sloping down to a water at the bottom. That ground is still called Forgie-brae, originally, Fergus-brae. Perhaps it got that name from Fergus, King of the Scots, marching up that hill, when he landed from Ireland.—The country now opens into a beautiful plain, extending near a mile from the shore, to the foot of the mountains; where the village of Largs is situated, near the shore, and surrounded

ed with trees.—In the church is an aisle, belonging to the family of Shelmorly, built by Sir Robert Montgomery, more than 160 years ago; which, both for sculpture and painting, does no discredit to those times. Under ground is a vault; where, among others, the body of Sir Robert lies, in a leaden coffin; on which is the following Latin inscription:

*Ipse mihi pramortuus fui, fato funera praripui, unicum idque Cesareum exemplar, inter tot mortales, secutus.*

Sir Robert used to descend into the vault at nights, for his devotions; thus burying himself, as it were, alive. The *Cesareum exemplar*, is the example of the Emperor, Charles the V. who had his obsequies solemnly performed before he died.

*Antiquities.*—The plain above mentioned extends to the south of the Largs; on which was fought in 1263, in the reign of Alexander the III. the famous battle of Largs, between the Scots and the Danes or Norwegians\*. The historians on both sides differ much in their accounts of it. Without entering into a fruitless controversy on so remote an event, it may be observed, that there has been, from generation to generation, an uninterrupted tradition of a battle fought in that place, between these nations. The field is still pointed out; cairns of stones were on it, formed, as was said, over pits, into which the bodies of the slain were thrown. An unhewn stone of granite, ten feet long, once stood on end in that field, erected over the body of a chieftain. It is now fallen down. A Danish ax was found not far from it, and sent by Mr Brisbane of Brisbane to the Antiquarian Society at Edinburgh. The Earl of Glasgow had another. If any faith could be given to modern names

\* The famous poem of Hardiknute alludes to this battle.

names of places, they would be a proof, at this day, of that battle. One is called the Killing-craig, another the Burly gate. To all which it may be added, that a few years ago, some workmen were employed to carry off stones, larger and better shaped than field stones, from a rising ground, where they were lying in a great heap, and where, it is said, a chapel once stood, in a corner, near the place where the battle was fought. After taking away a great number, they came at length to three long, broad, flat, unhewn stones, which were the covers of three deep stone coffins. Nothing, however, was found in them, except a broken, brown, earthen urn, and a mouldering piece of bone. The earth and small stones, at the bottom, on the ground, were calcined.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Fairly road or rade, may be properly mentioned in this account. It is a bay that would contain any number of ships, sheltered from every storm, and having firm anchoring ground.

There is a fair, annually held at Largs, every Midsummer. It is called St Cosme or Come's day. In former times there was little communication between the Highlands and Lowlands; at the same time, they required articles, with which they could mutually supply each other. Hence, probably, they agreed to meet one another, in a common place, for the general benefit; and this place was the Largs. There they made exchanges, and purchased goods, that served them through the whole year. It might be called, a congress between the Highlands and Lowlands; and occasioned a vast concourse of people, for some days. The spectacle of boats from all quarters, the crowds of people, the sound of music; ashore, dancing and hilarity, day and night on the green; and farther up, a new street, or town, formed of the stands of merchants, and filled with a press of people, formed altogether an amusing spectacle



etc. Of late, this congress has decreased much ; because there are many shops now through the Highlands ; and travelling chapmen frequent almost every part of that country. However, there is still a respectable concourse of rustic beaux and belles, from east and west, by land and sea.

*Kelburn House.*——Kelburn, a seat belonging to the Earl of Glasgow, remarkable for the romantic scenery of the glen behind it, is situated in this parish. The glen begins near the house, and about a quarter of a mile behind it, ends in an abrupt, rough, steep precipice, over which a water pours down, which then runs through a bottom below, no broader than the water itself. The ground immediately rises on each side, and ascends mountain-high ; at the same time these two heights are very near each other. The chasm, were it naked, would be tremendous ; but art has converted it into a surprising beauty. Both sides of it are planted, and covered thick with trees ; which have flourished so well, that in some parts, a shade is formed, impervious to the rays of the sun. The water, in its course, falls, near the house, over another precipice, 50 feet down, into a vast basin, that seems scooped out of both sides of the glen. A walk goes through the whole, which is properly conducted to humour the ground. The deepness of the shade, the murmuring of the stream below, the height of the ground on each side, the depth of the precipices, the solemn darkness, so favourable to seriousness and meditation ; all together form a scene peculiarly awful. All which is still heightened, by the appearance of a monument of white marble, erected by the late Countess Dowager of Glasgow, to the memory of her husband : Virtue, holding a lock of her hair in one hand ; and, in the other, an urn ; over which she pensively, and mournfully inclines, lamenting the loss of one of her favourite sons.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XXX.

## PARISH OF ECCLESMACHAN.

(COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM PETERKIN.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

THE antient and modern name of this parish, in as far as it can be traced, is Ecclesmachan. A learned and respectable antiquary, (the Earl of Buchan,) thinks it means *Ecclesia Machani*. Whether the church was dedicated to a saint of that name, is not certain, but the conjecture is highly probable.——It is situated in the county of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale; 12 measured miles west from Edinburgh. In length, it is about 4 miles, including some parts of Linlithgow, and Uphall parishes, by which it is intersected. Its breadth is not above a mile.

*Soil, Climate, and Minerals.*——The whole parish is a flat corn country, producing all the sorts of grain raised in West Lothian. The air is mild, and the country healthy; not subject to any epidemical distemper.

There is a mineral spring at no great distance from the manse, called the Bullion-well, of the same nature with Moffat water; to which, people labouring under scrophulous complaints

complaints used to repair : but it has not been much frequented for some years past.

There are few or no farms in this parish, in which coals are not to be found ; but no coal-work is carried on in the parish. The Earl of Hopetoun has lately opened a coal pit, about a mile and a half north from Ecclefmachan, in the parish of Dalmenie, which, it is hoped, will be of great use to the country-side. There is a good free-stone quarry at Watertown, within a quarter of a mile of the church, which the farmers use in building their houses. Plenty of free-stone is found in many other parts. On the confines of the north west extremity of the parish, in the hills of Bathgate, lie silver mines ; so called, because the lead found there, was very productive of that valuable article, a tun of lead producing 17 ounces of silver. That spot was formerly the property of the Earl of Hadington's ancestors, whose estate was said to have been much increased by the profit of these mines. They are now the property of the family of Hopetoun ; who have frequently made several trials for lead in the vicinity of, and among the old workings, but without effect.

*Population.*—The population of this parish, as reported to Dr Webster, for the year 1755, was 330 souls. It now contains only 215. Of these, 48 are under 7 years of age ; and 63 are dissenters of one denomination or another ; so that there are 104 examinable persons, professing the communion of the Established Church. The Secession, at its commencement, flew like an *ignis fatuus*, through this part of the country. Within the bounds of this presbytery, containing 19 parishes, there are 13 meeting houses belonging to the Seceders. But of late, they seem to have lost much of that zeal, by which they were distinguished.——The principal cause of the depopulation in this, and in the neighbouring parishes, is the  
practice

practice has become so prevalent of pulling down cottages, and throwing several farms into one.—The annual average of births may be from 6 to 7; of marriages, rather under 2, and of deaths, about 3. There are 11 farmers in the parish, an 30 cotters. These last have only a house and small yard, but no land; and are employed as servants to the farmers, or carriers of butter and buttermilk to Edinburgh. The average of each farmer's family, is 9, including children and servants: of each cotter's, 5. There is no manufactory of any kind carried on in the parish; nor are there any mechanics, except 1 house-carpenter, 2 blacksmiths, 1 taylor, and 1 mason.—None of the heritors reside.

*Patron, Stipend, &c.*—The Earl of Hopetoun is patron, and proprietor of nearly one half of the parish. The stipend consists of one chalders of bear, two of meal, and L. 75 in money, including L. 3 : 8 : 6, for communion elements.

*Poor.*—The oldest parish register extant, commences in December 1662. It is fairly wrote in an antiquated hand; and the business of the session, and the application of the poors money, (which then amounted to about 6d. sterling weekly,) are accurately recorded. The average weekly collection now amounts to 1s. and 20s. are generally collected at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper. There is a fund also, of L. 60 sterling, from former savings. There are only two old women on the poors-roll, who get 5s. a month.

Lord Hopetoun, to encourage industry in this part of the parish, gives L. 5 a year to five women, to purchase materials for spinning. The session lays out the money in fl. x, which, when spun, is shewn to the minister. The women sell the yarn to a manufacturer, whose certificate, specifying the quantity

and price, must be produced to the session, before more money is advanced.

*School, &c.*—The school-master's salary is 100 merks Scots, (L. 8:6:8 sterling,) paid partly by the heritors, and partly by the tenants. He has also 20s. as precentor and session-clerk. His perquisites and school fees through the year, will not exceed 20s. more. No person qualified for the instruction of youth, can be supposed to subsist on such a pittance, while an ordinary plowman, or barnman, can make at the rate of L. 14 or L. 15 a year.——The want of proper school-masters is the principal cause of the ignorance, bigotry, and sectarism, which now prevail in many parts of this country. In former times, the commons of Scotland were justly accounted the most enlightened people of their station in Europe; but they will probably soon cease to deserve that honourable distinction, if the plans, which are now in agitation, for additional encouragement to school masters, are treated with neglect. It is only from the well informed, and well educated part of the community, that candour, moderation, rational piety, and decency of manners can be expected.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—No new house or cottage has been built in the parish for these ten years past. About 6 have fallen down, the inhabitants having emigrated to Edinburgh or elsewhere.——The wages of a male servant is about L. 15, if he lives in his own house, or L. 8, and his maintainance, if he resides with his master. Maid-servants wages are about L. 3, and their maintainance. The circumstances of the lower orders of the community, in this neighbourhood, if they are industrious, are, on the whole, easy. But indolence or vice, clothes a man with rags, in this as well as in other countries.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XXXI.

## PARISH OF DALSERF.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN RISK.

*Etymology, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HE name of this parish is said to be derived from *Dal*, which, in the Celtic, signifies a plain or valley, and the Latin word, *cervus*, a deer. This etymology is not unlikely, as in ancient times, it was very probably a place distinguished for the number of deer, who resorted to it for shelter. — It is situated in the middle ward of the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. The western part of it is about 14 miles from the city of Glasgow, and 3 from the town of Hamilton; It is about 5 miles long, and 3 broad, at an average.

*Surface and Soil.* — Between the edge of the river Clyde, and the rising ground, or banks on each side of that river, there are generally valleys, or holms, (as they are here called,) of different breadths. The soil of these, for a great depth, appears to be formed of the mud and sand, deposited, in the course of ages, by the overflowings of the river, and is mostly of a very fertile quality. From these narrow plains,

the banks rise, with a very bold and quick ascent, to a considerable height, and are in many places steep and full of precipices. From their summits, the land rises very moderately, and again falls a little, upon the west of the parish. The highest part of the land is computed to be about 400 feet above the level of the sea. The soil of the upper grounds, in general, is a very strong heavy clay, lying upon a stratum of a dense argillaceous substance, generally of a great depth; which, under all its different appearances, is called *till* in this country, there being only a few exceptions, of small spots of a more light and open quality. The clay soil, in its natural state, appears very sterile, bearing only straggling bushes of furze, with sometimes broom, and a small quantity of coarse herbage: But, by a course of cultivation, and repeated manuring with lime and dung, it is brought to yield good crops of corn and grass. Some of the steep banks, already mentioned, along the side of the Clyde, are uncovered, and but slightly cultivated; some of them are clothed with beautiful coppice woods; as are also many of the other steep declivities, upon the sides of the other rivers, brooks, and torrents. On the upper parts of the parish, are large artificial plantations and stripes of trees; on the lower, considerable orchards are planted: The rest of the parish is all arable, except a small extent of moss.

*Rivers.*—The Clyde, which forms the boundary of the parish, on one side; the Avon, which runs along the west side of it for two miles, and the small river, Calner, are the principal streams. The bold rocky banks of the Avon, covered with wood, are beautifully romantic. In the Clyde and Avon, salmon, trout, pike, eels, &c. are found, and in the Calner, some trout. The rains sometimes occasion great floods in the rivers. The Clyde, at particular times, rises so high as to overflow, and do great injury to the lands in the adjacent

adjacent valleys. The most remarkable instance of this kind, was on the 12th of March, 1782, when the water rose here 3 feet higher than was ever remembered, (being 17 feet perpendicular, above the ordinary surface of low water,) and swept away several mills and mill-dams, leaving scarcely a vestige behind.—There is a ferry-boat upon the Clyde, near the parish church, and one upon the Avon, at a place called Milheugh, but there are no bridges over any of the rivers in this parish,

*Buildings.*—Dalserf house, the residence of Captain James Hamilton of Broomhill, is a neat modern building, standing upon an eminence, near the village of Dalserf, and commands a charming prospect, both up and down the Clyde. Broomhill house, which also belongs to the same gentleman, and which was the seat of the antient family of the Hamiltons of Broomhill, (the elder branch of which were created Lords Belhaven), stands upon the top of the banks of the river Avon, in a fine airy situation, having a most agreeable view of the country around, and of the river Avon, with its pleasant banks. Mr Hamilton, induced by the remarkable beauty of the situation, is now building another house, upon an eminence above the village of Dalserf; which commands one of the most extensive and delightful prospects, that can well be imagined,

*Villages.*—The village of Dalserf stands in a low snug situation, under the banks of the Clyde, having a large fertile valley, called Dalserf Holm, to the eastward; round which, the river makes a circular sweep. In the village stands a handsome parish church, with a clock and spire; and, at some distance, upon the rising ground, is the parsonage house, or minister's manse, which commands a delightful prospect.—This place is famed for the abundance of excellent fruit, particularly



ticularly plumbs, produced in the gardens and orchards around it. It was formerly the principal village in the parish, but is now fallen much into decay; because the present proprietor does not consider it an advantage, to have a village near the seat of the family; and therefore does not encourage the increase of it, by granting either leases or feus, the houses being only let from year to year, that a troublesome neighbour may easily be removed.

There are other two villages, viz. Millheugh and Larkhall, both at the western extremity of the parish, and not far distant from each other; Millheugh being situated in a narrow valley by the side of the river Avon, and Larkhall, upon the great road leading from Glasgow to Carlisle. The last is now become the largest village in the district, though formerly the most inconsiderable. The greatest part of it has been built within these 15 years, upon leases of 99 years, and laid out upon a regular plan. It consists of about 100 houses, inhabited principally by weavers. There are about 6 alehouses in it, (a circumstance not very favourable to the morals, or the industry of the inhabitants), where squabbles, riots, and acts of incontinence, are frequently reported to occur. The principal causes, which have promoted the increase of this village, are, 1st, Its nearness to coal; 2dly, Its being situated on a public road; and 3dly, The encouragement given to persons to settle in it, from the long leases already mentioned, by which they obtain a permanent residence.

*Climate, &c.*—The air here is esteemed tolerably dry and salubrious. The inhabitants are not remarkably subject to any disease, but are in general very healthy, especially those who live temperately, and are employed in the open air. Many of them have arrived at a considerable age, and there are some above 80 now living.——The most general course of the wind,

wind, is from the south-west and west : When it blows from the south, it is often accompanied with heavy showers. In the spring, cold sharp winds frequently blow from the east and north ; and then there is generally a strong drought ; but when rain sets in with an east wind, it is heavy, and of long continuance. The driest weather is mostly in the months of May and June, which is very injurious to the crops on the rigid clay, after it has been soaked and battered by the winter's rains. When the summer's rains are late in falling, which frequently happens, the clay grounds, prepared by the sun and drought to receive them, then pushes up the languishing crops with great luxuriance, and this occasions a late harvest.—— When the spring is dry and favourable, oats, pease, and beans, are sown in March ; but the clay soil and close bottom being very retentive of moisture, and the springs often showery. April is sometimes far advanced, before the land is fit for the reception of these seeds. Barley is generally sown about the middle of May.

*Cattle.*—The horses, kept for cultivating the land, are upwards of 130 in number ; besides young ones annually reared, which may be about 25. There are also 10 horses kept by carters, who are employed in carrying coals, and other commodities, to and from different places. The number of milch cows kept, is about 300, and the young ones annually reared, probably above 60 at an average. Some black cattle are always fed for slaughter on the best inclosed pastures ; but the average number cannot be well ascertained.——There are now but few sheep kept in the parish, owing to the introduction of inclosing with hedge and ditch, which obliged the farmers to dismiss the little flocks, of which every one was formerly possessed.

*Cultivation.*

*Cultivation and Produce.*—The modes of cultivation and rotation of crops practised in this parish are various. The chief of them are the following: The land is fallowed in summer, with repeated turnings; it is then manured with lime and dung, or a compost made up of these ingredients and a quantity of earth; and sown with wheat in the end of August, or as early as possible in the following month. The wheat crop is followed by pease, or a mixture of pease and beans: these again by oats, and again oats, or perhaps barley and grass seed, with two or three plowings, follow the oats, and after that a crop or two of hay, and then pasture. Or, the manure is laid upon the pasture in Autumn, and the land plowed, and sown with pease and beans in the spring; after which two crops of oats, followed by grass, sown with the last. Those, who adhere most to the culture of barley, sow it after a crop of pease and beans, with spring-fallowing and dung, upon the croft-land, that is, the land lying nearest the farm house, which has been enriched by all the manure, made there, being continually laid upon it: But the old distinction between croft and outfield is fast wearing out, and all the parts of the farm are now mostly treated in the same manner; so that there is now less barley sown than formerly. Besides, in this parish, which was once famous for producing excellent barley, the culture of this grain has, of late years, been much less successful; the returns neither being so abundant, nor the quality so good, which has tended greatly to discourage it.—This has been, by some, attributed to the wet, backward springs, prevalent for a good many years past, which have prevented the proper preparation of the stubborn clay soil, for the reception of the seed; and the cold summers, which have injured the growth of this tender plant. Others ascribe it to the culture of wheat becoming more prevalent, which takes away a great part of the manure, formerly bestowed on the barley;

and others again, to the practice of hay crops of artificial grasses, which, they assert, unfits the land for producing grain crops, till it has been recovered by long rest and pasturing. But, whatever is the cause, the culture of barley, on account of its bad success, is in a great measure abandoned.

Beans and pease have been found to thrive well, in this parish, upon land in good order; but of late, they have not been much more successful than barley. Discouraged by bad springs, or violent droughts in the beginning of summer, they grow too vigorously, when the latter rains come on, and run more to straw than to feed. The present crop, (1791,) appears to be better than any for these several years past. In favourable seasons, pease, which are sown alone on the poorer ground, yield from 3 to 6 bolls per acre; and, beans, or beans with a mixture of pease, sown on better land, from 5 to 10 bolls, each boll containing somewhat more than 4 Winchester bushels.

Wheat and oats are the chief crops. Wheat succeeds well in the strong soil, and yields grain of a good quality. The produce of an acre is commonly from 25 to 50 Winchester bushels. The greatest danger, to which it is subjected, is from severe frosts in the beginning of the spring, while the clay is soft, and drenched with rain-water, which swells the ground, and throws out the roots of the wheat. This was lately the case for three years successively, to wit, 1783, 1784, and 1785, when the wheat crops were much injured, and produced very poor returns. Oats are hardy, and succeed with less manure and culture. The most favourable circumstance, for this crop, is, when the particles of clay have been well separated, by the winter's frost, and the seedtime dry. This enables the soil to resist the summer's drought. The produce of an acre of oats, is from 25 to 60 bushels; of an acre of hay, from 1 to 2 tons.

The clay soil is not very favourable for the culture of pota-

toes; but in the vallies, where this root succeeds exceeding well, and is of an excellent quality, it has been carried to considerable extent, and with great success. The produce of an acre has been found to weigh, from 12 to 13 tons, and generally sells, upon the ground, at from L. 10 to L. 14 sterling. Indeed every where the husbandmen cultivate them less or more; and where circumstances admit, raise them, not only for the use of their families, but for feeding cattle, particularly milch-cows: The inhabitants of the villages also, rent spots of land in their neighbourhood, by the year, for raising this root.

The management of the dairy, in making butter and cheese, and fattening calves, has been diligently studied, and much improved, in this parish, particularly of late years. The annual profits, on a milch-cow, are from L. 3 to L. 4.

Having no map, or general measurement of the parish, it is impossible to give an accurate account of the quantity of land, annually applied to any particular purpose, or of the average quantity of every particular article of produce; but it is certain, that the quantity of provisions raised, is considerably more, than what is necessary to maintain the inhabitants.

There is a little flax raised for domestic use; but the farmers think it not a sure crop on stiff clay.

The cultivation of apples, pears, plumbs, &c. has, perhaps, been carried to no as great extent, and with as much success here, as in any part in Scotland. All around the village of Dalserf, extensive orchards are planted, and every hedge and fence is filled with plumb trees; even the tenants along the sides of the Clyde, have all large orchards near their houses. The fruit generally come to great perfection, and are exceedingly well flavoured. The whole are, some years, worth about L. 400 sterling, and are mostly sold at Glasgow and Paisley;

to which markets a great deal of smaller fruit, such as gooseberries and currants are also sent.

The natural coppice woods consist chiefly of oaks, ash, elm, birch and elder, and are cut down once in 30 years. The trees that are suffered to stand, near the river Clyde, particularly planes, oak, and ash, grow to a great size. On the upper parts of the parish, are large plantations of Scots fir, which thrive very well; but the *larix* succeeds still better.

Within these 30 years, the land has all been inclosed with hedge and ditch; but few of the fences can be said to be sufficient, and many of them never will. The face of the parish, however, is greatly changed to the better. Fields, which were covered with furze, broom, &c. are now cleared of these incumbrances, and rendered fit, either for tillage or pasture. The large belts, and clumps of planting, have added, not only to the beauty, but also to the fertility of the country. The farm houses, formerly mean, are now built in a neat and commodious manner, and make a decent appearance. From the improvement made upon the land, by the industry of the tenants, as well as from the increased price of the produce, the value of ground is so much augmented, that some farms, which, about 30 years ago, rented at L. 12 or L. 15. a year, are now let at L. 70 or L. 80, and the tenants are now in a better condition than before.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3320 Scots.— Farms are rented, for the course of a 19 years lease, at from 5s. to 30s. sterling, per acre. But small parcels of rich, or highly improved land, sometimes let for a few years, at L. 3 or L. 4 per acre.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants in this parish has of late years, been considerably increased, owing chiefly to the

increase of the village of Larkhall. In 1755, they amounted to 765 souls, and now to about 1100. Of these there are 100 weavers, 16 masons, 16 joiners and carpenters, 8 shoemakers, 9 taylor, 4 blacksmiths, 4 shopkeepers, 4 millers, 1 surgeon, 1 dyer, 1 spinner on a cotton jeany, 9 inn keepers, and 35 coalminers.—From the register of births and mort-cloths, which, for many reasons, must be inaccurate and incomplete, it appears, that the births, at an average, are about 30 and the burials 20, every year.

*Ecclesiastical State*—The Duke of Hamilton is patron. The stipend is from L. 80 to L. 90 sterling yearly, besides the manse and glebe. No augmentation has been obtained, since the commencement of the present century, except a small addition to the glebe.—The generality of the inhabitants are of the established church, and there is no other place of worship in the parish. There are, however, a few sectaries of different denominations.

*Poor*.—As vagrant begging has been always regarded as very pernicious to society, it has been the wish of this parish to discourage it as much as possible, and hence it has been led to maintain its poor, by an assessment or stent laid upon the inhabitants, according to their ability. This assessment, for several years past, has amounted to L. 44 : 4. yearly. There are at present 12 people, who receive regular monthly supplies, besides some others, who receive occasional assistance, according to incidental necessity, and others again who get their house-rents paid.

It were rather to be wished, that the poor could be maintained by voluntary contributions, than by assessment. The latter method has a tendency to increase their number and to encourage dissipation and idleness. It extinguishes

guishes charity in those who give, as they give from compulsion, and prevents gratitude in those who receive, since they receive it as a right. The poors-rates are now severely felt in England, and every method ought to be taken to prevent their becoming so burdensome in Scotland, which is so much less able to afford it.

*School*—No house has hitherto been built in this parish, for a school-house; but the established school-master has a salary of 200 marks Scots, besides the perquisites he enjoys, as precentor, session-clerk, and collector of poors-rates. He is qualified to teach English, Latin, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping. The scholars are from 40 to 60 in number; the school wages are, for English, 18 6d. per quarter; for writing, arithmetic, and Latin, 28 6d. per quarter.

Parish schools, with teachers properly qualified, are of great importance, and ought to be encouraged, by giving sufficient appointments. In those parishes, where, from the smallness of the encouragement, only ignorant, low-minded school-masters, unfit to teach any thing but a poor smattering, can be had, the children of the peasantry are doomed to perpetual ignorance and obscurity. But in places, where there are teachers, liberally educated, and capable of instructing youth in the important parts of education, persons of the lowest birth have risen to eminence and rank.

*Minerals*.—Coal is found here in great abundance, there being no less than 4 coal works in the parish, two on the west, from which a great part of the town of Hamilton is supplied; one in the center of the parish, and one upon the south. Coal sells at the pit, at from 2s. to 2s 6d per ton.—Lime has only been found in one place, viz. in the lands of **Broomhill**; none of which is sold, as the proprietor retains it  
all



all for his own estate: The rest of the parish is, therefore, served with that commodity, from the neighbouring parish of Lefmahagow, where it abounds. Large beds of freestone are found every where in this parish; of this there are several varieties, all generally of a fine grain, and fair colour. Iron stone is also plentiful, and the waters of several springs are so strongly tinctured with it, as to deposit considerable quantities of ore in their course.

*Antiquities.*—In a beautiful valley upon the Clyde, a little above Dalserf village, formerly stood a Romish chapel, dedicated to St Patrick, from whence the valley takes the name of Dalpatrick. The vestiges of this chapel are still to be seen.—Another stood in the interior part of the parish, about a mile distant, upon the side of a rivalet; which hence gets the name of Chapelburn.

## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF DUNOON.

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

*By a FRIEND to Statistical Inquiries.**Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

THE origin of the name, Dunoon, cannot well be ascertained. Buchanan, in the only mention he makes of it, in his history of Scotland, calls it *Novio-dunum*, deriving it from *dun*, a castle, and *nuadh*, new. Others assert, that the castle of Dunoon was formerly a nunnery, and that it comes from the Gaelic word, *Dun-no-oigh*, which signifies the house of the virgins. To Dunoon, the parish of Kilmun is annexed, which is evidently derived from the church or cell, dedicated to St Mun. His burial place is called *Sith-Mhun*, that is, Mun's burial place, or place of rest; and the very bay on which it is situated, seems to have been consecrated, being known by the name of *Loch-speant*, or the holy loch. — These two parishes, at present united, lie in the presbytery of Dunoon, in the synod and shire of Argyle, on the west side of the firth of Clyde, and in that district of the shire of Argyle, called Cowal. The extent of these parishes may be reckoned about 16 computed, or 24 measured miles in length, and, at an average, 2 in breadth. The general appearance of  
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the country is agreeable. It enjoys an extensive prospect of the firth of Clyde; at the opening of which, stands the rock of Ailfa, about 30 miles from Dunoon, by which, on that side, the view is terminated. The foreign and coasting trade of the Clyde, are perpetually passing, and along the coast, the hills are skirted with woods of considerable value. The ploughed part of the ground in the parish, is, in general, light and sandy, and was once, it is believed, covered with the sea; in particular, the banks, about Toward, exhibit rocks that were evidently dashed by the waves\*.

*Castle, and Village of Dunoon.*—The castle of Dunoon was once a royal castle, of which, the family of Argyle were constables. They, at one period, lived there, and many of their vassals had houses built in the village of Dunoon, for their residence, when they attended the court of their chieftain. These circumstances, with the ferry towards Greenock, and the parish church, gave rise to the village. Near the castle, is *tam-a-rakoid*, or the hill of the court of justice, and cuspars, or the *butts*, for shooting with the bow and the arrow. The butts are now down, but the field where they were placed, though plowed, still bears that name. The village of Dunoon was also the place where the bishops of Argyle resided, in the last period of Episcopacy in Scotland, instead of the island of Lismore. It contains somewhat more than 30 families; but is reduced in regard to the number of its inhabitants, from what it was some years ago. For half a century,

\* It is probable, that the mount on which the castle of Dunoon is situated, was once surrounded by the sea; and the minister's glebe has a bank of sandy clay in it, which seems to have been formed by the sea.

century, it has been the resort of a few trades people, and of such farmers in the neighbourhood as have failed, with poor widows, who find here, more readily than elsewhere, a house, with a little ground for grain, suited to their circumstances. This, the tenants in the neighbourhood plough, and the plowed ridge, or rood, is let at the rate of 7 merks, or 30s an acre, with 4 merks for a cow's grass. This is the only grazing for milch-cows, let by itself, it is believed, in the parish, and has stood at the same rent for these 50 years. Such cattle as are grazed for fattening or keeping, pay, as in other places, from 5s. to 6s. for the young, and from 20s to 21s. for older cattle, during the summer half year.

There is no creek, or shelter of any consequence, or safety, even for boats, at or near this village, which has probably contributed to its want of improvement. An attempt was made, once and again, to build a pier upon its shore; but from its openness to the south, and the severity of the storms of winter, the last attempt, about 15 years ago, was rendered abortive. — There was also an attempt to establish an Osnaburgh manufacture; but, after having been pushed for several years, it also failed. — The people then took to the distilling of whisky, which, after being carried on to some extent, was at once suppressed, by the harsh regulations of the Excise. It was a miserable trade; but, at the same time, the poor people seem to have been too harshly dealt with, since they were at once deprived of the only means of their customary support, and of their whole stock and income, without any compensation, or putting any other means of gaining a livelihood in their power.

In former times, the ferry at Dunoon was the principal inlet from the low country to Argyleshire. This made it more a place of resort. But a great road being carried by Lochlomond, round the head of Lochlong, and through Glencroe to Inverary, this has contributed to diminish the population of

Dunoon. But were more acres and roods of land let out, more inhabitants would probably gather to it, and it might become the seat of some useful manufacture. The people, that are yearly removing to Greenock, would here find, at the rent they pay, for a small and confined lodging in that town, the grazing of a cow, with a little ground for sowing grain, and room for planting a few potatoes, with a garden to afford them vegetables, a hut to live in, and nearly as good access to fishing as any where.

*Fishing.*—Within the Firth of Clyde, particularly upon the shore of Dunoon, fish, more especially what are called, ground fish, do not seem to be in abundance, excepting when herrings frequent the lochs. Other fish seem then in greater plenty to attend them; though even then, they do not seem so abundant as, in general, to encourage the north country fishers, who have frequented our shores for some years past, to lay their long lines within the firth. But in the more open sea, at the mouth of Lochsine, about 20 or 30 miles hence, or upon the coast of Bute and Arran, about the same distance, fish of the best kinds are to be got. The villagers of Dunoon, also, find a coarse fish, called Seath, which may be caught with rods and short lines, all the summer over, when the weather is good, at rocks about a cannon-shot, at sea, off the castle of Dunoon. But our people are far from being so skillful and industrious, as the north country fishers, who have come annually for some time past, and in greater numbers from year to year; but have as yet got no fixed residence on this coast. They were, at first, brought to fish salmon in the bays, and that still seems to be their principal object; but, when the season for fishing salmon, which continues only for about 3 months in summer, is over, if herrings have not become an object to them, they betake themselves to the fishing of ground-fish, and carry them from the distance of, from 30, 40, or perhaps 50 miles, to Glasgow,

gow, and seem to find it for their advantage. But our people, though the Northlanders are said to be enriching themselves by the practice, do not seem inclined to follow their example, in fishing at all times, or for all sorts of fish, though they are accustomed to, and fond of the fishing of herrings. This is so much the case, that many of them, bred to trades, as weaving, shoemaking, &c. leave off these sedentary employments, and bestow a considerable part of the year, in seeking for herrings, upon our own shores, or hiring themselves to the bus-fishing to the northward. This, with the foreign or coasting trade from Clyde, takes many of our young men out of the country, and makes our tradesmen quit their looms, &c. for the more chearful, and probably more profitable employments of the sea.

*Price of Labour.*—The benefit, or the pleasure, that is found by the common people, in following the sea line, makes servants wages to be rather high; and, indeed, it is very difficult, to find labourers and servants, for any hire that can be offered. Full grown young men get L. 6 a year, or more, and with the shepherds, perhaps to the value of L. 7 or L. 8.—Of male-servants, young and old, there may be about 30, that get from perhaps L. 3 to L. 6, or L. 7; and from 60 to 68 young women servants, who get from 15s to L. 3.

*Poor.*—The poor of the parish, (i. e. such as get any assistance from the poors box) amount to 40 or upwards, chiefly old and infirm widows, and some of them bed-rid.—A share of the collections at the church-doors, being the only public charity they receive, is not sufficient in general, to pay the rent of the hut wherein they live, and to purchase a pair of shoes for the winter. They are supported mostly by the private donations of the more opulent in the parish, who would

have found the maintainance of their own poor an easy burden, had the gentlemen of the county at large, exerted themselves to suppress beggars, at least, without the bounds of their respective parishes, which might have been easily effected. The synod of Argyle attempted it within these 15 or 20 years, and prevailed upon the Justices, at their public meetings, to make regulations concerning it; and many individuals in the county were active in carrying these regulations into execution; in so much, that a stranger beggar, for 2 or 3 years, was not to be seen. But the country was not yet ripe for carrying such a plan into effect. Perhaps there were too many tenants in the country, within a step of beggary, to make it desirable to be too rigorous. Whether this was the cause or not, all regulations to check indiscriminate begging, have, for some years, been entirely laid aside.

*Character of the People*—The people of the parish are justly accounted sober, inoffensive, and discreet; respectful to their superiors, charitable to one another, and the young remarkably attentive to their parents, who often stand in need of their assistance, when they grow old.—— The general relaxation of manners, that has, perhaps, been increasing here, as well as elsewhere, for these 30 years past, with the near neighbourhood of a much frequented seaport town, may lead the young people to assemble oftener together, and lengthen out their meetings to a later hour, than they were accustomed to do, 40 or 50 years ago. But these indulgences do not seem to be attended with any very bad consequences. The people on the whole, are not remarkable for any thing vicious. Many of them are lively, shrewd, and fit for carrying on the common business of the country, and gradually emancipating themselves from all the bad effects attendant on the feudal administration.

*Language.*

*Language*—The language of the parish is changing much, from the coming in of low-country tenants, from the constant intercourse our people have with their neighbours, but above all, from our schools, particularly, those established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. Hence the English or Scottish language is universally spoke by almost all ages, and sexes. But the Gaelic is still the natural tongue with them, their fireside language, and the language of their devotions. They now begin, however, to attend public worship in English as well as Erse, which 30 years ago they did not do.

*Schools*.—There are at least 8 schools in the parish, for teaching to read and write; some of them are held only in winter, but four of them all the year round. The winter schools are taught by children from 12 to 15 years of age, who go from house to house, for about 20s. and their maintainance, to teach younger children than themselves; and it is surprising with what success they go through that business.

*Ecclesiastical State*—The stipend is about L. 83, with a manse, a glebe of about 10 acres, and a garden. The church of Dunoon is in a state of but indifferent repair. Kilmun kirk, where is the burial place of the family of Argyle, is kept in much better order. The Duke of Argyle is patron.

*Fuel*.—Peats are the fuel generally used by the common people, and formerly also by the gentry, when they had more tenants, and when they were less usefully employed, for themselves and their landlords. Now, coals brought from Glasg are generally burnt by the gentry, and sometimes also by the common people, particularly those who lie upon the shore, who find the getting of peats more expensive than it used to be, and uncertain, from the weather, which, for some  
years



years past, has been unfavourable to getting peats properly brought home and dried, particularly last summer and harvest, when the rain was almost perpetual.

*Climate*—Though in this part of country, we have had, for a good many years, a great deal of rainy weather, (in which however, we do not seem to be singular,) yet the parish, on the whole, cannot be called unhealthy. We have commonly no sickness, or fatal distemper, except from old age, and the complaints peculiar to children; and even these last, are not, in general, fatal. Epidemical distempers are less felt here, than in most other places. The sea fortunately intervenes with the more frequented parts of the country, and these complaints, commonly coming round the heads of our lochs, are much spent, and their violence often gone, before they can reach us.

*Dress, &c.*—Our neighbourhood to Greenock leads our young people to be expensive in their attire, and to imitate such as affect the manners and dress of those who rank higher than themselves. The young woman, who 50 years ago, thought of endeavouring to make 100 or 200 merks for her portion, now sinks all the money she makes, in dress and ornament. The scarlet cloak, that only covered the shoulders of our ladies 50 years ago, now falls down to the heels of the servant maids; and many of them purchase a silk gown to be married in. The young men also, though more attentive to the gathering of a small stock before marriage, than the maids are, generally have an English cloth coat for Sunday, and a watch in their pocket. The native Highlanders, it is remarked, in general, seem fonder of dress and show, than the Southland shepherds that have come amongst us. These last also are said to be more thrifty in house-keeping, and consequently can

save more of the produce of their farms, than the Highlanders, are yet accustomed to.—It is likely that the Lowlanders example will be followed in that, as it is already in managing their sheep-stocks, and in acquiring more independance on their landlords, than was formerly usual. The tenants all now get tacks, maintain better the bargains they make with the proprietor, and know better the way to courts, independant of him.

*Sheep-Farming.*—These Southland shepherds have, within these 40 or 50 years, altered almost entirely the stock of the mountains, from black cattle and horses, to sheep, by which they have raised the rents, over all this country, considerably, as well as enriched themselves. There is one of them from Teviotdale, now an heritor in this parish, and in the neighbourhood, to the amount of, perhaps, L. 300 a year, who from a stock, it is said, of only L. 50, has acquired, within 50 years, by sheep-farming, property to that amount; and has the stock of two or three small farms, (perhaps 1000 sheep,) into the bargain.—To these shepherds our open weather seems, on the whole, more agreeable than hard seasons, especially of snow, of which we have had but little, and, in general, of short continuance, for many years past.

*Agriculture.*—The number of farmers, by the introduction of sheep and other causes has certainly decreased. Many of the tacksmen, however, still continue to retain some subtenants, who, having a cow's grass, some ground to raise potatoes, and a little grain, for the sake of the straw, as fodder during the winter, with the opportunity of fishing, &c. find themselves easier and better off, than when they occupied a larger possession; and even those who have been obliged to emigrate, have in general, settled at Greenock, where they seem better

ter fed and clothed, than when they resided here.—  
 The number of ploughs in the whole parish, may be about 85; and at the rate of 12 bolls to each plough, there may be about 1000 bolls sown between bear and oats, which may give at least 4000 bolls increase. There may be 150, or from that to 200 bolls of potatoes sown or planted, which may give from 15 to 20 bolls of produce each. They are more cultivated within these 20 years, and more in the drill way than in former days, and add much to the food of the common people. They make, with salted herrings, a cheap and not an unpleasant meal for winter.— Notwithstanding our bad weather, the crops are not much to be complained of; perhaps our soil and culture rather agreeing with rain than drought. And from the herrings that are taken in our bays, the addition to our food from the more frequent culture of potatoes, the opportunities the people have of making money, by the busk-fishing, and the coasting trade of Clyde, with the good sale and price of cattle, the people, upon the whole, seem more at ease, and less disposed to complain, than 40 or 50 years ago, though rents are rising continually, with the continued increase of the nominal value or price of all kinds of provisions.

The crops of 1782 and 1783 were, with us, cut down much greener than usual; but in threshing, and even in milling, there did not seem so much cause for complaint, as was feared; nay, it seemed to yield generally above their expectations, and to give them an opinion, that, before that time, they allowed their crops to ripen too much.

*Statistical Table of the Parish of Dunoon, Anno 1791.*

|                           |   |   |   |        |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| Number of proprietors     | - | - | - | 14     |
| — of proprietors resident | - | - | - | 3      |
| Number of families        | - | - | - | 334    |
|                           |   |   |   | Number |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Number of examinable persons above 8 or 10 years of |      |
| age   | 1123 |
| of souls  | 1683 |
| Population, An. 1755                                | 1757 |
| Average of deaths, about                            | 19   |
| of marriages  | 15   |
| of baptisms   | 58   |
| Married couples 275. Married people                 | 550  |
| Widows  | 17   |
| Widowers  | 95   |
| Old maids, or unmarried women above 45              | 9    |
| Old bachelor  | 1    |
| Children at school, (about)                         | 240  |

From comparing the number of our births, with our deaths and marriages, it is evident, that many born in the parish remove from it, both before and after marriage, and never return. Many, in particular, go into the naval and military service of their country, especially into the navy; into which, it is said, 90 young men went from one district of the parish, during the American war.

Nothing else occurs, that seems to merit attention; though a more accurate observer might probably discover many other facts, worthy of being communicated to the public, and might be able to draw many inferences from them, equally curious in themselves, and interesting to the country.

## NUMBER XXXIII.

## PARISH OF WILTON.

(SHIRE OF ROXBURGH.)

*Situation, Soil, &c.*

THE parish of Wilton does not furnish much room for statistical investigation. It is situated in the presbytery of Jedburgh, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale.—The soil, more especially along the banks of the Teviot, is fruitful and well cultivated.—There are several marble pits in the neighbourhood; some of which have been drained, and, are of great benefit to the farmers. Lime, also, is made use of as a manure.

*Population.*—The population, in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, amounted to 936 souls. The number, at present, is nearly the same, being rather above 900. The average of marriages, for the last 3 years, is 13, of baptisms, 20, and of deaths, 8; but these numbers cannot be accounted precisely accurate, as all are not recorded.

*Poor.*—There is an assessment for the poor, amounting to L. 100 *per annum*. The heritors and kirk-session meet quarterly

quarterly to lay it on. The tenants are not mentioned in the statute, but their attendance is desired, as they pay one half of any sum that is imposed, and are best acquainted with the state of the poor, in their own neighbourhood. The business is transacted without expence, excepting the fees of the clerk, and of the collector. The number of pensioners is between 30 and 40. The price of a stone of meal per week, is usually given to a boarder. To an old person, who can work a little, the price of half a stone. To a widow's children, at the same rate, per week, for each. For nursing a child, 2s 6d weekly. The pensioners sign an assignation to the parish, of all their effects, which are roused at their death. It is, at present, in contemplation, to aliment the poor with a weekly allowance of meal, instead of money, which may more effectually ensure a subsistence, and prevent an improper use of the public bounty. Some saving may be made, also, by purchasing the meal when it is cheap. School-wages for the children of the poor, medical aid, and incidental expences, are paid by the collections at the church doors, and mortcloth money, which amount to about L. 15 a year. It would be an important object of inquiry, to ascertain, how far the levying of these assessments, or, poors-rates, has answered any useful purpose, or whether the poor are comparatively in a much worse situation, where they are not levied.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The valuation of the parish is L. 7545 : 16 : 8 Scots. —The Duke of Buccleugh is patron, and principal heritor. —Lord Napier, and several feuers, or smaller proprietors, reside in it. —The stipend is small; but the glebe is large and valuable. —The parish school-master has the legal salary of 100 merks, a dwelling house, and school-house. There are also two village

schools.——The Seceders are numerous; and there are a few of the Episcopal and Relief persuasions.——A carpet manufactory employs 14, and an inkle 19 looms.——The people are, in general, industrious, sober-minded, compassionate, and devout.——Work is not difficult to be had; and provisions are reasonable. The dearth of fuel is the greatest hardship, which the poor experiences, in this part of the country.

## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF MONIMAIL.

(SHIRE OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. SAMUEL MARTIN,

*Name.*

**B**ETWEEN Lindore's loch, in the parish of Abdie, and the village of Monimail, where the church stands, and from which the parish is named, there is a hill, or rising ground, over which lies the road between Perth and Cupar. The length of this hill is supposed to have given rise to the name, *Monimail*, "At the foot of a hill one mile over." It is often written and pronounced, *Money-Meal*, and strangers suppose, that it denotes, a "parish of plenty," abounding in meal and money: but the number of Gaelic names in the neighbourhood, discountenances this etymology.

*Form, Extent, and Situation.*—There is a large map of Fife, by Ainslie. The boundaries of the parish of Monimail are not perfectly marked in it, though nearly exact. Its figure is somewhat oval, about four feet by three.—Excepting on the north and east, the lands are flat and fertile. A marsh, of about 30 acres, (Lethem mire,) and the heights on the north and east are capable of little culture.—It is remarkable,



markable, that, in this neighbourhood, both to the north and south of the Eden, the soil, in rising from the plain, becomes richer; but is thin and sandy in the low grounds.—The hills are rather green than heathy. The Mount-hill is of considerable height, and has been planted for several years. Vessels, on making the land from the east seas, are assisted and directed by this mount, and by Monzie church, which stands on the top of an eminence beneath it, as a land mark.—The situation of the parish, in general, is dry and salubrious. No peculiar epidemical distempers are known. The inhabitants are healthy; and there are several instances of considerable longevity.—About half a mile north of the church, there is a spring, known by the name of Cardan's Well: It is of no repute at present, but was highly esteemed by the famous Cardan, who used it much; and, in particular, he is said, with this mineral water, to have cured Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrews, of a dropsy.—The parish is well watered; but its different brooks, or waters, as they are called, are none of them considerable.

*Thunder-Storms.*—On the 27th October, 1732, Melvillehouse was struck with a remarkable thunder storm. The whole house, on every side, and from top to bottom, was affected. The stream of lightning, it is supposed, was attracted by a long iron spike, on the top of a cupola covered with lead. The effects of it were felt, and are still visible in almost every part of the house: providentially no person was materially hurt. Professor M'Claurin, at Lord Leven's desire, examined the progress and vestiges of the storm\*.—In a large mirror, a piece, of the size of a crown, was melted, and no crack

\* See his letter to Sir Hans Sloan, in Pennant's Tour.

crack or flaw whatever appears in any other place. Many splinters were torn out of the solid wainscoting, particularly a thin one, about the breadth of a half foot joiner's rule, was beaten 14 feet from the top of the finishing, on the floor, where it made a deep impression, which still remains. One of the chimney tops was thrown down, and some of the stones carried 100 yards into the garden.—In July 1783, about six o'clock in the morning, a girl and boy were killed with lightning. Peals of thunder, with vivid lightning, were that morning loud and frequent. The mother was a helpless palsied woman, and had been carried from her bed to the fire-side. The boy, who was much frightened with the thunder, was standing before the fire. The girl was seated opposite to her mother, feeding the fire with brush wood. On the descent of the lightning, the boy fell back, and was, for some time, believed to be the only person affected: the girl retained her sitting posture, and was not supposed to be injured. A dog lay motionless more than an hour, but on being thrown out as dead, revived and recovered entirely. The poor mother said, she thought the fire, that came down from the heavens, completely involved her with the rest. The shock had no effect on her health, or constitution, either favourable or unfavourable. What the minister, who was sent for on the awful occasion, saw of the bodies of the children, was firm and well coloured, as in life.

*Population.*—Dr Webster states the number of inhabitants to be 884. The registers have been carefully examined, in order to ascertain the population, at different periods, but it is found, that they cannot be relied on. The inaccuracy of the records may be variously accounted for, in this, as well as in other parishes. Vacancies, the negligence of parents, the carelessness of session clerks, the illegal with-holding of the

the dues by dissenters, &c. each of these circumstances may occasion omissions. For some years back, (on which greater confidence may be placed,) the average is, births, 30,—marriages 9,—and deaths  $8\frac{7}{8}$  yearly. In January 1791, there were,

|                                 |                  | Males. |   | Females. |   | Total. |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|---|----------|---|--------|
| Above                           | 70               | 23     | - | 20       | - | 43     |
| —                               | 50               | 64     | - | 78       | - | 142    |
| —                               | 20               | 200    | - | 236      | - | 436    |
| —                               | 10               | 117    | - | 91       | - | 208    |
|                                 |                  |        |   |          |   | — 829  |
| Below                           | 10 of both sexes |        | - |          | - | 272    |
|                                 |                  |        |   |          |   | —      |
| Total number of the inhabitants |                  |        |   |          |   | 1101   |
| The number of families          |                  |        |   |          |   | 241    |
| Average number in each          |                  |        |   |          |   | 4.5277 |

Of the different ranks in life, there are 2 noblemen, (of one of whom, the Earl of Leven and Melvill, it is remarkable, that the succession can be traced, in direct descent, from father to son, for 18 generations; the other, Lord Ruthven, is a minor); 8 heritors, resident and non-resident; 1 minister, 1 preacher, 1 student of theology; 1 public and 1 private teacher, 1 school-mistress; 30 farmers, 35 weavers, 7 shoemakers, 8 tailors, 11 carpenters, 3 brewers, 1 baker, 3 masons, 4 shepherds, and 5 smiths.

With regard to religious opinions, there are 55 dissenters; 27 of whom, are Antiburgher Seceders, 2 Independants, and the other 26 are Episcopals, Burgher Seceders, and members of the presbytery of Relief.

Of married couples there are 172, bachelors 38, and widowers,

dowers, who are heads of families, and single women, in houses of their own, 31.

There are three corn mills, and one lint-mill, driven by water. Two threshing-mills; one driven by horses, one by water. 5 small retail shops. There is no occasion for any lawyer, attorney, physician, or surgeon, in this parish, as the town of Cupar supplies its environs, with legal and medical aid.

*Agriculture.*—The mode of managing lands is the same that obtains in the low country in general: consisting of rotations of crops, hay, turnips, inclosing, and draining. The face of the parish is considerably changed of late, and improvements are still going forward. The productions are the same with those of the rest of Fife and the Lothians. Considerable quantities of wheat and barley are annually exported, or otherwise sent away. The raising of black cattle is now more attended to, than formerly. Of 8 small flocks of sheep, 3 have been very lately sold off, chiefly because sheep injure hedges and sown grass, and because it is said, that more profit is reaped from black cattle. There are 5 farms above L. 100 sterling, (one of them L. 300:) the rest from L. 70 downwards. One pretty extensive farm rents at L. 1 : 10s per acre. The average rent of good farms is below L. 1 per acre. Land of inferior quality is proportionally lower, 15s. 10s. &c. &c. Any estates, which have been lately sold in this parish, and indeed in the neighbourhood, have brought high prices.—Farm houses are now built more commodious and comfortable. The tenantry improve in their manners, dress, way of life, and form a respectable body of men.—The ploughs are 76 in number, made on different models: and new improvements are attended to, and tried, as they are suggested.

*Church, Manse, Stipend, &c.*—The church is a long narrow building, rather old and incommodious\*.

The manse being very old, and insufficient, a new and more commodious one is about to be erected.

In 1774, the rent roll of the parish was nearly L. 2500 sterling.—The stipend is worth somewhat above L. 100. An augmentation was lately obtained.—The Earl of Leven is patron.

*Prices of Provisions, Wages, and Labour, in 1750, and 1790:*

|                                   | 1750. | lb. Dutch. | 1790. | lb. Dutch.  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Beef                              | -     | 2 d.       | -     | 4d.         |
| Mutton                            | -     | 2d.        | -     | 4d.         |
| Veal                              | -     | 4d.        | -     | 7 d.        |
| Hens                              | -     | 4d.        | -     | 1s. 0d.     |
| New butter                        | -     | 4d.        | -     | 8d.         |
| Salmon                            | -     | 1d. & 1½d. | -     | 5d. 6d. &c. |
| Eggs per dozen                    | -     | 1½d. & 2d. | -     | 3d. 4d. 5d. |
| And other articles in proportion. |       |            |       |             |

|                         | Per day.                                       | Per day.                |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Day-labourers           | 5d.  | 9d. 10d. 1s.            |
| Master wright, or mason | 1s.  | 1s. 3d.—1s. 6d.         |
| Masons, wrights         | 7d. 8d.  | 1s.                     |
|                         | <i>per annum.</i>                              | <i>per annum.</i>       |
| Farm servants           | L. 2 L. 2:10:0 and 2 pecks<br>of meal per week | L. 6 L. 7<br>with meal. |
|                         |  | Upper                   |

\* The bell is on the east end of the church. It was erected about 40 years ago, when the former one became insufficient: that bell had been used from the days of Robert the Bruce, as appeared by an inscription on it. The church was new-roofed about 50 years ago.

|                       | 1750.     |       |   |   | 1790. |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|---|---|-------|-----------------|
| Upper family servants | L. 8      | L. 10 | - | - | L. 20 | L. 25.          |
| Livery                | -         | L. 4  | - | - | L. 10 | L. 12.          |
| Maid servants         | L. 1 : 10 | L. 2  | - | - | L. 3  | L. 3 : 10 L. 4. |

The suppression of vails operated considerably to increase the wages of family servants.—This list, which applies to Fife in general, is a strong argument for the augmentation of ministers stipends, schoolmasters, and the salaries of all stipendiaries.

*Names of Places.*—The most, of perhaps all, the old names are Gaelic; '*Balintagart*, the priest's town; *Letham*, the side of the hill; *Fairnie*, a moist place where alders grow; *Cunogubie*, head of a corn field, &c. Some are modern. The Bow of Fife is the name of a few houses on the road to Cupar. Whether this uncommon name is taken from a bending of the road, as some suppose, or, as others, from the meetings of the farmers in old times, to fix the prices of grain, (the bolls being pronounced bows,) cannot be determined. It has been thought, that this spot is nearly the centre of Fife: this is also offered as the reason of the name.—*Letham* is the principal village. On the first week of June, there is a considerable fair held at it. Easter Fairnie is next in size: Monimail is smaller. Other clusters of houses scarcely deserve the name of villages.

*Antiquities.*—Near the church, and within Melvill park, there is a square tower in pretty good preservation. Its age is uncertain; but it was repaired by Cardinal Bethune, and was his residence, 1562. There are several distinct heads of the Cardinal, in his cap, in stone relievo on the walls. The arms of the family of Bethune are also intire. The tower is

evidently part of a large building, the remains of which are very visible.—The house of Fairnie is believed to be one of M'Duff's castles. Its walls are uncommonly thick: it is very old, and has been a place of strength.—A strip of land in the farm of Ladifron, belonging to Mr Paterson of Cunoquhie, is called the temple. There is a tradition, that a priest lived here, who had a right to every seventh acre of Ladifron, and to the tathing (dung as left on the ground) every seventh night.

Tradition says, there was a dreadful battle, fought on the N. W. boundary of the parish, between the Scots and the Danes. A hillock, called Doulie-cairy Knoll, is said to have received its name from the battle, (*furrow and cair*).

*Longevity.*—A woman (Helen Gray) died in this parish, in the 105 year of her age. She was born in Tealand, near Dundee. The parish register was consulted, but in vain. The death of Archbishop Sharp, she distinctly remembered: If she was 3 years old then, she was 105 at her death. She was a little woman, remarkably chearful. Some years before her death, she had a new set of teeth. In early life she had been a servant in Lord Stormont's family. The ladies of the neighbourhood were much amused with her telling them, that Mrs Helen Murray, whom they well knew, as lady directress of the Edinburgh assemblies, was one of the young bairns she remembered; and that Mr Willie, (Earl Mansfield,) when young, was a very fine laddie—(boy).

*Suicide.*—There has been but one instance of suicide for many years. The person was old, and in a confused, stupified state. This event was rendered remarkable by the manner of interment. The body was brought from the house, through the  
window,

window, and buried, under night, at the extremity of the parish. A proof at once of the force of old superstitious customs, and, at the same time, of the horror so natural to be felt on such an occasion.

*Poor.*—The funds, for the support of the poor, arise from legacies, mort-cloths, marriages, occasional donations, but chiefly from the weekly collections at the church doors. There are 10 or 12 regular monthly pensioners. On emergencies, others are assisted. No begging is allowed. The distributions, *communibus annis*, are betwixt L. 20 and L. 30 sterling.—In 1782, and 1783, the ordinary funds, with a voluntary and unsolicited donation from the heritors, according to their valued rents, supplied the great exigencies of the poor, during these two unfortunate seasons.

*Schools.*—The established school-master's salary, and perquisites, as precentor and session-clerk, with the school-fees, have been reckoned to be worth about L. 14. The number of scholars varies, according to the abilities and reputation of the teacher; and those of the private teachers in the parish. 30 may be the average. The fees are, English 1s per quarter; writing 2s; arithmetic 2s; book-keeping 10s 6d a course; Latin 2s 6d per quarter. It is not doubted but this, and similar reports, will evince the necessity of more encouragement to this useful and laborious order of men.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Peats and wood are used, but in small quantities. Coals chiefly from Balgonie and Balbirnie, in the parish of Markinck, at 7d per load, of 18 stone, are the fuel of the parish. A double cart carries five loads: the carriage costs nearly the purchase in money.—*Servitudes*



tudes are few and dying away. Those that continue, such as assistance with carriages, &c. during the hay and corn harvests, are rather voluntary and discretionary than exacted.—The general character of the parishioners has always been, that they are industrious, regular, quiet, and respectable. There are mixtures in the purest societies, but this character is still merited by the present race in Monimail.

## NUMBER XXXV.

## PARISH OF CULTS.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. DAVID WILKIE.

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HE antient name of the parish was Qulkques or Quilkques, which, in the Gaelic, signifies, a "nook" or "corner."—it being disjoined from the large strath, which runs from E. to W. along the banks of the Eden. It is situated in the presbytery of Cupar, and in the synod and county of Fife: being about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  English miles from E. to W. and about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  from N. to S. It consequently contains about 3.5 square miles, and is nearly in the form of an oblong square. It lies in the very heart of Fife, and has easy access to both the coasts of that county.

*Surface, Soil, and Air.*—The general appearance is, partly flat, declining to the north; but partly mountainous towards the south. The parish is remarkable, for a clear air and a light soil. The different kinds of soil are, gravel, a light black earth, and a strong clay; with this particular circumstance, that, in the lower parts, along the Eden, it is gravel inclining to heath, and bent grass; from thence to the ascent of the hills, it is light earth, and upon their declivity, it is strong clay. Upon  
the

the whole, the air is dry and healthy, except that the lower ground is subject to fogs. The most prevalent distempers, not to mention those peculiar to children, are fevers and consumptions; but this cannot be attributed to the local situation. The greatest storms of rain and snow are from the E. across the German ocean; the highest winds from the S. W.

*River.*—The Eden rises about 8 miles to the W. and falls into the bay of St Andrews, about 7 miles to the E. Being fed by a number of rivulets, and having a pretty level course, it is never very low, even in the driest summer. It is not navigable at present, to any distance from its mouth, owing to the many mill-dykes, by which it is crossed. Were it thought necessary, for promoting the commerce of the county, it might be made navigable, though at a considerable expence, for 12 or 14 miles; through which it has a fall probably of about 40 feet. Next to the want of commerce, to defray the expence, the greatest disadvantage would be, the danger of entering its mouth, on account of shoals and quicksands. Its banks being somewhat high on both sides, in its course through this parish, there is little danger from land floods. The greatest rise of the river for these 50 years past, was in May 1782. From the excess of rain, our crops then failed so much, that had the culture of potatoes been unknown, and the importation of grain as little practised, as in the end of the last century, there would have been as great a famine, as in the former period.

—The Eden produces trout, pike, and a few salmon; which last are so much diminished, by the number of seals, which frequent its mouth, that few are caught for sale.

*Hills.*—On the south-side of the parish, are the Walton and Pitlessie hills; not considerable for their height; and connected with each other by rising grounds. They are covered most-

ly with grafs; in part, with whins, and in part with heath. The Walton hill has many *foffæ* and ramparts cut along its fide, which are fupposed to be the remains of a Roman camp, when Agricola invaded Scotland, and encamped one part of his army here, and the other at Newtyle in Angus. Many urns have been dug up, full of bones, on and near this hill.

*Minerals.*—There is abundance of free-ftone and lime-ftone quarries; both excellent; particularly the latter, for the lime fhells of which, there is great demand, both in Fife and in Angus. The frata are from 2 to 10 feet below the furface, and are wrought, without having much recourfe to the affiftance of gun-powder. There were coal mines fometime ago upon the eftate of Bonzion; which were employed chiefly for burning lime. They might ftill be wrought to advantage.

*Animals.*—Horfes and black cattle have been much improved, in the courfe of thefe 20 or 30 years, owing to inclofing ground, and fowing grafs-feeds. Horfes chiefly are employed, in agriculture, and fell from L. 12 to L. 15 fterling: Oxen fell from L. 7 to L. 12. The rearing of thefe, has diminifhed the breed of fheep fo much, that in place of 4 or 5 flocks, there is now only one.

*Population.*—The number of the people has increafed within thefe 40 years; owing chiefly to the great number of fmall feus, which have been granted during that period. If the feffion record for baptifms may be depended on, the

|  |     |        |
|--|-----|--------|
| Number of inhabitants, in 1751, was        | -   | 464    |
| The return to Dr Webfter, in 1755, was     | •   | 449    |
| Number of inhabitants at prefent (1791) is |     | 534    |
| VOL. II.                                   | 3 F | Annual |

|   |     |              |
|---|-----|--------------|
| Annual average of births, for 18 years past, is |     | 17.6         |
| of deaths                                       |     | 10.          |
| of marriages                                    | - - | 6.5          |
| Proportion between annual births and the whole  |     |              |
| population,                                     | - - | as 1 to 30   |
| marriages                                       | -   | as 1 to 81.7 |
| deaths  | -   | as 1 to 53   |
| Number of souls under 10 years of age           | -   | 110          |
| from 10 to 20                                   | -   | 92           |
| from 20 to 30                                   | - - | 74           |
| from 30 to 40                                   | - - | 58           |
| from 40 to 50                                   | -   | 59           |
| from 50 to 60                                   | - - | 58           |
| from 60 to 70                                   | -   | 57           |
| from 70 to 80                                   | -   | 22           |
| from 80 to 90                                   | - - | 4            |

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 534

*Acres, Culture, Rent, &c.*—There are about 2100 Scots acres in the parish; of which there may be 720 employed in raising corn and roots; 20 in flax; 160 sown with grafs feeds for hay or pasture; 800, including hill and muir, in pasture; and 400 in fir plantations. Rent per acre may be from 5s. to L. 2 sterling. The rent of a farm of 200 acres, hill and dale, may be about L. 130. The size of farms in general, is 100, 200, or 300 acres. Their number has rather diminished.—There are a number of inclosures upon particular farms. In the parish are about 22 ploughs, mostly two-horse ploughs.—The real rent of the whole parish may be about L. 1060 sterling; the valued rent is L. 2069 : 6 : 8 Scots.

*Heritors, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—There are 3 heritors,  
one

one of whom only resides.—The church and manse are, at least 150 years old. The united college of St Andrews are patrons; and the living, including the glebe, may be worth about L. 65 a year. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks; the number of scholars about 40: the fee for teaching English is 1s. per quarter, and other articles in proportion.—The number of poor is about 12; and the funds for their support, about L. 10 yearly.

*Wages, Prices, &c*—The wages of a day-labourer are 10d. besides which, he has little spots of ground, for potatoes and for lint, by the manufacture of which his wife and daughters are enabled to contribute to the common support. As double-hecked spinning-wheels are universally used, there is no county in Scotland perhaps, where so much is made by spinning as in Fife. The usual wages of a male servant, employed in husbandry are L. 5 or L. 6 yearly; of a female servant, 20s or 25s. the half year. The common fuel is coal from Balbirnie, or Balgonie, which costs at the hill 7d. per load, besides 2s 3d. per cart for carriage. Houses for labourers let from 4s. to 20s. a year.

*Miscellaneous Observations*—There are 3 corn-mills, 2 barley mills, 2 lint mills, 2 threshing machines, and 1 malt mill driven by water. There is one stone bridge across the Eden. The public road from Kirkcaldy to Dundee has got several partial repairs, but is still nearly in a state of nature. The statute labour has been exacted mostly in kind; but there are now turnpikes whereby the roads may in time be improved. There is one inn, and four licensed ale-houses in the parish.

Mr Wilkie (the writer of the preceding observations) is the person alluded to, in the Statistical Account of Scotland, vol. I. (Parish of Kettle), page 377: In justice to whom, it is proper to mention, that there was a very material error of the press. Instead of "This table, upon trial, is found to answer better for Scotland than any yet published by Mr Wilkie," it ought to have been printed thus: "This table, upon trial, is found by Mr Wilkie, to answer better for Scotland, than any yet published." The fact is, Mr Wilkie himself constructed that very important table. — It may be proper to add, that in a letter from Mr Wilkie on the subject of annuities, he communicates the following particulars, which seem to be highly worthy of being laid before the public. — "I have had an opportunity (says he) of forming a table of the probabilities of life, for the county of Fife, from the bills of mortality in the neighbouring parish of Kettle; in which the several ages of the deceased, have been accurately recorded.— This table, I find, differs materially from all the English tables, upon the same subject. For example,

| By my table   | By Dr Halley's table.  |
|---|--|
| $\frac{1}{8}$ of infants die the 1st year.  | $\frac{1}{7}$ of infants die the 1st year.   |
| $\frac{1}{11}$ die the 2d year.   | $\frac{1}{4}$ die the second year.   |
| Expectation of an infant's life<br>= 40.6 years.                                      | Expectation of an infant's life<br>= 28 years.   |
| Greatest value of a life at 4<br>per cent. corresponding to 5<br>years of age = 18.1. | Greatest value of a life at 4<br>per cent. corresponding to<br>10 years of age = 16.4. |

"My table not only agrees exactly with the present population of the parish of Kettle, but with the lives of ministers and of their widows in Scotland at large: Supposing their mean age of ordination and of widowhood, to be respectively, 30

and 48 years. At 30 years of age, 32.27 years = a minister's expectation of life. At 48 years of age, 19.44 years = widow's expectation of life; which last, multiplied by 19.3, the number of widows left yearly, produces 375.2 = maximum of annuitants upon the widows scheme."

"Farther, from 36 parish accounts, published in the first volume of the Statistical Account of Scotland, it appears, there are 46,625 souls in these parishes: the mean number of births and deaths is 1156. Hence  $\frac{46625}{1156} = 40.3$ , the expectation of an infant's life in these 36 parishes; which agrees almost exactly with the same expectation by my table. Many of these parishes are in different counties, and situated widely remote from each other."

Mr Wilkie proposes soon to publish a book "On the Theory of Interest simple and compound, derived from first principles, and applied to annuities: With an illustration of the Widows Scheme in the Church of Scotland."—A work, which will probably throw much light upon these important subjects of inquiry. In the mean while, the following table of the probabilities of life, derived from the bills of mortality, in the parish of Torthorwald, County of Dumfries, for 27 years, ending anno 1790, published in the appendix to this volume, is well entitled to be laid before the reader.

TABLE



TABLE of the Probabilities, of Life, &amp;c.

| Age. | Livg. | Dead | Age | Livg. | Dead | Age. | Livg. | Dead | Age | Livg. | Dead |
|------|-------|------|-----|-------|------|------|-------|------|-----|-------|------|
| 0    | 280   | 32   | 24  | 204   | 1    | 48   | 169   | 2    | 72  | 88    | 6    |
| 1    | 248   | 10   | 25  | 203   | 1    | 49   | 167   | 2    | 73  | 82    | 7    |
| 2    | 238   | 2    | 26  | 202   | 1    | 50   | 165   | 2    | 74  | 75    | 7    |
| 3    | 236   | 2    | 27  | 201   | 1    | 51   | 163   | 2    | 75  | 68    | 7    |
| 4    | 234   | 2    | 28  | 200   | 1    | 52   | 161   | 2    | 76  | 61    | 7    |
| 5    | 232   | 2    | 29  | 199   | 1    | 53   | 159   | 2    | 77  | 54    | 6    |
| 6    | 230   | 2    | 30  | 198   | 1    | 54   | 157   | 2    | 78  | 48    | 6    |
| 7    | 228   | 2    | 31  | 197   | 1    | 55   | 155   | 2    | 79  | 42    | 5    |
| 8    | 226   | 1    | 32  | 196   | 1    | 56   | 153   | 2    | 80  | 37    | 4    |
| 9    | 225   | 1    | 33  | 195   | 1    | 57   | 151   | 3    | 81  | 33    | 3    |
| 10   | 224   | 1    | 34  | 194   | 1    | 58   | 148   | 3    | 82  | 30    | 3    |
| 11   | 223   | 1    | 35  | 193   | 1    | 59   | 145   | 3    | 83  | 27    | 3    |
| 12   | 222   | 1    | 36  | 192   | 1    | 60   | 142   | 4    | 84  | 24    | 3    |
| 13   | 221   | 1    | 37  | 191   | 2    | 61   | 138   | 4    | 85  | 21    | 3    |
| 14   | 220   | 2    | 38  | 189   | 2    | 62   | 134   | 4    | 86  | 18    | 3    |
| 15   | 218   | 2    | 39  | 187   | 2    | 63   | 130   | 4    | 87  | 15    | 3    |
| 16   | 216   | 2    | 40  | 185   | 2    | 64   | 126   | 4    | 88  | 12    | 3    |
| 17   | 214   | 2    | 41  | 183   | 2    | 65   | 122   | 4    | 89  | 9     | 2    |
| 18   | 212   | 2    | 42  | 181   | 2    | 66   | 118   | 4    | 90  | 7     | 2    |
| 19   | 210   | 2    | 43  | 179   | 2    | 67   | 114   | 4    | 91  | 5     | 1    |
| 20   | 208   | 1    | 44  | 177   | 2    | 68   | 110   | 5    | 92  | 4     | 1    |
| 21   | 207   | 1    | 45  | 175   | 2    | 69   | 105   | 5    | 93  | 3     | 1    |
| 22   | 206   | 1    | 46  | 173   | 2    | 70   | 100   | 6    | 94  | 2     | 1    |
| 23   | 205   | 1    | 47  | 171   | 2    | 71   | 94    | 6    | 95  | 1     | 1    |

By this Table, the number of inhabitants is to that of births or burials, as 14040—140 is to 280, that is as 49.64 is to 1. And the expectation of life, by the above Table, is as follows:

| Age. | Expec. | Age. | Expec. | Age. | Expec. | Age. | Expec. |
|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| 0    | 49.64  | 25   | 41.14  | 50   | 22.26  | 75   | 7.16   |
| 5    | 54.69  | 30   | 37.11  | 55   | 18.54  | 80   | 6.20   |
| 10   | 51.57  | 35   | 33.01  | 60   | 14.98  | 85   | 4.12   |
| 15   | 47.90  | 40   | 29.31  | 65   | 12.03  | 90   | 2.64   |
| 20   | 45.09  | 45   | 25.85  | 70   | 9.10   | 95   | 0.50   |

The

The most valuable age by this table, is that of 2 years old, whose expectations of life, is  $56\frac{1}{2}$  years, which is exceedingly high, and can only be applied to a country district in Scotland.

The above table of the probabilities of life is a striking evidence, that English or foreign tables of observations do not correspond with Scottish lives;—seeing by these, the expectation of infancy does not exceed 25, or at most 28 years, whereas here, it wants but a trifle of 50. And if the value of life, were computed by the above table, at a given rate of interest, the difference would also be considerable, which would still increase, did the practice of inoculation every where prevail. Hence, a table of equal decrements, constructed upon the supposition, that 91 was the utmost extent of human life, would be better adapted to Scottish lives, than M. de Moivre's hypothesis, wherein that extent is fixed at 86 years.

It may be here observed, that if we had tables of observation, adapted to the several counties in Scotland, it would be easy to find the number of inhabitants, from the amount of births and burials. Thus, where they are equal, either of them multiplied by an infant's expectation, call it, for instance, 40, will produce the population. But where there is a difference, which is generally the case, the half of their sum, multiplied by an infant's expectation, adapted to the particular district, will give the number of the people. It would be very desirable therefore, to have extracts from the registers of all the parishes in Scotland, where exact accounts are kept of the ages of the deceased, for the purpose of drawing up complete tables of the probabilities of lives, calculated for Scotland.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XXXVI.

## PARISH OF COLLESSIE.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. ANDREW WALKER.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

**B**OTH the ancient, and the modern name of this parish, as far as it can now be ascertained, is Collessie, derived, it is supposed, from the Gaelic: in which language, *Col* is said to signify the *bottom*, and *lessie*, a *den*; and the village, indeed, is situated at the bottom of a den.——It lies in the presbytery of Cupar, and in the synod and county of Fife. Its length is about 8 English miles, and its breadth about 5.—The south side of the parish is remarkably flat; and there is scarcely a stone, great or small, to be seen in it. The north-west side is somewhat hilly. The arable part is extremely fertile. The air is in general healthy. The most prevailing distemper, 50 or 60 years ago, was the ague. It now visits us but seldom, since the late improvements by draining, &c.

*River, Loch, &c.*—The Eden runs about 3, miles along the south side of the parish, from west to east. Thence it proceeds to Cupar, and empties itself into the German ocean,  
near

near St Andrews. It abounds with fine trout. In seed-time and harvest, it used to overflow its banks, and to do considerable damage. But, about 5 years ago, its course was made straight; in consequence of which, it flows without interruption, and the adjacent grounds have become quite secure. A large loch, on the south-west side of the parish was drained, *anno* 1749. It contains upwards of 300 acres, which produces a considerable quantity of natural hay, and pastures, during the summer season, above 120 head of cattle. In winter, however, it has still the appearance of a loch, and is frequented by a great variety of wild fowl, swans, &c.

*Population.*—The number of souls, as reported to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 989. After a very exact survey this year, (1791) they were found to amount to 949. The decrease is owing to the junction of farms, and to the number of cot houses which have been suffered to fall into decay. In the principal village, called Kinloch, there are 191 souls. For these last ten years, ending 1790, the average of marriages is 6, of births, 17, and of burials, 11½. The register, however, is not perfectly exact; clandestine marriages often taking place, and many of the Seceders give no information, to the session clerk, of the births of their children.

*Longevity.*—In the village of Colleshie, there is a very old man, (Thomas Garrick) who, from the best information that can be got, is in the 108th year of his age. He has resided many years in this parish, but was born in Perth shire. He was a soldier, in the Duke of Argyle's regiment, in the year 1715. For nearly 20 years past, he has never been known confined to his bed by sickness, for a single day. He is of a short stature, thin make, wears his own hair, and has been for some years past much afflicted with deafness. But, on the

whole, he is still very healthy, and, in a summer day, will walk two miles from his own home, and back again. About 9 years ago he married his third wife, a woman of 45; but he still keeps the whole house under proper subjection. He is principally supported out of the public funds. Other instances of longevity are not wanting in this district. There are a few above 80, and 1 or 2 upwards of 90 years of age.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The living, when grain sells well, may be valued at L. 100 *per annum*, including the glebe. Mr Johnston of Lathrisk is patron, and one of the principal heritors. There are many dissenters, of every denomination in the parish; but by far the greatest number adhere to the established church.

*Antiquities.*—Not far from the village of Colleslie, to the west, there are the remains of two castles, or fortifications. The one is situated in a wet, and marshy spot. Upon the west side of it, there is an earthen mound, of a circular form, about an English mile in length, and about 30 feet high, above the level of the ground in the neighbourhood. Some say, that it was a place of observation; and there is indeed a very good view from it. Others imagine, that the mound was constructed by an enemy for the purpose of damming up the stream that comes from Colleslie den, in order to force the castle to surrender. This stream runs, at present, through the middle of the mound, at a place called Gadding; so named, from the water bursting through it. About 8 years ago, an urn was found, near the mound, containing some human bones, all of which seemed to have been burnt. — The other fortification is called the *Maiden Castle*. The tradition concerning it, is, that during the time of the siege, the governor died, and his daughter, concealing his death, gave the necessary orders

ders in his name, and thus made the castle hold out, until the enemy raised the siege.——In the middle of this ruin, there are two stones fixed in the ground, (covering, it is supposed, human bones,) but of no very remarkable size.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*——The number of the greater heritors, is 12; of whom 6 reside in the parish. There are also a number of feuers, or smaller proprietors.——There are no turnpikes; but the roads and bridges, in general, are in good repair. The rent of the best arable land is, at an average, between 30 and 40s. the acre; the next best about 20s.——The number of ploughs may be about 60.——There are only 3 flocks of sheep, the largest of which belongs to Lord Leven.——A considerable part of the parish is inclosed, and inclosures are going forward.——The common fuel is coals, brought about 6½ miles from Balbirnie, or Balgonie.——The schoolmaster's salary is about L. 8 Sterling, with a dwelling house, school house, and a small garden; and the dues paid him by his scholars, who, at an average, are about 40 in number. The poor who get supplies, either stately or occasionally, are about 10. The only funds, for their relief, are, the collections at the church doors, amounting, at an average, to L. 11. or L. 12 yearly, and a mortification from the Rossie family of a boll of meal *per annum*.——Upon the prospect of a war, many of our young men have shewn themselves ready to serve their country, both by sea and land. None have been under the necessity of emigrating from this parish, for want of employment, and none have died of want.

## NUMBER XXXVII.

## PARISH OF DENNY.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

*B* *the* Rev. MR. THOMAS FERGUS.*Name, Situation, &c.*

THE origin of the name of Denny is unknown.—The parish lies in the county and presbytery of Stirling, and synod of Perth and Stirling.—It is about 4 miles in length, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth.—The soil, about the town, or village of Denny, and indeed throughout the greater part of the parish, is dry and sandy; but in some places, it is wet, and has a good deal of clay in it.—The air is reckoned pure and healthy, and many of the people attain a good old age. Some, however, are much troubled with rheumatic complaints; and fevers frequently prevail, and are often fatal.

*Proprietors, Agriculture, &c.*—A fourth part of the parish belongs to one great proprietor, and another has a considerable share of it. The rest is the property of about 100 smaller heritors, feuars, or portioners; many of whom cultivate their own lands.—Of late years, the farmers make use of a good deal of lime, which they chiefly bring from the parish of Cumbernauld, and some from the parish of Dunipace.

—Oats.

—Oats are the grain usually sown, with some bear and pease, but no wheat. A good many potatoes, a quantity of flax, and some clover and rye-grass, are also raised.

*Population.*—The population of the parish of Denny, in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, was 1392 souls. The number is now reckoned about 1400. There are, at an average, 60 births, 20 burials, and more than 12 marriages each year.

*Church, &c.*—The Crown is patron.—The stipend is 80 bolls in meal, and L. 38 sterling, in money. The church, manse, and offices, are not in good repair.—After the Secession began, more than one half of the inhabitants, at that time, became Seceders of the Antiburgher persuasion; and they have had, for upwards of 40 years, a meeting-house, at Loan-head, about 2 miles south from Denny. More than a third part of the people are still Seceders, of one denomination or another. A few are Cameronians. There are no Papists nor Episcopalians.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no begging poor, belonging to the parish, but there are a number of house-keepers in indigent circumstances, who receive occasional supplies from the collections, made at the church-doors, on Sunday.—The men are almost all engaged in husbandry, and the women generally in spinning.—A number of boys and girls are employed at a print-field, and cotton manufactory, in the neighbouring parish of Dunipace. A large tract of land here, is called Temple-Denny, which formerly belonged, it is said, to the Knights Templars, so famous for their crusades against the Saracens.—The roads, through this district, in general, are in good repair.—There is abundance of stone for building;



building; and coals are got in quantities, sufficient not only to supply the inhabitants, but also a good part of the neighbourhood.——The Carron, which divides this parish from that of Dunipace, furnishes us with some trout.—The great canal, between the Forth and the Clyde, which runs along the southern part of the parish, is also, in many respects, of great benefit to the people.

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER XXXVIII.

## PARISH OF BURNTISLAND.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES WEMYSS.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**I**T is difficult to ascertain the origin of the name. The traditional story is, that it arose from the burning of a few fishermen's huts, upon a small island on the west side of the harbour, which induced them to take up their residence, where the town now stands. Originally, however, the parish was designed Kinghorn-wester. It is situated in the county of Fife, on the firth of Forth, north and by west, from Leith, about 6 miles. It is in the presbytery of Kirkaldy, the synod and county of Fife. From east to west it may extend about 3 miles, and nearly as far from south to north.

*Town and Climate.*—The town of Burntisland is pleasantly situated, upon a peninsula, surrounded by hills to the north, in the form of an amphitheatre. They lie at the distance of about half a mile, and happily occasion much warmth and shelter. The climate is very healthful. The air, dry and clear, rather sharp. Many of the inhabitants live to a good old age. They enjoy the benefit of fine dry walks of great extent, and  
can

can go abroad at all seasons, when it is fair. To those who are fond of the healthful and manly diversion of the golf, there is adjoining, one of the finest pieces of links, of its size, in Scotland. A great part of it is like velvet, with all the variety of hazards, necessary to employ the different clubs, used by the nicest players. A golfing club was instituted lately, by the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood.

Burntisland was constituted a royal burgh, by King James VI. The government of it is vested in 21 persons, of whom 14 are termed Guild-counsellors, consisting of merchants, tradesmen, skippers, seamen, and land labourers; of whom 3 are chosen yearly at Michaelmas, by the old and new council, to be bailies; the other 7 are trades-counsellors, being one of each trade. There is also a provost chosen yearly at Michaelmas. If he is a nobleman, he is a supernumerary; but if a burgher, he is included in the above number.

It appears, at some former period to have been fortified. On the south-east side of the harbour, part of the walls of a fort is still standing entire. And on the top of a small hill, immediately to the north of the town, there are to be seen, the remains of a trench. It is also said, that when Cromwell had an army in this country, it held out against him, till he was obliged to enter into a compromise, with the inhabitants, on certain conditions: part of which were, that he should repair the streets and the harbour. In consequence of this, the quays, as they presently stand, were built by him, and the streets have never been mended since, which their present state too clearly proves. There is, however, every reason to hope, that they will soon be put into better condition, as the gentlemen of the county have lately proposed, to make the public ferry from Burntisland to Leith, or rather to Newhaven, where it is intended, to build a pier, in order to secure a passage for travellers, at any time of tide.

*Trade*

*Trade*.—Before the union, the trade of this place seems to have been very considerable. A number of ships belonged to it. Large quantities of malt were made, and exported to England, and the north, which yielded great profits. Many of the shipmasters, and inhabitants appear to have been wealthy. But since that period, little business of any kind has been done, till within these few years, when trade has again begun to revive a little. Some branches of manufactures have been established. There is, at present, a sugar house, belonging to a Glasgow company, in a very thriving condition; and a vitriol work, upon a small scale, but, having lately become the property of some gentlemen of much industry and spirit, it is to be extended, and will most likely do well.—An attempt was also recently made, to establish a silk manufactory. This, however, did not answer the wishes of the projectors; which, perhaps, was more owing to the want of capital, and some other causes, than to the badness of the trade, or any thing unfavourable in the situation of the place. Ship-building is carried on by a few hands, and might be increased to any extent.—It is much to be regretted, that manufactures are not established here. Indeed, it is rather surprising they have not, as the town is doubtless equally, if not more, favourable, for these, than many others on the coast of Fife, where they are carried on to a great extent. No place can be better situated for export and import; houses are low rented; fuel is reasonable; coals may be had both by sea and land; 18 stone, heavy weight, from 1s. to 1s 3d. Many hands could easily be had, from among the young and the poor, particularly for the cotton branch, who are, in a great measure, lost, for want of employment.—And though the water in the town is mostly hard, yet there are some wells of it soft; and, in the neighbourhood, there is a considerable run of soft water, with many copious springs, along the foot of the hills, by which bleaching might be carried

ed on. Besides, the manufacturers will now have the benefit of good roads, and carriers to all parts of the country.

*The Harbour.*—What next merits particular notice, in this place, is, the harbour, which certainly is one of the best in Scotland. By way of excellence it is called, in some of the town's charters, *Portus Gratia* and *Portus Salutis*. It is here, that ships generally take shelter, when driven up by storms, and hard gales of easterly wind. It is easily entered, and affords the greatest safety, let the wind blow from any quarter. It is very capacious, and of great depth of water. The *Champion* frigate came lately in, with all her stores, and got as conveniently cleaned, as in a dock. Much improvement might still be made upon it. Were the quays extended, (which could easily be done at no great expence) small ships could come in, and go out, at any time of tide. In the opinion of professional men, docks ought to be established here, capable of receiving the largest ships of war. (This is surely an object, well deserving the attention of government. It might be done at a small expence. And, in the event of our ever being at war, with our northern neighbours, would be a vast saving and conveniency; as the ships that happened to want cleaning and repair, would not need to return to England for that purpose; which they must always do at present. Even for the ships that are stationed in this Firth, and such as may occasionally come into it, an establishment of this kind would be a great saving of time and money. Here too, houses and yards for the King's stores might be had, much more conveniently, and at far less expence, than at Leith. They could be had at the very entrance of the harbour, or along the quays. And as the houses would be cheap, and the access easy, an annual saving of some hundreds of pounds might reasonably be expected. There is another thing, respecting this harbour, which deserves

to be pointed out to Government, and may at least merit their consideration. It is this; that it might be made one of the safest and most convenient *watering-places* possible, for his Majesty's ships in this Firth. At no great expence, a run of the finest water might be introduced, by a pipe, and carried to any of the quays, thought most proper, where the king's boats might receive it, without the least trouble or danger. This may be thought the more worthy of notice, as, it is well known, that the present mode of watering the King's ships, either by going to Leith, or Harly burn, a place on the north shore, about a mile to the westward of Burntisland, is often attended with danger, and sometimes with loss. And, it is to be hoped, it would be no small inducement to adopt this plan, were it to be properly stated to Government, that the same pipe, that supplied his Majesty's ships, could easily furnish the town of Burntisland, with soft water, of which it stands much in need. It would be just, or at least, it would be generous, to accommodate a place, at present unable to help itself; a place, especially, that, upon every occasion, has furnished a very large proportion of brave men, for the navy; and, where many of the lame, and the wounded, and many of the widows and the fatherless, of those who have suffered in the service of their country, now reside.

It is surprising, that the advantages of this harbour, should have so long been overlooked by the public; and no less so, that, in the present enterprising mercantile age, they have not been laid hold of, and improved. It is doubtless equal, if not preferable to any in Scotland, for dry docks. Its vicinity to Edinburgh, the capital of the kingdom, and its ready access, by sea, to every quarter of the globe, certainly renders it eligible for every sort of mercantile pursuit.

*Shores.*—To the westward of the town, towards Aberdour,  
the

the shore is all rocky; and, from a quarter of a mile eastward, it is all sandy, till it joins the Pettycur harbour, near Kinghorn. Opposite this sandy beach, the sea has made great in-croachments, within these hundred years, and still continues to gain ground. Near the town, however, the rocks are a perfect defence. From these rocks, there is as much sea weed cut, every two years, as produces about 12 or 15 ton of kelp. After gales of easterly and southerly winds, there frequently come on shore, large quantities of tangles and sea weeds, which are used as manure, and answer well for a season.

It might be mentioned here, how beneficial the rocks and shores are to the inhabitants of this place, particularly the poor, from the large quantities of shell-fish, that may be gathered, of one kind or another, at all seasons; especially cockles, which abound in the extensive sands between Burntisland and Kinghorn. A boy or girl may gather to the value, perhaps, of 3d. or 4d. in a few hours. Excellent oysters are also to be had near the town. The bed belongs partly to the borough, and partly to the Earl of Morton.

*Hills.*—The most remarkable hill, is that which lies about half a mile north of the town. It is very steep, and elevated between 500 and 600 feet above the level of the sea. It yields most excellent pasture in any season; is well watered and sheltered, and withal, very extensive. It would make one of the finest inclosures in Scotland, particularly for sheep. From its appearance, one would almost be induced to believe, it had undergone some violent commotion, and that the rocks on each end were incrustated with some thing like volcanic matter.

In the same line, to the eastward, there is another very high hill, called Lunearn, remarkable for having a small loch, or lake,

lake, upon its top, which never dries in any season. On the north side it is very steep and rugged;—the appearance frightful, from the projection of the stones, and the immense number that have tumbled down. The stones, of which this hill is composed, seem to be of the Basaltic kind. They are mostly of a regular figure, stand upon end, and are generally from 2 to 4 feet long: All this makes it probable, that it has once been the seat of a volcano, and the loch might be the crater.——There is also, on the very summit of this hill, a flat piece of ground, surrounded with an immense number of loose stones, called Agricola's camp, or garrison. The stones appear once to have been built, but not with mortar, or cement of any kind. It is highly probable this tradition is true:—If we may believe Tacitus, it is certain, that the Romans explored the north coast of the Forth with their ships. It is no less so, that some of the legions were garrisoned during the winter, near the coast. Dunearn hill, from its situation, would most naturally invite them, to take up their residence on it. Besides, the country from this, all the way to Benartie-hill, near the Lommonds, exactly answers the description which that historian gives of it, in his account of the Roman expedition on the north of Bodotria, i. e. Forth. It was full, he says, of hills, rocks, marshes, woods, and lakes.——A little way to the north-east, is the hill of Orrock, of considerable extent, but not so steep as the two former. It affords also excellent pasture. It is said diamonds have been found on it, and that it produces capillary herbs. There is also a vitriolic spring upon it.——Next to Orrock is the farm of Babie; most of which is hilly and high ground, but yields good crops, both of corn and grass. On these hills of Orrock and Babie, several barrows or tumuli are to be seen, but too large to be easily removed. Some of them have, however,  
been



been dug up, and discovered the bones of those ancient warriors over whom, they had been raised.

With respect to the hills above mentioned, it may be observed, that they are peculiarly adapted for sheep; being verdant the greatest part of the year. The proprietors turn them to good account, by the rearing and feeding of black cattle; but doubtless, turning them into sheep walks, would render them still more beneficial to themselves, and useful to the country. The Bin mostly belongs to Roger Ayton, Esq. of Inch-dairny; Dunearn to Dr Charles Stuart of Edinburgh; Orrock to the Earl of Morton; and Babie to William Ferguson, Esq. of Raith.

*Soil.*——Between the hills and the sea, the soil is mostly very rich, and when properly cultivated, produces excellent crops. The rent is generally from 4 to 4½ bolls of barley, or from L. 3 to L. 3 : 3 an acre. Wheat, barley, and beans, are most cultivated. The grain is of the best quality, from the warmth of the climate, owing to the surrounding hills. The grounds, in the higher part of the parish, are of a much inferior value, as may be supposed, from the lightness of the soil, and their more elevated situation: Notwithstanding which, they bring a good rent to the proprietor. Few of the tenants have regular tacks, and extensive farms.—They, in general, follow the new mode of farming.—The burdensome and injurious effects, of the feudal, system are totally abolished among them.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*——The place of worship for the parish, was formerly, about half a mile north of the town. The remains of it are still to be seen, with the old manse, and burial yard. It evidently appears to have been originally a Popish chapel, but when built, is not known.

In

In 1592, the parish growing more numerous, and, it may be supposed, the inhabitants of the town, more wealthy, they built a new church within the borough, asking nothing from the heritors but their consent. And, at the same time, as an inducement, granted them proper seats, with certain privileges, taking the whole burden of building and repairing upon themselves. It is a stately square structure, with a pavilion roof; and, with a little more finishing, would be a most handsome place of worship. That it is capacious, will appear from a fact well known in this place, that it once held within its walls, between 3000 and 4000 Hessians, that were lying encamped near the town, in the year 1746.—There is also a meeting-house for the Antiburgher Seceders.

The king is patron.—The stipend consists of 2 chalders of barley, 2 of oats; L. 60 in money, with a manse and glebe; and L. 5 for communion elements. An augmentation was obtained within these 20 years. The free tield is still very considerable.

*Population.*—The number of souls, in the parish, may be about 1100. In the report made to Dr Webster, An. 1755, they are called 1390. The inhabitants of the borough are often shifting. No register of burials has ever been kept.

*State of the Poor.*—The poor, within the borough, are rather numerous. None of them, however, beg. There being no funds, they are supplied by weekly, and extraordinary collections at the church-doors. Such of them, as have their names put on, what is called, the poors roll, get from 6d. to 1s a week. Their support must be small, considering from whence it arises. Most of the heritors are non-residenters, which makes the burden fall heavy upon such as are any way able, or rather well disposed, to relieve the necessities of the poor. Such a  
general

general assessment should certainly take place in this, and in every other parish, as would affect the landlord and his tenant, in some just proportion, according to their ability, whether inclined to be charitable or not, and whether of the established church or dissenters: and, till this takes place, there is little doubt, but that both the uncharitable and the Seceder, will take but small share in the support of the poor.

*Quarries.*—There is a very fine quarry of free stone, a small distance north from the town, on the Grange estate. Most of the new buildings along the coast, to a considerable distance, are furnished with hewn work from that quarry. About a mile to the eastward, and also to the westward, there are inexhaustible quarries of lime stone, which is sent off in great quantities to the works at Carron, and other places. There is also upon the shore, near the town, excellent quarries of hard stone, which is used for oven soles, and chimney grates; as they endure the greatest heat, and will last for many years.—There is also, on the estate of Grange, a sort of marble, which has been wrought, and takes a very fine polish.

*Coal.*—At one period, it is certain, coal has been wrought in this parish; but how, or on what account it was given up, is not now known. Of late, some attempts have been made, by Mr Wemyss of Cuttlehill and others, to find coal; but these have been so feeble, as by no means to be reckoned a sufficient trial. But it is to be hoped, the proprietors will be induced to renew their attempts, with more spirit, and success.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 2 mills close to the town, employed in making flour, meal, and barley. One of them is erected *upon the sea*, which comes into a bay, on the north side of the estate of Rosend. At an average it works the year

year round, about 14 hours each day. On the same water, other profitable works might be erected.—There is also a distillery in the neighbourhood of the town, in high repute for making good whisky. But however profitable this, and other works of the same kind, may be, to the manufacturer, the landlord, and the farmer, there can be little doubt of their being most pernicious to the health, the morals, and the industry of the people at large.—There are, at present 3 large float boats, with a small one, that goes at half tide. They cross every day, when passengers cast up. And when once the quays are extended, as now resolved on, there will be passage at all times, wind and weather serving.—It is also proper to mention, that about 5 years ago, an ingenious foreign gentleman, in his researches about this country, discovered in this parish, a sort of mould, (which appears to be rocks reduced by time to earth); of which he afterwards sent to France two ship loads. He was very tenacious of making any discoveries respecting its quality.—It is now known, however, that the court of France prohibited the importation of it. It is thought this stuff was used either in the porcelain manufactory, or for making crucibles. The ships were loaded from the earth, on the top of a small hill, immediately to the north of the town.

## NUMBER XXXIX.

## PARISH OF SELKIRK.

(COUNTIES OF SELKIRK AND TEVIOTDALE.)

*By the Rev. MR. THOMAS ROBERTSON.**Minister of that Parish.**Name, Antient State, &c.*

THE antient name of this parish is derived from the Celtic. *Scheleckgrech* \*, (since corrupted into Selkirk,) signifies, in that language, the kirk in the wood, or forest; expressing thus, in one word, the situation of the place itself, and the state of the surrounding country.—It is probable, that all the neighbouring districts were formerly one continued forest. It is certain, that the banks of the rivers, by which the country is so happily intersected, were once adorned with woods; amidst which, those plaintive airs were produced, the natural simplicity of which, are the pride of Scotland, and the admiration of strangers.—The forest is now reduced to a state of nakedness. But exertions are now making to remedy this evil, and the muses, it is probable, will be again induced to revisit

\* See Sir James Dalrymple's antiquities, p. 403,

revisit their native groves, which are preparing for their reception\*.

To restore this country, however, to its former state of respectability, as well as beauty, it must be indebted to the proprietors of the soil, for replacing not only the woods, but the inhabitants, which the impolitic practice of adding farm to farm, and the fatal operation of poor-rates, have compelled to leave their native home †. It is painful to see (as in this parish) one person rent a property, on which one hundred inhabitants were reared to the state, and found a comfortable subsistence. It adds to the bleakness of the scene, to see a few shepherds strolling over the face of a country, which formerly, was the nurse of heroes, who were justly accounted the bulwark of their native soil, being ever ready to brave danger and death in its defence. Of this we have a memorable proof, in the pathetic lamentations of their wives and daughters, for the disaster of the field of Flowden, “where their brave forefathers were a’ wed away.”

Here too, the inhabitants of the town of Selkirk who breathed the manly spirit of real freemen, justly merit particu-

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cular

\* The Landholders, in general, are making considerable plantations; and, it is said, the Duke of Buccleugh, in particular, means to reserve, in all his future leases, the banks of the rivers, for planting. If planted with the Swedish maple, the leaves would furnish food in considerable quantities, for their sheep, during the winter season.

† The only additional circumstance tending to the depopulation of this part of the country, is, the dissipation of the lower ranks, which makes them afraid of marriage, and desirous of enjoying the pleasures, without the burdens of matrimony.

cular attention. Of 100 citizens, who followed the fortune of James IV. on the plains of Flowden, a few returned, loaded with the spoils taken from the enemy. Some of these trophies still survive the rust of time, and the effects of negligence\*. The desperate valour of the citizens of Selkirk, which, on that fatal day, was eminently conspicuous to both armies, produced very opposite effects. The implacable resentment of the English reduce their defenceless town to ashes, whilst their grateful sovereign (James V.) shewed his sense of their valour, by a grant of an extensive portion of his forest, the trees for rebuilding their houses†, and the property, as the reward of their heroism ‡.

*Rivers.*

\* A standard, the appearance of which bespeaks its antiquity, is still carried annually, (on the day of riding their Common), before the Corporation of weavers, by a member of which, it was taken from the English, in the field of Flowden.—It may be added, that the sword of William Brydon, the town clerk, who led the citizens to the battle, (and who is said to have been knighted for his valour), is still in the possession of John Brydon, a citizen of Selkirk, his lineal descendant.

† Some have very falsely attributed to this event, that song,  
“Up with the souters of Selkirk, and down with the Earl  
of Hume.”

There was no Earl of Hume at that time, nor was this song composed till long after. It arose from a hett betwixt the Philiphaugh and Hume families; the souters (or shoemakers) of Selkirk against the men of Hume, at a match of football, in which the souters of Selkirk completely gained, and afterwards perpetuated, their victory in that song.

‡ The original grant was of 1000 acres, but of this the surrounding

*Rivers.* — The rivers, Etterick and Yarrow, unite a little above, and terminate in the Tweed, about a mile and a half below, Selkirk. For 5 miles above its junction with the Etterick, the Tweed is still adorned with woods, and leads the pleased imagination to contemplate, what this country must have been, in former times. The Yarrow, for about 5 miles above its junction with Etterick, exhibits nature in a bold and striking aspect. Its native woods still remain, through which, the stream has cut its turbid course, deeply ingulphed amidst rugged rocks. Here, certainly in a flood, stood the descriptive Thomson when he saw it,

“ Work and boil, and foam and thunder thro’.”

*Newark-Castle.* — Upon a peninsula, cut out by the surrounding stream, in the middle of this fantastically wild scene of grandeur and beauty, stands the castle of Newark, whose only inhabitants now are the mopping owl, and chattering daw. — This is supposed by many, to be the birth place of Mary Scot, the flower of Yarrow; but, she was descended from the Dryhope, and married into the Harden family. Her daughter was married to a predecessor of the present Sir Francis Elliot, of Stobbs, and of the late Lord Heathfield\*.

*Pown.*

ing heritors have wrested from the town of Selkirk, much more than the half, by a claim founded upon the right of pasturage. The town still draws a revenue of about L. 250 *per annum*, from the remainder.

\* There is a circumstance, in their contract of marriage, that merits attention, as it strongly marks the predatory spirit of the times. The father-in-law agrees to keep his daughter, for some time after the marriage



*Town.*—The town of Selkirk is pleasantly situated on a rising ground, and enjoys an extensive prospect, in all directions, especially up and down the river Etterick. The soil around it, is dry, and the harvest early. From its open situation, and almost equal distance from both seas, it is less rainy than any other part of this country. By a measure of rain kept accurately for ten years, and compared with one kept at Hawkhill, in the neighbourhood of Leith, for the same time, Selkirk was found to exceed only one half inch yearly\*.—There is no place in this country so free from epidemical diseases; and were the citizens equally supplied with the other comforts of life, as with wholesome air, no town in Scotland would produce a greater number of aged inhabitants. There a good many from 70 to 80, 3 at and above 90, and one died lately at 106.

That Selkirk, though distant from coal, is happily situated for carrying on the woollen trade, Hawick on the one hand, and Gallashiels on the other, clearly demonstrate. But it is a royal burgh, and as such, suffers in all its best interests, and social intercourse. To acquire political power, and not commercial property, is the great object of the principal citizens. There is, however, one exception, a considerable iron manufactory being very successfully carried on, by Baillie William Roger,

marriage, for which the son-in-law binds himself to give him the profits of the first Michaelmas moon.

\* By a regular attention to the pluviometer, barometer and Fahrenheit's thermometer, for ten years, the mean quantity of rain yearly is  $31\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The medium height of the barometer  $29\frac{3}{8}$ . The medium of heat 43 degrees. Nor did the medium of heat differ one degree during these ten years.

Roger, (which regularly employs 50 hands,) and by whose influence, a stocking manufactory is attempted on a small scale. A tannage, too, in the neighbourhood, is the property of one of the inhabitants.

The burgh lands of Selkirk are worth more than L. 1000 *per annum*, and are divided into a great number of small properties. This circumstance, also, tends to damp that spirit for manufactures and commerce, by which the inhabitants of towns are in general distinguished. Such is the rage of the citizens to become lairds, that all their wealth is laid out in purchasing acres or half acres, on which many of them, and the wretched beasts that till them, are half starved. As all the burgh lands, are, in the occupancy of the proprietors, there is none to be rented. A few spots have been got for nurseries, at L. 3. per acre.—The burgh lands fell from L. 40 to L. 70 per acre, English measure.

*State of Agriculture, and of Sheep Farming.*—The lands in this parish are generally hilly, and more adapted to pasture than tillage; but most of the farms have a large portion of low ground, lying towards, and along the sides of the rivers. They have not hitherto been managed to that advantage of which they are very capable. If you ask the farmers, why they plough the faces of their hills, by which they hurt their sheep walk, and derive not from their miserable returns, an equivalent for seed and labour? If you ask them why they cut their ben-ty pastures, the best support of their sheep in the winter frosts? they answer, Because they cannot support their black cattle in winter without these aids, as they can neither raise hay nor turnips. How easily might this evil be remedied, and the value of their farms increased, by drawing a stone dyke along their low grounds, and confining the farmer to a proper management

management of these, as the only arable part of his farm. For example, one-fourth oats, one-fourth turnips, potatoes, &c. one-fourth barley, and one-fourth hay. This rotation will afford every farmer in this parish, abundant support, for his family, his flocks, and his cattle, however severe the winter may be. From what calamities would not this preserve them; we should not then see them when storms arise, driving their starved flocks to the less snowy hills of Annandale; nor purchasing hay at an extravagant price, and carrying it through almost impassable roads to their flocks, when their stomachs are too weak to receive or digest it. The management of flocks begins to be better understood, and the farmers, by putting fewer upon the same ground, have increased the size of their sheep, lessened the diseases to which they are liable, and improved the quantity and quality of the wool, more than by all the other means, hitherto discovered.

To two diseases, of a very serious nature, the flocks here are still exposed. The one, a fever, to which the hogs or sheep of the first year are so liable in winter, and especially in variable weather, with intermitting frosts, that the farmer reckons himself fortunate, if he loses only three of each score in his hirsle. This disease, (the braxy, as some call it), has been examined, and is found to arise from the withered grass on which the animal then feeds, and the want either of liquid, or muscular motion in the stomach to dissolve it. The consequence is, that the dry and unconcocted food enters the intestines in an impervious state; the obstructions excite an inflammation, a fever and mortification, of which the animal dies. A remedy, has, with success, been attempted. Turnips, from their purgative nature, have been found capable, not only of preventing, but of curing the disease. The tops of  
 dry

firs, however, from their resinous nature, (if such plantations are weeding) will be found still more effectual\*.

The other disease, known only within these 50 years, is of a much more alarming nature, as it affects not only our whole flocks, but the shepherds and their dogs. It is a species of tick, with which our pastures swarm. They begin to appear about the end of March, and retire about the middle of August. Unlike to the other animals of the blood-sucking tribe, which fall off when full, these seldom let go the hold, till, if their number is sufficient, they drain the whole blood in the body of their suffering victim. Numbers of sheep, of all ages, but especially the young, die of this disease. The sheep too, that survive it, pestered with these vermin, feed not to the condition or value they otherwise would. Burning the bent pastures where they breed in the spring, is found to lessen the evil; but no means are yet discovered by which it can be eradicated. An experiment was tried, last year, by a farmer in this parish, who anointed the bare part of the thigh of six of the most diseased lambs in his flock with mercurial ointment; and the shepherd, who was to observe the consequence, declared, that the following day he carefully examined them, and found not a single tick upon one of them: and being further desired to watch if they remained clean, declared they did.—Should this remedy prove effectual, it will cost only a halfpenny per sheep\*.

It is an universal practice in this place, to salve, or smear  
VOL. II 3 K the

\* It is probable that salt would answer the same purpose.

† A mercurial preparation, or one made up with arsenic, or even any decoction made from tobacco, or, the common broom, will kill these vermin when on the skin. In the pasture, liming, or watering, will answer the purpose effectually.

the sheep with a composition of butter or tar, which, though it spoils the colour, yet is said to improve the quality, and to increase the quantity of the wool. It saves the flocks also, from the influence of the winter rains, from scab and vermin of every kind, except the tick.

The quantity of tar, used in smearing the sheep, varies according to the height of the sheep walk, and the want of shelter. In the low parts of the country, they do not use one half of the quantity, that is necessary in the high lands; which is from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 lb. of butter to each Scots pint of tar.

The farms here are never valued according to the quantity of acres, but the quantity of sheep they will maintain; and the pasture of these, according to their size, and the soundness of the ground, is valued at from 1s 6d. to 3s. per head.—The grounds on the east side of the Etterick are all green, and may be called downs, rather than hills; those betwixt Etterick and Tweed are heathy and high; the Peat-law, and Three Brethren, in particular, two of these hills, are, the first 1964, and the last 1978 feet above the level of the sea, and from 1604 to 1618 above the bed of the river at Selkirk.

*Markets*—This place is well supplied with excellent lamb after the 20th of May, and high-flavoured mutton, from the 20th of June to Martinmas; and, if the winter is mild, to Christmas. The veal is not good, but the farmers, who are in the habit of buying Highland cattle, and feeding them for a year, supply the market with very fine small beeves, and make a very good rent, as they buy from L. 3 : 10, to L. 4, and sell from L. 6 : 10 to L. 7.—A few of the farms that are inclosed, have raised as fine turnips, and exhibit as good a breed of cattle, as are to be met with any where. One farmer, this season, fed his 3 year olds, from 50 to 60 stone,  
and

and from 3 to 6 stone of tallow, and sold them from L. 16 to L. 17.

*General State.*—The number of sheep in this parish are computed to be 22000: horses, 265, of which two thirds are farm horses; black cattle, 735. Valued rent, L. 15826 Scots. Real rental, L. 4223 sterling. Country heritors, 17; burghage heritors, 91; farmers, 26. The stipend 100 guineas, *per annum*, with a manse and a glebe. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron.——The parish, exclusive of the lands of Todridge, which are detached, and at a considerable distance, may be about 10 miles square.

*Population.*—The number of examinable persons, about 50 years ago, is said to have been 1700. The number of souls, as reported to Dr Webster, for the year 1755, was 1793. By an exact survey, lately made, the number of all ages, now existing, amounts to nearly 700, in the country, and 1000 in the burgh\*. There is in Selkirk, a meeting of Burgher Seceders, the only one in the country. What their number may be in Selkirk parish is not accurately known; but it cannot be considerable. There are no Roman catholics. The medium number of births, deaths, and marriages, for the last 3 years, were calculated, and found to be, births, 43; deaths, 35; marriages, 19, annually.

*The Poor.*—Poors-rates have long been established here, to the great prejudice of industry and virtue, among the lower class of citizens. “The parish is bound to support us,” is their

\* Any decrease of population is entirely in the country part of the parish, as the numbers in the burgh, have, for more than a century, been nearly the same.

their apology for dissipation, through every period of life.— The young men receive, *per annum*, from L. 6 to L. 8 of wages, and the young women, from L. 3 : 10 to L. 4 : 10, with their maintenance. Labourers, 1s in summer, 1s 2d. in harvest, and 10d in winter, per day. Women from 6d. to 8d. in summer, and 1s in harvest. This, however, is inadequate to their expences, when they are in health, and makes them a constant burden upon the public, whenever any misfortune happens to them. Such a mode of living is but a miserable preparation for the cares of matrimony, and the burden of a family. In that state, the rustic beau sinks into a peevish and complaining churl. The gaily attired shepherdes becomes a prey to stupid insensibility and sloth, equally indifferent about her person and her household affairs; and the virtue of both, if it hath withstood the attacks of youthful dissipation, is again subjected to the dangers, which arise from the restless calls of pinching poverty, and the cries of starving infants.— The extinction of small farms, which has barred their ambition, and damped any spirit of oeconomy, is here attended with fatal effects; whilst their unfortunate dependance upon the poors funds, makes them less disposed to industrious exertion. This, too, dissolves the ties of natural affection, while it multiplies the number, and increases the necessities of the poor. If the children suffer from the want of economy and virtue in their parents, the parents are abundantly repaid by the neglect of their children, when bending under the double load of infirmity and indigence. They will tell you, without a blush, that the parish is better able to support their aged parents, than they are; while you will see them, at the same time, in the prime of life, unclogged with families, indulging themselves in every species of debauchery common to that rank of life. But the mischief ends not with them; many who fill higher stations, and whose circumstances are not  
 only

only easy but affluent, make their contributing to the poors funds an excuse for throwing their near relations a burden upon the public. While the feelings of nature are thus stifled, and its laws are thus transgressed, it were devoutly to be wished, that the laws respecting the poor, productive of so many baneful consequences, would provide this equitable antidote: "that all who are in circumstances, and who, by law, would succeed to the property of any one, were they rich, should be obliged to maintain them when poor." The public, as it is only the last heir, ought to be only the last resort, of those who have none else to support them. From these observations, it would appear, that poors-rates, without a system of management not yet practised in the country parishes, is unfriendly to the cause of virtue in general, and to the best interests of those they are intended to serve.—It is an undoubted fact, that, when people are taught to depend upon any means of support, which flow not from their own laudable industry and economy, the meanness of the thought degrades every virtue, and opens the door to every vice, that can debase the soul. Their only dependance ought to be upon their own labour and exertions, which, when joined to economy, will always furnish them with the means of a decent maintainance. Promoting their industry is the best provision that can be made for them. Premiums are chearfully given for the encouragement of commerce: Might not the same means be employed, for promoting virtue and industry in humble life? A very small sum, properly laid out for that purpose, would do more good, than all that is bestowed on the present system. With what honourable pride would not the poor man's heart swell, and with what renewed vigour and alacrity, would he not discharge the duties of his station, when he felt his virtues publicly regarded, and rewarded by his fellow citizens? With what shame and remorse, would not the profligate wretch endeavour to conceal



conceal his misery, despised and condemned by those among whom he lived, and without any just claim to their assistance? Even during the infirmities of age, their support should be a voluntary gift, and not compulsory; and should depend upon the character they maintained, in their early days, for their honesty and virtue.

The number of the poor, though gradually increasing, constantly varies. There were, upon the roll of last year, in the country part of the parish, 20; and the annual sum provided for their relief, was L. 54:12. In the burgh, the number was 22, the sum provided was L. 60.

The collections, at the church-door, are dedicated to the relief of incidental misfortunes, among those who have no share in the fund above mentioned, or who happen to fall into circumstances of peculiar distress, between the meetings of the managers. By these means, many are prevented from coming upon the funds, to which, on every occasion, they discover a strong propensity, and which it is not always easy to hinder.

All the money mortified to the poor of this parish, is 200 merks, the donation of William Ogilvie, Esq. of Hartwoodmires; of which, the kirk-session are managers.

*Scarcity in 1782.*—The parish produces much more grain, (wheat excepted) than is sufficient for the support of the inhabitants.—In 1782, however, the crop was very deficient, and the poor were reduced to very great distress. To increase the poor's funds proportionally was a dangerous experiment, and could only extend to such as were upon the roll. To relieve the necessities of all the indigent, by donation in meal or money, was impossible. A scheme, much more effectual than either, was adopted by the town of Selkirk:—They put L. 50 into the hands of a citizen well acquainted with the state of  
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the country, and the victual trade, with power to purchase meal, wherever he found it of the best quality, and most reasonable, and to retail it at prime cost, among the parishioners. By these means all were regularly supplied, below the retail price, till that was reduced from 2s 10d. to 2s 2d. per stone. By this plan, the town lost only the interest of the L. 50, and 1s per day to their agent, while they did a more essential service to the whole inhabitants of the parish, than if 100 guineas had been distributed amongst them. Even the poor of other parishes, when meal was not elsewhere to be had, were permitted to share in the advantages of this plan.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The rivers, fields, and woods, in the neighbourhood, abound with all the fish, game, birds of song, of prey, and of the migratory species, common in the southern parts of Scotland. Among the multitude of sparrows, bred in the thatched roofs of the houses in Selkirk, one appeared, some years ago, perfectly white. It was more slender and more beautiful in its appearance, than the common sparrows, and, in some respects, resembled a canary bird; but was of a purer and more glossy white.——There is at Haining-Lin, in the neighbourhood of Selkirk, a spring of steel water; from which, though it is but weak, the poor of a scorbutic or schrophulous habit, derive advantage.——The only fossil, that merits attention in this place, is, an inexhaustible fund of shell marle. It produces wonderful effects upon light and dry soils; but its utility to the country in general, must depend upon the discretion with which it used, and the terms at which it can be purchased.——In this parish there remain no monuments of antiquity, but some military stations, and a fosse perfectly visible on both sides of the Yarrow, which was the western defence of Montrose's camp, before the battle of Philiphaugh. It was probably thrown up,

to prevent any surprize from the Harehead wood, to which it is very near, and runs almost parallel.—— Some skulls of the urus\*, and a Roman spear, with which these animals were destroyed, were found lately, in a moss, near to Selkirk, and presented to the society of antiquaries.—— One of the most distinguished characters, which this, or any parish in Scotland, has given birth to, in modern times, was Andrew Pringle, Lord Alemoor, whose amiable manners, learning, and eloquence, rendered him equally the object of admiration, as the friend, the scholar, and the judge. Destined by nature, to fill the highest departments in the state, with honour to himself, and advantage to his country; although his bodily infirmities damped these prospects when full in view, and withheld from the public the great services for which his abilities were formed, yet they robbed him not of gaiety of mind, suavity of manners, philanthropy, and public spirit, till they laid him, (much lamented by his friends and country), in an untimely grave.

\* For the description of this animal, and the honorary rewards conferred on those who distinguished themselves in destroying them, see Cæsar's Commentaries, lib. vi. chap. 5.

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF FORTINGAL.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. DUNCAN M'ARA.

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

**F**ORTINGAL, it is thought, derives its name from a Roman camp, at the west end of the district. A late historian, and some others, have thought, that Agricola fought with the Caledonians on that spot; but this does not seem probable; as he would have been necessarily exposed to infinite danger, in marching through woods, and numerous defiles, before he could have reached that place. The encampment itself, however, might give rise to the name, as *Feart-nin-gal*, in the Gaelic, signifies, the works or exploits of strangers.

To Fortingal, is joined another parochial district, called Kilchonan. Both lie in the middle of the Grampian hills.—This parish, composed of these two, is the farthest to the north-west of the county of Perth, and the most Highland parish in Perthshire. It lies within the synod of Perth and Stirling, and presbytery of Dunkeld. Its boundaries may be seen in Stobie's map of Perthshire. Its length will be full 37 miles; its mean breadth about 17.—It consists of the following districts; Fortingal, Glenlyon, and Ranoch; be-

sides an estate of 16 ploughs, containing 8 villages, situated south of Tay-bridge, 8 miles distant from the manse and church.

The district of Fortingal, including lands that run in a line with it, which are in the parish, is near 5 miles in length. The river Lyon runs through the bottom, which is not above half a mile in breadth; but the hills are in tillage pretty high up. It is a fertile beautiful bottom. The soil is dry, light, and rather gravelly. Woods and clumps of trees are in abundance, and have a fine effect. There are 26 villages, or little towns in it.

From the west point of it, the road leads to Glenlyon;—an exceeding long narrow glen;—in tillage, and inhabited for 28 miles westward. The plain, by the side of the river, is generally not above a gun-shot over. There is a continued ridge of some of the highest mountains in the kingdom, on both sides of this glen. Many of the villages have not any sunshine, for 3 or 4 months in winter.—The grazings and shealings, belonging to the country, extend 8 miles farther westward: and there some shepherds reside even in winter. The hills are green, almost half way up, and afford excellent pasture.—The air, in two-thirds of this country, is somewhat chilly, but abundantly dry and healthy. In the braes it is moist and cold. The soil below, is of the same quality with that in Fortingal. The productions of both, however, ripen as early as those of any other part of the county. In the head of the district, the soil is good, but the climate bad.—The crop seldom comes to any kind of perfection. There are 28 villages here, all in a line, belonging to the parish.

From the eastmost corner of Fortingal, the road leads to Ranoch, the nearest village of which, is 11 miles distant from this place. This county, from near Tumble bridge, where it begins, is 21 miles in length; the bottom about a

mile in breadth. The grazings, north and north-west, extend 7 or 8 miles, still further beyond the inhabited part of the country. It is highly elevated; the air is uncommonly moist, damp, and cold. The soil, at the bottom of the country, is good, intermixed with moss and clay, but dirty. The soil, on both sides of the loch, is very indifferent; and, at the head of the country, is exceedingly bad. Mildews often ruin all the crops. There are many large woods of birch, and a pretty extensive fir wood, which grows naturally, and serves all the country round with excellent timber. This is all that remains of that immense forest of fir, which once covered the muirs in this part of the Highlands. Every where the country people dig for roots of fir, in the mosses, both for light and firewood. In Ranoch, there are 32 villages in the parish, and 3 belonging to the parish of Logierait.

*Hills, Lakes, Rivers, &c.* — As to hills, lakes, rivers, and muirs, we have them in abundance. Loch-Ranoch, in the middle of that country, is 12 miles long; Loch-Errack, a part of which is in this parish, is in length 24 miles. They are both about a mile in breadth. Besides these, there are Loch-Lyon, and a number of small lochs, scattered through the muirs; some of them a mile in length. All these are stored with a vast variety of trout, perch, &c. In Ranoch they catch trouts from 1 lb. to 24 lb. weight.

The great rivers are the Lyon, the Errack, and the Gaur. The two latter, when they issue from Loch-Ranoch, are called the Tumble, a river as large as the Tay, where they join. In the Lyon, salmon are caught from the beginning of April, to September, and are sold from 4d. to 6d. a pound.

Thichallin, (which signifies the Maiden's Breast, its form being quite round,) is one of the highest hills in the island. According to one mensuration, its height is 3,564 feet; ac-

ording to another, 3,587 feet above the level of the sea. Some of the hills of Glenlyon, and Bein-Ardlanich, in Rannoch, are not much lower.

There is a fine fountain, issuing from the foot of Thichallin; to which people resort, when they have any gravelly complaint. It is highly diuretic, and carries off sand and small stones, through the urinary passages.

There are several small veins of lead ore, jutting out here and there, in the rocks, behind Fortingal. There is one in Glenlyon, that had been wrought for a short space, about 60 years ago; but it did not answer the expence. Perhaps this was, in some measure, owing, to there being no roads in the country, at that time, (every thing being then carried on horseback), which occasioned too much expence, in transporting the ore, &c.

*Population, Horses, Sheep, &c.*—The number of souls is 3,914. The return to Dr Webster was 3,859. But the present incumbent, who then held the living, sent only the amount of his examination roll. It is not known, whether Dr Webster, as in the case of Largs, (see p. 362,) calculated, from certain data, the number of souls, from the amount of examinable persons reported to him; or whether, he supposed, the number returned contained the whole inhabitants in the parish. There is every reason to believe, that the females are 600 more than the males.—The register of baptisms is neither exact nor complete. There were registered, during the 3 years preceding 1791, as follows; 98,—108,—112: a good many years ago, the number of baptisms was 124. Marriages in these years, were 32,—30,—36. No account at all can be given of the deaths, owing to there being 7 different burial grounds. According to the best information, that can be got, there are 487 children below 5, and 447 between 5 and 10 years of age. It may be added, that fewer children  
die

die in the Highlands, than almost any where, particularly since inoculation has been so universally practised; which it has been, for a good many years back, to the saving of many lives.

In general, the people are pretty long lived. Many are between 80 and 90;—some between 90 and 100; a few live beyond that age. There is, at present, a gentleman, living, and still healthy and strong, aged 103, who attended a funeral the first year of this century, and bore arms under the Marquis of Atholl, the year before the Union. We have also a woman born the same year with him. The present incumbent likewise knew, about 30 years ago, one Donald Cameron, who lived, it was credibly asserted, to the amazing age of 127!

The number of tenants is 354; of crofters 105; of cottagers, 250; of men servants, 152; of maid servants, 289. Among the cottagers are the handy-crafts-men, who serve the country.

The parish is, at least in some districts of it, greatly depopulated, since the year 1754. No less than 105 tenants have been removed, and between 60 and 70 cottagers. The commissioners, upon the lately annexed estates, began this, by letting extensive farms, and others have followed the example. Upon the whole, the population is said to have decreased by some hundreds, since that time. Some, but not many, have emigrated to America. The most of them have gone southward to the towns.

There are no Papists, Seceders, nor Jacobites, although the latter were formerly numerous. There are about a dozen of Episcopalians.

The people here live, a full half of the year, mostly upon potatoes. This root, with a little milk, butter, beef, or mutton, which the tenants commonly have, makes excellent food.

Even



Even the poor, have about half a year's provision from potatoes; which they eat along with a little butter, and the flesh of an old sheep or two, which they kill for that purpose.

The number of horses is 819; of cows, 2310; of sheep, 27,286, or nearly so. The value of a highland cow is from L. 3 to L. 4. Two year old widders sell from 8s. to 10s. three year olds, from 11s to 13s.

*Rent, Heritors, Stipend, &c.*—The rent of this parish, including the gentlemens farms, is full L. 4,660. The stipend, besides glebe and grass, worth about L. 4 a year, is L. 55:11:0 $\frac{1}{2}$ , with allowance of L. 5:11:0 $\frac{1}{2}$  for communion elements. The charge is uncommonly laborious. For two sabbaths, the minister preaches at Fortingal; the third at 13; the fourth at 15; and the fifth at 24 miles distance, in different parts of his parish. At present he has an itinerant minister to assist him.

There are 11 heritors in the parish, 8 of whom reside in it. There has been but little change of property for a century past; only some wadsets turned into feus, or exchanges of feus. The Gaelic is the language that is commonly spoken.

*Poor.*—The poor beg from house to house. Such as are deemed fit objects, have assistance from the funds, according to their necessities. The funds arise from the weekly collections, and from small fines. The amount of the stock at present, is L. 92. Collections are about L. 36 *per annum*. Three different and distant places in the parish, have each their kirk-sessions, and boxes, as they are called. At three different times, when meal was uncommonly scarce, from L. 10 to L. 15. at a time, was expended, to bring meal to the country. This was sold to crofters and tradesmen, at the Perth prices, which to them was a saving of half a crown per boll. The begging

begging poor have a share of every thing the tenants can afford; meal, wool, milk, &c. They go about, twice or thrice a year, lay by a little, then apply to spinning, or some little industry, to procure themselves some of the necessaries, or conveniencies of life. It would be deemed impious to refuse an alms, or a night's quarters to a poor person.— There are a great many beggars from other places. The only grievance, in this respect, is from swarms of tinkers, sailors, and vagrants, from the great towns, who, by dreadful imprecations and threatenings, extort charity, and immediately waste it in drunkenness and riot. These are often guilty of theft, sometimes of robbery.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—Butcher meat is fully as high priced as in the great towns. Cheese, 6s. butter, 12s. the stone; a hen, 6d. 12 eggs, 3d. A servant man's wages are from L. 5 to L. 6. A maid's, from L. 2:10, to L. 3. taylor's, shoemakers, and day labourers, get 6d, carpenters 8d, and masons 14d, besides maintenance.

The general run of farms is, from 4 to 6 acres laboured land. Some few have 12 acres; still fewer have double that quantity. The rent is principally paid for the grass. The whole tenants of the parish are restricted to a certain number of cattle, which they must not exceed. A crofter pays for an acre of ground, and the privilege of keeping a cow and 6 sheep, L. 1:13:4; for 2, double that sum. A tenant, for his 5 or 6 acres, 2 horses, 10 cows, and their followers, 100 sheep and their lambs, pays L. 20, and a little more sometimes. Few of the tenants have a man servant. A village or two, join about a shepherd. The sheep are never housed, the storms never being heavy, owing to the westerly situation.

We have no ale-houses, but ten whisky houses. The consumption of this spirit is not half what it was.

*Schools.*

*Schools*—The Society for propagating Christian Knowledge have erected 4 charity schools in the parish. The salary of their schoolmasters is L. 10. The people, who are distant from these, and the parish school, pay for a boy to teach their children to read and write. We have 6 of these private schools.

*Curiosities, and Miscellaneous Observations.*—Among our curiosities, may be reckoned a yew tree, in the church yard of Fortingal, 52 feet round. An old act of parliament, ordered all the burial grounds in the kingdom, to be planted with yews for bows. This is probably the only remaining one, and an extraordinary tree it is.

The Roman camp, already mentioned, is certainly the farthest inland one, of any that has been hitherto observed. The ditch and rampart are filled up, or broken down, in many places, by the plough. The Prætorium is quite complete: The area within is about 80 acres. The late Lord Breadalbine employed some labourers to dig for antiquities: all they got was three urns. Roman coins have been got in different places, in the country adjacent.

There are a great many forts throughout every district in the parish. They are circular, from 30 to 50 feet diameter, built with immense stones. One would wonder, how they could be moved, without machines. Their height is inconsiderable, not above 5 feet; but a good many of the stones have fallen. They are in view of one another, which would make one think they might be alarm towers. They extend from Dunkeld to Glenorchy, and perhaps farther. There are two much larger, that had outworks \*

Before

\* According to tradition, a battle was fought in Bunrannoch, betwixt

Before the year 1745, Ranoch was in an uncivilized barbarous state, under no check, or restraint of laws. As an evidence of this, one of the principal proprietors, never could be compelled to pay his debts. Two messengers were sent from Perth, to give him a charge of horning. He ordered a dozen of his retainers to bind them across two hand-barrows, and carry them, in this state, to the bridge of Cainachan, at 9 miles distance. His property in particular was a nest of thieves. They laid the whole country, from Stirling to Coupar of Angus, under contribution, obliging the inhabitants to pay them; Black Meal, as it is called, to save their property from being plundered. This was the center of this kind of traffic. In the months of September and October, they gathered to the number of about 300, built temporary huts, drank whisky all the time, settled accounts for stolen cattle, and received balances. Every man then bore arms. It would have required a regiment to have brought a thief from that country. But Government having sent a party of soldiers to reside among them, and a thief having been hung at their doors, they soon felt the necessity of reformation, and they

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betwixt King Robert and Edward's adherents. The place where the latter came down to the country, is called Glen Saffan, "The Englishman's Glen;" the ground where they first fought, is called Innerchadden, "the point where the battle began;" the spot where Robert got the victory, is called, Dailchofnie, "the field of victory." Two miles to the eastward, is a large wood, where King Robert is said to have concealed himself, for some time, after a defeat near the borders of Argleshire. The ground all around is rough, stony and full of precipices. There was but one ford upon the Tumble, for several miles. This was hard by. The hut, where he lodged, is still called, in the Gaelic language, the King's House, the ford, the King's Ford; and the eminence above, the King's Watch Tower.

are now as honest, and as strict a set of people, in these matters, as any in the kingdom.

In the year 1754, the country was almost impassable. There were no roads, nor bridges. Now, by the statute-labour, we have got excellent roads, and 12 bridges. In a few years, we shall have other two, which is all that could be desired. The people contribute cheerfully and liberally to build them, and this preserves many lives.

At the above period, the bulk of the tenants in Rannoch had no such thing as beds. They lay on the ground, with a little heather, or fern, under them, One single blanket was all their bed-cloaths, excepting their body-cloaths. Now they have standing-up beds, and abundance of blankets. At that time, the houses in Rannoch were huts of, what they called, "Stake and Rife." One could not enter but on all fours; and after entering, it was impossible to stand upright. Now there are comfortable houses built of stone. Then the people were miserably dirty, and foul-skinned. Now they are as cleanly; and are clothed as well as their circumstances will admit of. The rents of the parish, at that period, were not much above L. 1500, and the people were starving. Now they pay L.4660 *per annum*, and upwards, and the people have fulness of bread.

It is hardly possible to believe, on how little the Highlanders formerly lived. They bled their cows several times in the year, boiled the blood, eat a little of it like bread, and a most lasting meal it was. The present incumbent has known a poor man, who had a small farm hard by him, by this means, with a boll of meal for every mouth in his family, pass the whole year.

The circumstances, which have occasioned the greater wealth and abundance of the present times, are, the planting of so many potatoes, the advance in the price of cattle and sheep,  
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the greater industry of the people, the stop that has been put to the depredations of thieves, and the people, instead of rearing black cattle, having turned their farms into sheep-walks, which they find much more profitable. These are likewise the causes of the great rise of rent. In 1754, the tenants planted perhaps one lippie or two of potatoes. Now they plant a boll, two bolls, or more. They keep the potatoe ground very clean. The general increase is 12 bolls or more. Few sowed any lintseed at that time. Perhaps there were not two hogsheds sown in the parish. Now there are perhaps 24 hogsheds sown yearly, every tenant and crofter having from one to four lippies. The increase is about one stone from the lippie. The wives and maids spin the flax; the yarn is purchased by dealers, who travel over the country for that purpose, and by whom it is sent to Perth or Glasgow.

The people here marry young. Either owing to the climate, their moderate labour, their temperate living, or other causes, they have an uncommonly numerous offspring. This is the reason, why the Highlands are a nursery, for raising so many useful hands, for the countries below them. It is almost incredible to tell, what swarms leave the country every year, and go to the south for service. Almost all the boys, from 10 to 15, go to tend sheep or cattle, and learn a little English.— Many of them afterwards go into service, or to handicraft employments, and never return. Besides these, crofters, cottagers, and day-labourers, who can earn no bread at home, set out for the great towns to get employment. Our extensive sheep-walks are certainly, in that respect a loss to the public. It is now exceedingly difficult to raise recruits among us. Attachment to chieftains and lairds is dying away. Labour is not such a burden as it was; And what, more than every thing else, makes it difficult to recruit, is, that the people know the security and protection which the law affords them.

No

No manufactures can be established here, owing to the scarcity of meal and fuel. Perhaps it might be more for the public and private advantage, if the people should spin their wool instead of lint, and send it to market in that state. Immense packs of wool are sent away every year to Perth, Stirling, &c. The wool is coarse, owing to the south country breed we have got among us, and sells only from 7s to 8s per stone.

The great grievances, under which this parish labours, are, the largeness of some of the farms, and there being scarce any leases. In regard to the first, it is questionable, whether the great farmers can afford to pay as high rents, as the moderately large ones, as they live in a stile of much greater luxury and expence. As to the second point, no great improvements can be expected; at least on the part of the tenants, whilst the tenure, by which they hold their lands, continues so temporary and precarious.

In regard to the general character of the people, they are as industrious, pious and charitable as any of their neighbours, or perhaps any in the kingdom.

## NUMBER XLI.

PARISHES OF BLAIR-ATHOLL,  
AND STROWAN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES M'LAGAN.

*Origin of the Names.*

THESE parishes commonly go by the name of the united parishes of Blair-Atholl, and Strowan. They consisted formerly of the parishes of Blair-Atholl, Strowan, Lude, and Kilmaveonog. *Blair* (*Blār*) properly signifies a plain clear of woods and other incumbrances; but the Celts, of whom the Gael were a branch, in general, chusing such plains for their fields of battle, *Blār* came at length to signify a battle. *Strowan* (*Sruthain*) signifies streams, so called from the confluence of the Garry and the Erochty at that place. These streams seem to have given that parish its name, and Robertson of Strowan, (in English, Robertson of the Streams), his title. *Kilmaveonog*, signifies the place of worship, or burial place\* of St. Eonog, or Veonog. *Lude*, (*L'oid*)

\* Cella (*Kella*), sancti, or rather sanctæ, Eonog. *Cuil* and *Geal*,



(*Le'aid*) seems to signify declivities, where a plough could bring a furrow only one way. The antient Celtic names of places and things, were generally short descriptions of them, though, in some cases, they also originated from remarkable persons, and accidental circumstances. It is the more necessary to ascertain these derivations *now*, as the country senachies, or historians, who, in general, can best account for these things, are daily growing worse, as labour becomes harder, and more indispensable. No time, therefore, should be lost, in collecting what information yet remains, regarding these particulars, before it is entirely gone, perhaps, never to be recovered.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—These united parishes are situated in the Shire of Perth, in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and the synod of Perth and Stirling. Their extent is upwards of 30 miles in length; and, allowing for the ascents and descents of the hills, above 18 miles in breadth.—Through a large tract of country, the surface and appearances are various. On the summits of the high mountains, the weather has left little else than gravel and stones, covered with moss. This part is called *Creachonn* (*creach-fhonn*), i. e. robbed land, the soil having been blown, or washed away, a good way down the sides. Farther down is heath, *uva ur-si*, the craw-berry plant; on mossy or boggy places, the cloud-berry plant, and on drier ground, the whortle-berry-bush, with coarse grass. Lower down is heath, peat-bog, valleys full

*Ceal*, signifying a sequestered corner, cave, &c. Those, who retired to such a place, were called *cuideach*, plural *cuidich*; which they who spoke, or wrote Latin, turned into *culeus* and *culdei*, altering only the termination.

full of pretty good pasture, and here and there a green spot, with huts upon them; to which the women, children, and herds, retire with the cattle for the summer season. Descending still farther down, the air and the soil generally change for the better; but, in some places, the hills, within sight of the rivers, are stoney and bad. The vestiges of the plough are often seen much higher up, than it goes at present; probably because the wood then, made higher places warmer, and much of the bottom was a thicket. — In the sides of the glens and valleys, the soil is various;—in several places it is thin and light, as it is also in the bottoms, where the rivers once ran; in other places it is good, especially where the veins of limestone run from N. E. to S. W. through the country. In the summer season, the face of the country is green, with corn, grass, and wood. In the bottom of every glen and valley, there is a river, or stream; and in some of them, a loch, or lake. An extensive strath, or valley, lies along the Garry, from the Kirktown of Strowan, for 6 miles downwards; and Strath-tummel runs along the loch of that name, which is 2 miles long. The rest of the parish consists of many glens, along the rivulets, that fall from the mountains, and of rocks, and extensive hills; of which very little more is capable of cultivation.

*Mountains and Hills.*—In these parishes are many considerable mountains; but the most remarkable of them are Beinn-deirg, i. e. the Red Mountain, (so called from a vein of red stone, said to be a kind of granite), which rises 3550 feet above the level of the sea; and Beinn-glo, the highest pinnacle of which, Carn-nan-gour, i. e. the Mountain of Goats, rises 3724 feet above the said level.

Srath-dhrnaidh, in Strath-groy, is one of those roundish green hills, that they call Sioth dhun, i. e. the Hill of Peace;

because on these they made peace, and other contracts of old, They probably reckoned the matters here transacted, the more solemn, too, that they believed the Sighichin, or Fairies, supposed to dwell in those hills, to be witnesses of their transactions\*. These hills were generally natural, but sometimes artificial. The Duni-pacis of Buchanan, (in English, Duni-pace,) is a literal translation of Siath-dhun.

There is also another kind of a steep green hill, in these countries, and in Ireland, called Rath and Rata, from Rath, and Roith, a wheel; because, being generally conical, at least in part, their bases were round like a wheel, or circular. Chieftains and great men had their houses frequently on the tops of such; because they were difficult of access on all sides. These gave names to many places, as, Rata-mhili (Vili) or the Soldier's Rath or Rata, 4 miles above Dunkeld; Lagan-rata, Logyraite; near which, one of our King Roberts had a strong house, above the boat of Tummel. Rothymurchus, Rerath; &c. are from the same root.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The soil of these parishes would be much more productive of corn, grass, and even wood, were the climate but nearly proportionable to it. But sometimes the rains hurt the crops, especially in harvest. Sometimes we have snow too early, or too late; but, what is worst of all, we have much cold, frosty weather, piercing northerly winds, and blasting fogs and hoar-frosts, particularly along the rivers, which either hurt the growth of vegetables, or destroy them after they are grown up. The coldness and sharpness of the air, too, must, in some degree, stint the growth, and render the faces of the people more thin and dry, than otherwise they would be.

The air, in general, is not remarkably moist or dry; nor are the inhabitants greatly subject to any particular distem-

pers,

\* See p. 73.

*Pers.* The small-pox in the natural way, and the measles, are among the most fatal. Fevers are generally brought thither from the low countries; cold, colics, pleuritic fevers, rheumatisms, consumptions, &c. are rather accidental, than necessary consequences of the climate, which is, in general, salubrious. On the other hand, the inhabitants are not remarkable for longevity. Many live to 75; fewer to 80, fewer still to 90, and the instances are very rare of any that approach to 100 years of age. A person, however, died about 3 years ago, who was said to have wanted but little of it. Although the climate be healthy, the body of the people have not, by any means, the conveniencies of life, that are necessary to nurse old age.

*Lochs, Rivers, and Mineral Springs*—There are many lochs, and two considerable rivers, (the Tummel and the Garry,) in the parish. Salmon come up the Tummel to the Fall, which is a little above the confluence of the two rivers.—But the arts that are now practised, by the fishers below, let very few salmon the length of either river; and the steeping of flax, in running waters, hurts the fish of every kind. The rivulets are the Erochty, the Bruir, and the Tilt. The Tummel overflows a deal of ground. The Erochty and Garry are, constantly, tearing their banks, and altering their channels. The Garry destroys a fine plain for 6 miles below Strowan.—There are many chalybeate springs, but none of them famous, or resorted to: indeed, their virtues are not investigated, or attended to.

*Woods*.—There is no extensive wood in the parish, but many small ones. The last century, and the beginning of the present, have destroyed much wood, by fire and otherwise.—Places still bear the name of woods, where there is not a tree to be seen now. The shelter they afforded to wolves, foxes,

• and other vermin, induced people to destroy them ; but they did not know when to stop, and so went too far. The woods are now better looked after. The Dukes of Athol have planted a good deal, and Mr Robertson of Lude some. The prevailing kinds of timber are birch, alder, ash, oak, poplar, and hazle ; the shrubs are willow, broom, bog-gall, heath, &c. Wood thrives very well in this country.

*Game, &c.*—In an extensive forest, and over many other parts of the hills, there are a great number of red deer ; in and near the woods, there are roe-deer ; almost every where there are plenty of hares, and, on the high mountains, white hares, which, in summer, have bluish spots.——In the hills and woods, are foxes, wild cats, pole cats, martins, weasles, and shrew mice : in the waters, otters. We have also two species of the badger.——Of the winged kind, there are, on the tops of the mountains, ptarmagans ; in the hills, grouse ; near the woods, black game, and partridges below. The ravenous birds are, eagles, buzzards, hawks of various kinds, ravens, carion crows, and magpies. The migratory birds are similar to those usual in the Highlands.

*Population.*—In August 1791, there were living in the united parishes, 3120 souls, viz. 1480 males, and 1640 females. Of that number, 758 were under eight years of age. The yearly average of marriages, for the last 10 years, was nearly 26 ; and the yearly average of baptisms, for the same period, was 94. Besides the number above mentioned, there is a considerable number of young people, belonging to the parish, serving in the east and west ; of whom part will probably return, and part will not.

Though it cannot be exactly determined, the probability is, that the number of the people in this parish is diminished,  
owing

owing to several causes. When people of small landed property no longer lived upon the produce of their estates, but followed the example of their wealthier neighbours, in the use of foreign commodities, they contracted debt, sold their estates, and went to push their fortunes elsewhere. When the jurisdiction act took place, and men of landed property could not make their tenants fight their battles, they became less careful of having clever fellows about them, and so began to consider, how they might make the most of that class of men in another way. Then the rents began to be raised, the farms to be enlarged, much land to be taken into the landlord's domain, and the shepherd and his dog to be the inhabitants of farms, that formerly maintained many families; though this last particular is not, as yet, so much the case here, as it is in many other places. In consequence of these changes, some of the tenants are become cottagers; some have removed to towns, to gain a livelihood by labour; and a few have emigrated to America, though that spirit is not become very common here as yet. The return to Dr Webster, however, being only 3257 souls, the decrease has been considerable.

*Number of Proprietors.*—There are at present only eleven heritors, one of whom (the Duke of Athol) possesses at least one half of the parish. Five of these, either occasionally, or constantly, reside in it.

*Tenants.*—The tenants, who hold from a half to a whole merk land, have been reckoned about 240, paying from L. 5 to L. 10 rent; and those who pay from L. 10 to L. 70 only 20. Tradesman (mechanics,) labourers, and cottagers, who have pendicles, may amount to 85, paying from 15s to L. 2 per acre. Only one tenant has a very large tract of arable ground.

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*Number*

*Number of Acres and Rent.* Without a particular measurement, it is impossible to give the exact number of acres in the parish. From the general maps, the sum total is reckoned to be about 130,000 Scots acres; and, of these, not above 4000 are at present under tillage. The valued rent is L. 4204 : 18 : 8. This sum bears a very small proportion to the real rent, which it is not easy to give, because it is constantly rising.

*Number of Horses.* Some think, there may about 1000 horses, large and small, in the parish still. Before the introduction of sheep farms, and the keeping of distinct marches, a number of the common people had small horses in the hills, all the year round, excepting in the time of deep snow, when their owners brought them home, and helped them with fodder. At a certain time of the year, each caught and marked his own, and broke them for his own use, or sold such as were fit for work, except the breeding mares. During the rest of the year, they ranged, where they pleased, through the hills. As they cannot do this any longer, they are almost extirpated, and the price of horses has risen beyond all bounds.

*Number of Sheep and Black Cattle.*—Formerly, almost every tenant had a small number of sheep; at present, many of them have none. There are now, in the parish, a considerable stocks of sheep; two of them belonging to the principal heritors; but the others to sheep farmers. They consist of from 1000 to upwards of 2000 sheep each; which, added to what the tenants have, according to the old method, may amount to upwards of 16,000 sheep in all. The number of black cattle may be from 2000 to 3000. The goats are almost gone.

*Crops.*

*Crops.*—The principal crops are barley, oats, potatoes, and flax, with some pease and rye. In high, wet, and late grounds, they use early oats. The proprietors, and such tenants as have inclosed land, sow turnips, clover, and rye-grass. The seed-time and harvest are rather late, than otherwise, especially in the glens. Grain of all kinds is dearer here, than in the low countries. Some fruit is raised; but the country, in general, is too high and frosty for orchards.

*Imports and Exports.*—The common imports are seed-corn, of the different kinds, meal, and barley for a few stills. The potatoes have considerably lessened the demand for meal. As to foreign articles, they are the same as people of the same rank and abilities import elsewhere. Our exports are a few black cattle, sheep, and linen-yarn. It was this last article which principally brought ready money into the country, to pay the rents. The materials were raised at home; and almost every one had a share in that business. It has already felt the baneful effects of the cotton manufactures, the materials of which are brought from afar, and by which few gain in proportion.

*Church, &c.*—The Duke of Athol is patron. The stipend consists of L. 55 : 17 in money, and glebes that are reckoned worth L. 20;—in all L. 75 : 17 sterling.

*Poor.*—By a gift and mortification of the Marquis of Athol's, dated in 1687, provision was made, in meal and money, for six poor men in the parish; which is now divided among eight men, presented by the Duke, as follows: Six men have each 2 bolls of oat meal, and L. 4 Scots, yearly, and each of the other two has L. 8 : 6 : 8d. Scots. The number of the other poor, who receive alms, is, at an average, about 75.

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The annual amount of the collections at the church-door, mort-cloth (pall) dues, and fines, is, at an average, for seven years, L. 17 : 6 : 1. The poor's funds are rather under L. 200. Sterling. The interest of this sum, and the above collections, are distributed among them, by the session, and as nearly proportioned to their circumstances, as can be done; the largest shares being given to such as are confined to their beds, and it is carried to their houses by the elders. The above sum of near L. 200, consists partly of mortifications; and he who is appointed to one of them, receives whatever the interest of the mortification amounts to. Such of the poor as can travel through the parish, receive less from the funds; because they can gather their subsistence among their neighbours, with whom meal, and other provisions, are more plentiful than money. When it is judged expedient, intimation is given, from the pulpit, the heritors meet, on a day appointed, inspect the session-books, and give what orders, concerning the poor, they judge necessary.

*Morals.*—The most common vices here, are such as may be expected in that state of society, where the people are poor, and where the most extensive farmers have but little to themselves after paying the landlord.—But there are very few instances of capital crimes: Suicide is scarcely known, murders very rare, executions and banishments very uncommon; a very moderate exertion of the civil magistrate, and execution of the laws, would be sufficient to maintain good order among the people. They are, in general, become industrious, and improve their land by lime, marle, and otherwise. They have a reasonable share of acuteness, are disposed to be friendly to one another, hospitable to strangers, and charitable to the poor. The gentlemen are tall and handsome, and fond of a military life; and, though the

the common people have learned to despise a soldier's pay, and to hate a life of servitude, yet they have still a deal of the martial spirit remaining, and make very good soldiers, when once they undertake it; being firm, hardy, and brave, though not generally tall. Seven or eight hundred of them attended the Marquis of Montrose, till after the battle of Kilsyth, and signalized themselves by their fidelity and valour. With regard to religion, they have not many disputes, nor do they make much noise about it; but, in general, they attend the church, and religious ordinances, with gravity, decency, and every appearance of sincerity; and many of them enter deeply into some of the most important points of controversy among Christians.

*Language.*—The Gaelic language is spoken here, by the natives; and there are but few others in the parish. It was in all probability, the first language spoken in this country. That it gave the antient names to places is clear. There are, indeed, a few names, such as *dour*, *cabar*, &c. that are as common among the Welsh, as among us; but whether these names have been originally given by a colony of Welsh, or by the Caledonians, or Picts, the people themselves appear to have been only different colonies of the same Celtæ or Gael\*.

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\* These names, by the by, seem to come from two words of the same signification, viz. *Coill*, or *Coille*, and *Gad*, a wood. From *Coille* comes *Coilltich*, (*Κελλται*), Inhabitants of the Woods. From *Gad*, in Scots Gaelic, signifying a Withe or Twig, in Welsh, a Wood, come *Gaidbiol* (*Gad-ghiola*), *Gadelians* (or *Giadelians*), *Galli*, and *Gadeni*, names given to the Gaidheil, or Gael of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; all signifying Men of the Wood; probably

The name of the country, from Dunkeld to the marches of Badenoch, towards Dalchuinny, Atholl (or Adh-oll), is evidently from this source. *Adb* signifies happiness, or pleasantness, and *all*, great; great pleasantness. The Grampian mountains, too, appear to be so called, from the word *Grampla*, still retained by the Cornish, as well as by the French, *grimper*, to climb, or mount; but it more probably comes from *gruain*, gloominess, and *beinn*, a mountain, on account of the clouds that cover them. *Beinn-glo*, the Mountain with the Vail, to wit, of Clouds and Snow: *Beinn-déirg*, the Red Mountain, on account of the red granite in it;—*Beinn-vurich*, the Hill of roaring or rutting; and *Drummuachdar*, the superior ridge,—are all equally expressive of their origin.—The names of the rivers, too, are from the same language. *Garry* (*Gath-ruith*), the flight of the Dart, because of its rapidity. *Tummel* (*Tairvil*), shadowy, obscure, from its woody and rocky banks. *Erochty*, from *eirigh*, to rise, and *ath*, a river; or rather from *oireachdas*, *eireachdas*, an assembly; this being a central, and yet a retired place, where forces might be collected for an expedition; (which use, Duncan Raver, the chief of the Robertsons, is known to have made of it, in the time of the two Bruces;) or to secure women, children, and valuable effects, from the enemy. In support of this, in the head of Glenerochty, is *Trinafuir*, or *Tir-a-vuir*, the third, or the land of the wall or castle; and *Dail-nan-fonnoch*, the Plain of Palisades, or Stocades. *Bruir* (*Bru-vir*) noisy Water. *Tilt*, (*Teilt*) *Te-alt*, the Warm Rivulet, from its sheltered warm banks. *Gairnog*, the Little noisy Stream. *Banvy*, the Rivulet of the Boar, or rather, that lays land waste. *Coille-chriathnuich*,

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probably because they first moved to the westward, when the face of the earth was all covered with wood.

*Bhuich*, the Wood of Trembling, (Killicranky) from its awful appearance. *Fonn a-vuic*, the Land of the (Roe) Buck. *Bo-rainich*, the Ferry Booths. *Loch-loch*, a loch consisting of lochs, because it is in three divisions. Each of the rivers gives a name to the valley, or glen it runs through: They also generally give names to the lakes, whence they flow.

*Antiquities*—On the East bank of the Tilt, which falls into the Garry, south east of Atholl-house, is Clagh-ghil-Aindreas, or the cemetery of Andrew's disciple. What the Tilt has left of it, is a part of a circle; many of the bones are entire, but crumble to pieces, when touched. The coffins are composed of five slabs each, and seem to have been used, to save the trouble of making wooden coffins; or probably, to preserve the corps from the wolves. To the southward of this stood Andermass market, which is now held at Perth. Here was a large white stone, which was the market cross, and remained upon a little raised circle of earth, till Duke James's time. To the eastward of the cemetery, there are the remains of a large Druidical cairn; but the small ones have been mostly carried away. About a quarter of a mile up the same bank of the Tilt, is one of those round castles, that are so frequent in these countries, and which probably answered the purposes both of forts, and of watch towers. Above half a mile still farther up, stands Tom-a-vuir, (Tom-a-mhuir), or the hill of the well, or fort; where, it is said, the M<sup>r</sup>Intoshes of Tiriny lived of old. It is strongly situated on a steep bank of the river Tilt.

About a mile to the eastward of Tilt, lies Strath-groy, (Srath-ghruaidh, or Srath-dhruaidh,) i. e. probably, the valley of the Druids. About the middle of it, and not a furlong from the river, Mr Stewart, who farms that land, lately dug up a stone, of about 6 feet long, above a foot broad, and half

as thick. It stood perpendicular, all under ground, and firmly propped in that posture with small stones.

Above a furlong to the eastward of this stone, are two castles, nearly round, on the top of a pretty high ridge, above a gun-shot from the high way, a few paces from each other, having double, and in some places triple ditches. Before the gates stand several obelisks, in a zig zag position; probably for the protection of champions, that defended the entries, and to obstruct the enemy's access. These seem to be of a later date, than the other round castles.

About a quarter of a mile to the westward of the castles, and along the Garry, lies, *Eelein-an-righ*, i. e. King's Isle, quite level; below the castles are Dalruinich, i. e. *Dail-ruith-nan-each*, the Plain of the Running of Horses; and *Dail-an-aonuich*, the Plain of Galloping, or Horse Races. From the situations and names of these, it is more than probable, that horse races, and perhaps other games, were celebrated here, particularly when the kings of Scotland came to the hunting. For them too, it is probable, the two castles above-mentioned may have been built.

Half a mile above the castles, and near *Clunemore*, still entire, is a sacrificing cairn, 60 geometrical paces in circumference, having several large flags on the top, which probably constituted the altar; and, hard by it, two obelisks, seemingly a part of a circle or temple. Above a mile N. W. of this cairn, on the bank of the Fender, stands *Tulchan*, (i. e. the little hill,) another cairn, much larger than the former, and so old, that the soil has, in a great measure, covered the stones. Betwixt these two cairns, to the westward of Lude's House, ran, in a S. W. direction, a line of small cairns. Whether they were a part of the great Druidical work, or the graves of men killed in battle, is hard to say. The soil being good, the plough has overturned most of these ancient works.

Several

Several miles to the N. E. of Tulchan, and on the north side of Beinn-glo, is Lochainn, i. e. *Loch-ambain*, or the River that is flow like a loch. It runs from Lochloch, towards the Tilt. Upon Lochainn, are the vestiges of the palace, in which the Earl of Atholl entertained King James V, his mother, the French ambassador, &c. in a most sumptuous manner, as is mentioned in history; and, which was burnt to the ground, as soon as the king left it.

On the south side of Beinn-glo, on a rising ground, are to be seen the traces of a semicircular work, fronting the west. A rill runs through the centre of it; the banks of it appear to have been well secured by large stones; and, in the front, for a considerable extent, there is a moss or bog, called *Moine-nan-gal*, i. e. the Moss of the Lowlanders,—of the strangers, or of the enemies, who are said to have been there defeated. In the last generation, one Robertson found two pans, sunk in this moss, which seemed to have been very old. Capt. William Robertson of Lude, who examined this camp, thinks the Danes built it, in attempting to force their way, through the heart of the country, to their possessions in the Hebrides. A party of Baliol's friends are said to have passed this way, after having been defeated, by King Robert Bruce, at Inverchadain and Dailchoisny, in Bunrannoch: But whether this camp is not much older, or whether they had a camp there at all, is uncertain.

To the eastward of the camp, along Glengairnog, are to be seen some pieces of a road, called *Rod-na-banrinn*, or the Queen's Road; by which, probably, one or more of the Queens used to go to the forest of Atholl. On the top of the rock of *Fonn-a-vuic*, is a large round castle, which, from its high and inaccessible situation, must have been very strong.

In the N. W. corner of Lochtummel, there is a small island, partly artificial, on which Duncan Ravar M'Donald, the chief

of the Clan-Donnachie, or Robertsons, built a strong house and a garden, which gave the name of *Port-an-eilein*, or the Fort of the Island, to that place. Within less than half a mile above Port-an-eilein, is Grenich, i. e. *Grian-fhaich*, or *Grian-acha*, the Field of the Sun. Here are the remains of a very extensive Druidical work: A large circular wall, either a castle, or the foundation of a very large cairn, with small cairns innumerable, on the barren ground above it, which were probably graves. About a mile to the northward of these, is a large cairn, that appears only to have been begun, the circumference being laid of great stones, and a parcel of lesser ones thrown within it. It is probable, that it was stopped by the progress of Christianity then made.

About two miles to the N. W. of this work, are, a number of cairns, but of a different kind; being the cairns of the Suaincart men, who came to plunder Atholl, about 200 years ago, and were killed above Bohespie, to a man, after having had their bard shot across the river, a mile above Blair, from whom the ford is called *Ath-baird-fuinidh*, to this day. It would seem, that, of old, the erecting cairns, or heaps of stones, over the graves of the dead, was one of the ways they had, of securing them from the wolves. The custom remained till of late, not only of raising heaps, where one was buried, but even where one died, though buried elsewhere. Into those heaps, it was reckoned a duty on passengers, to throw a stone. Hence the proverb, "Were I dead, you would not throw a stone into my cairn;" that is to say, You have not so much friendship for me.

On the south side of the hill, and north end of Lochgarry, lies *Dail-an-spideil*, i. e. the Plain of the Hospital. Here, in all probability, there was formerly a house of entertainment, to supply the place of an inn; and possibly too, supported by knights, or some religious order. There was another *spideil*, at the foot of the Grampian mountains, on the Marr road.

*Dail-na-cordach*

*Dail-na-cardoch* is the Dale of the Smith's Shop, or rather of the Iron-work; *Dail-na-mein*, is the Plain of the Mineral. Near these, and along the side of the hill, down to Blair, are still to be seen the holes, wherein they melted the iron-ore. At that time, the country was covered with wood of various kinds, especially of Scots fir; the roots of which are still dug up for fire-wood.

A gun-shot above the church of Strowan, on the S. W. bank of the Garry, is *Tom-an-tich-mhoir*, the Hill of the Great House, a small square rising ground, partly artificial; and surrounded with a ditch, or foss, said to have been raised by Allan Dirip, one of the family of Keppoch. In the church-yard of Strowan, there is a large obelisk, on which a cross is cut. At Pitagown, on the west side of the Bruir, is one large stone standing, and two or three lying by it, which probably formed a Druidical temple. On the Minigeog road, above Blair, is *Carn-mhic bhimi*, (*vic bimi*), or Lovat's Cairn, (properly the Cairn of the Son of Simon,) who came to plunder the country, and fell there.

Atholl house being in good repair, and well furnished, notwithstanding the high antiquity of great part of it, does not come properly under the present articles.—Suffice it, therefore, to observe, that, till the year 1747, or later, it was about three stories higher, than it is at present, and was fortified with many Gothic turrets and battlements, mounted with guns.

*Natural Curiosities*,—To the east of Atholl-house, there is a deep pool, with a rock in it, whence adulteresses were of old thrown, sewed up in a sack, and drowned. A little above it, on the east bank, and opposite to a curious hermitage, on the west bank, and in sight of the highway, is a pretty cascade. On the west side of Beinn-glo, are Carn-torcy (torcky) and Coire-



Coire-thorey, (horey), i. e. the hill and the hollow of boars; two of the many places, that have had their names from the wild boars, At some distance from these, is Coir-fhiann, (-iann) or the hollow of the army, or, of Fingal and his heroes. In this part of the forest too, is Tom-na croiche, or the Gal-lows-hill; and Pol-nam-ban, or the pool into which bad women were thrown. On Airgead-bheann, a part of Beinn-glo, there are stones, that shine, as if they had been vitrified, and give it the appearance of a volcano; which probably give the name of Airgead-bheann, or the silver mountain, to this pinnacle of Beinn-glo. On the south side of Beinn-glo is a very remarkable cave. It is narrow at the mouth, then turns very wide, afterwards narrow again, and then descends deeper, than ever any person had the courage to venture. The sound of water is heard in it at all times; but there is a brook, that can be turned into it at pleasure; and when that is done, it is reported, the people of a village, at some distance below, hear the noise of water.

There is a fall on the Garry, at the west end of the pass, where it is said, that a good deal of fish were formerly taken; but which did not prevent the salmon from going up the river. Eas-teivil, or the fall of Tummel, is remarkable for a considerable height, a great weight of water, and the quantities of salmon formerly caught there, in wicker baskets and with gaffs, by men, who hung in the face of the slippery rock, in ropes, made of birch withes. Very few salmon ever passed this fall; but now few, or none come this length. Near a mile north-west of the fall, is a cave in the face of a tremendous rock, to which there is a single passage only. In this cave, a party of the M'Gregors are said to have been surprised, when under persecution; after part of them were killed, the rest climbed into a tree, that grew out of the face of the rock; upon which, their pursuers cut their arms, and precipitated

tated them to the bottom. There is a considerable fall on the Bruir, near half a mile above the highway, which makes a very grand appearance, when there is a proper quantity of water.

North-east of the fall of Bruir, is Elrig, i. e. Iaoth-leirg, or the inclosed field, the field of a multitude, or of danger. The meaning intended probably is, the surrounded or inclosed field. There are many places of this name amongst our hills. Their situation is, a rising ground, an open and pretty plain hill around it. On this rising ground, the king, the chieftain, or principal person, with his friends, arms, and hounds, took his station; while his people, also armed, gathering the deer into his sight, formed a circle round them. Then the hounds were let loose, the arrows let fly, and the men, who formed the circle, wounded and killed many of the deer, with their swords, when attempting to make their escape. It is confidently asserted, that in Duke James's time, John Robertson, Esq. of Eastertyre, and John Stewart in Blair-Atholl, cut, each of them, a deer in two, by a single stroke of their broad swords. They were both remarkable for strength and activity. Several of their children are yet alive.—South-east of Elerig, betwixt it and Blair, lies Craig-urrard. *Craig* signifies a rock, *ard*, a height, and *ur*, either heath or fire. It is probable, it was so called, from fire, used in that conspicuous place, either for signals, or for a religious purpose. Glen-mairc, is the Glen of Horses. The sides of it consist of high and steep precipices. In the late Duke's time, a great quantity of rocks fell down the one side of it, with such force, that some of them went a good way up the opposite side. About the same time and place, a vast wreath of snow fell upon a herd of deer, and smothered them. This was known, from their bones being found there, when the snow was dissolved.

*Dress.*

*Dress* — The ladies and gentlemen generally dress as in the low country; though, when at home, some of the gentlemen wear the country dress; which is, a bonnet, a short coat, a little kilt, or philebeg, tartan hose, and a plaid; but the trouse and belted plaid never recovered their place since 1745. Some, of both sexes, wear the Lowland dress. Many of the young people wear English cloth, cotton, prints, &c.

*Schools*. — There is a parish school at Blair; the master of which, has a salary of L. 10 paid by the heritors, and 100 merks Scots paid out of the bishop-rents. For the rest, he depends upon the emoluments of the school, and some parish dues. There are also 3 charity schools in the parish; to the master of one of which, the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, pay L. 10, to another L. 7, and to a third, L. 4, *per annum*. These united parishes have no benefit from the labours of any itinerant clergyman, or catechist; but many, from other parishes hear divine service in the churches here.

*Advantages and Disadvantages*. — Till of late, the great extent of hills belonging to it, was a general advantage to the country, with respect to their cattle of all kinds; but much of it is now getting into the hands of a few individuals. The air of the country is very healthful. — Two veins of lime-stone run through the country from N. E. to S. W. and a third has appeared in one place. — The Duke and Mr Robertson of Lude, have marle on their property. — The soil in general is good, and when the seasons are favourable, is prolific. On the other hand, we have a great deal of cold and frosty weather, which must be unfavourable to the growth of vegetables, and even of animals. On the level ground, near the Garry, fogs and hoar frosts are very pernicious to potatoes,

tatoes, pease, and barley; nor do the oats escape. The parishes are very far from the market towns; so that carriage is very expensive, which prevents many things from being sent to market, that would otherwise be productive. It also prevents the burning of coals, though fuel is at present very troublesome to get, and is daily becoming more so. Some kinds of mechanic arts are much on the decline. Since the disuse of arms, there is scarcely a tolerable smith to be met with. The case is nearly the same with the shoemakers, who are likely to be extirpated; because, it seems, that there are laws, that will not suffer any hides to be dressed in the country, even though they should pay full duty. The tanner, therefore, both buys and sells at his own prices; which, joined to the distance, leaves the people very ill shod.—The being deprived of salmon is a great loss to the country.—It is no small disadvantage, to such as have any correspondents at a distance, that there is no post-office nearer than Dunkeld. There ought to be one established at Blair-Atholl. The people of this, and of the neighbouring parishes, suffer many inconveniencies by the want of it. They must not only pay for the letters they receive, but for those they put into the post-office. And a great number of letters, that would be paid for, if the office were nearer, are returned to the general post-office, because those, to whom they are directed, cannot afford time to travel so far for them, upon an uncertainty, and others do not chuse to advance money for letters to obscure people, whom they may have difficulty to find out. The hurt done to the linen yarn, by the cotton trade, has been already remarked: And, upon the whole, it must be allowed to be a great disadvantage, to any country, to be very far from markets, courts of law, and good towns, where proper education can be had. For to these a great part of the produce of the country will go, never to return; especially when they send no commodities thither. That the Highlands have gone

backwards, instead of improving like other countries, since their kings removed to the low countries, and thence to London, might be shown by many undeniable proofs; and the rich living, in distant places, must have the same effect. Anderfmas market, the iron works, the number of forts, the Queen's road, the places for executing justice, the places for horse-races, &c. &c. clearly shew this. But these things fall more properly to be observed, in the statistical account of the Hebrides, and of the parishes in the western coast of Scotland, where these disadvantages must be felt, still more sensibly \*.

\* It must be acknowledged, at the same time, that formerly, there was much less security for the persons and the property of the people, than at present. Of this, a memorable instance occurs in this very district. One of the Atholl family, (see Leslie's Hist. p. 300) having taken Donald of the Isles; was so elated with the exploit, that he put the figure of a man in chains, in his coat of arms. In revenge for this, the Macdonalds made an hostile incursion into this part of Perthshire, burnt, (as tradition says), the church of Blair, and carried the Earl and Countess of Atholl, prisoners with them, into the Hebrides.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XLII.

## PARISH OF CARESTON.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

*By the Rev. MR. ANDREW GRAY.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE antient name of this parish was Caraldston, probably derived from a monument erected to the memory of Carril, a hero celebrated in the poems of Ossian; some vestiges of which, (3 large stones standing on an'end, about a mile and a half to the east of the church), still remain. It is now contracted into Careston.——It is situated in the county of Angus, 9 miles north-east of Forfar the county town, 4 miles from Brechin, and 12 from Montrose. It lies within the bounds of the presbytery of Brechin, and the synod of Angus and Mearns. Its form is very nearly an oblong square, 3 miles in length, and about 1 in breadth. The appearance of the country is beautiful, well cultivated, lying with a gentle slope from north to south. No part of it is rocky, hilly, or mountainous.——The soil is generally deep and fertile, about one half on a gravelly bottom, and the other half on a red clay, or mortar. The air is exceeding fine, free, and healthful.——At present there are no prevailing distempers; it is said, however, that before the ground was drain-

ed and cultivated, agues were very frequent, in so much, that in the spring, it was with difficulty the farmers could carry on their work. But now there is scarcely any such distemper known or felt in this place. Fevers were formerly pretty frequent, and carried off several. But they now occur but seldom.

*Rivers.*——There are two rivers which run through this parish: the South-Esk, and the Norin; both of which run on a gravelly bottom. The water of Norin, in particular, is remarkable for its purity and clearness. The South-Esk rises to a great height, and at times overflows its banks to such a degree, that the greatest attention is requisite every year, to raise bulwarks, in order to prevent it from covering the adjacent grounds on every side. The Norin, though considerably smaller than the Esk, frequently comes down with such impetuosity, that the low grounds, through which it runs, are often greatly hurt by it; which obliges the tenants to use every precaution, to keep it within its banks. These two rivers join one another in the southern part of this parish. They have both their sources in the Grampian hills.——There is no regular fishing with the net in this parish; but there is, in the Esk, plenty of salmon, salmon-trout, and burn trout taken with the rod; and, in the Norin, very fine burn trout.

*Produce.*——A variety of culinary plants, &c. are raised in this parish. There are likewise a vast variety of trees, such as ash, elm, plane, birch, beech, oak, chestnut, poplar, lime, &c. and a great number of firs of every kind. There are excellent fruit trees of different sorts; and some very beautiful lime trees, not inferior, perhaps, to any in the island.

Considerable numbers of black cattle, (above 400), are reared

reared every year, and also about 40 horses. The value of the horses may be reckoned, from L. 15 to L. 20, or L. 25 each. The price of cattle, when fattened, is generally from 5s to 5s 6d. per stone, and milk cows about the same. Other kinds of black cattle, are valued in proportion to the state they are in, when purchased,—to their age, and the particular purpose, for which they are bought. The weight of the black cattle, reared and fattened, generally runs from 18 to 40 stone a head; and some, which are highly fed, will be near 50 stone. The quality of the beef is exceeding good. Very few sheep are bred, except for family use.

*Population.*—It is difficult to ascertain the ancient state of the population of this parish, as no regular register was kept till the year 1714. The only conjecture, that can be formed, respecting the number of parishioners, arises from the number of tokens, struck for the use of communicants, in the year 1709, when this parish was under the care of an Episcopal clergyman, which number was 200\*. In the year 1716, the first presbyterian minister was settled: And there was, at the same time, a very numerous meeting of Episcopalians, or Nonjurors; which meeting was made up of the disaffected in this, and the neighbouring parishes. This meeting continued till the year 1746, when it was entirely dissolved. It appears from a note, in the session records, that, during the continuance of this Episcopal meeting, there were many parents in the parish, of that persuasion, who never applied to the session-clerk, to have their children's names registered, nor paid any dues to him. However, upon examining the list of baptisms,

\* To double the number of tokens, would be too much, as it might be expected that many would come from other parishes, to the sacrament at Careston.



baptisms, recorded during that period, the number, at an average, may be reckoned at least nine; which, by making allowance for the disaffected, that sought no enrolment of their children, will confirm the conjecture, that the number of persons in the parish was formerly greater. With respect to the state of the population, for some time past, the number has rather diminished; there not being, at present, more than 260 persons, young and old, of which 132 are males, and 128 females; whereas the return to Dr Webster was 269 souls. The average of births annually does not exceed six. The average of burials may be reckoned at six for these twenty years back; but exactness here cannot be expected, because there are many, who die in this parish, that are buried in other parishes; and many, that die in other parishes, are buried here. For these twenty years past, it is supposed, that the number of marriages, on an average, does not exceed five annually. The number of farmers amounts only to four, residing in the parish; though there are one or two, not residing, who farm betwixt 100 and 140 acres, in this district. The diminution of the number of farmers, is owing, to several farms being turned into one, and also several farms taken into the possession of the proprietor, for the purpose of improvement. The number of trades people, in this parish, is very small; only one shoemaker, one house-carpenter or wright, one weaver, one tailor, and one blacksmith. There is but one Seceder. Of Episcopalians, there are about nine or ten. The diminution of the population of this parish, is owing to the several farms, which the proprietor has in his own hands, being all turned into grass; and, as has been mentioned, the other farms being held by fewer hands. There is also no encouragement given here to manufacturers and small tenants; so that there are, at least, an hundred,

dred, or an hundred and fifty or sixty persons, fewer in the parish, than there were 50 years ago.

*Poor.*——The number of poor, is fluctuating. At present, they do not exceed 4 or 5. The collections and funds for their relief, are amply sufficient to supply their wants liberally.

*Church and Stipend.*——The church was built in 1636, and has often been repaired. The stipend will not, including the glebe, exceed L. 60 *per annum*, when victual sells at 10s *per boll*. George Skene of Skene, Esq. is patron, and the only heritor. He commonly resides at Careston.

*Farming.*——The number of acres, in this parish, may be about 1500; above 200 of which, are planted with hard wood, and firs of various kinds. At an average, there are, at least, 350 acres employed in raising corn, flax, greens, cabbages, and turnips. The farms, in this parish, are all divided into ten equal parts, the one half in tillage, under crop, and the other half laid down with clover and rye-grass. The ordinary rotation observed, is five years in tillage, and five in grass. The first crop, after breaking up their fields, is oats; the second, barley; the third, oats; the fourth, turnips, potatoes, cabbage, and pease; and the fifth year, the field is laid down with barley and grass seeds. They sow sometimes wheat, and flax, as interim crops; but these are not reckoned in the ordinary course of cropping; though, it is observable, that the crop of flax is not allowed to stand in the room of a green crop, which can, by no means, be omitted. The lint is ordinarily sown the first crop in the rotation.

The parish is not only able to supply itself with the necessary provisions of meal malt, butter, and cheese, and poultry of all kinds, but there can be spared from it, annually, a very considerable

considerable quantity of grain of all kinds; a number of fed cattle for the butcher; and some few fed sheep. Butter and cheefe are also sold to a considerable amount. From 60 to near 70 acres are annually sown with flax. The ground, in the possession of the proprietor, is mostly in clover and ryegrass, (about 20 acres excepted;) and, as it is all inclosed and subdivided, it generally lets to graziers and others, at 20s, 25s, 30s, and 40s, per acre. The amount of grass fields, in the proprietor's hand, and what the tenants have laid down in grass, on their farms, may be reckoned at least seven or eight hundred acres. The number of acres in natural grass does not exceed one hundred. Of boggy ground, there are not forty acres. There is no part of the parish in common; and the number of acres of waste ground does not exceed thirty.

*Antiquities.*—There are two artificial mounts in the parish, about 200 yards distant from each other, which are commonly called *Laws*; and tradition says, that one of these mounts was the usual place where courts of justice were held, and judgement was given; and that the other was the place, where the law was put in execution, when criminals were capitally convicted. Others imagine, that they were places of observation, on which fires were kindled, at the approach of an enemy.

*School.*—The schoolmaster has a salary of L. 10 yearly, exclusive of perquisites; and he also officiates as session-clerk, for which he has a fee of 20 merks Scotch. The other emoluments are inconsiderable, on account of the small number of parishioners. He has likewise a good school-house and garden, with about two acres of ground, at a low rent, from Mr Skene. The number of scholars varies, as in other places

places, feldom above thirty, and very often below 20. English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, and astronomy, are the branches taught here ; but no Latin.

*Miscellaneous Observations*—There are several disadvantages in this parish. A scarcity of fuel is one ; as coal, the only fuel used here, cannot be got nearer than the port of Montrose, which is 12 miles distant ; and there, coal is sold at a very high price, (8s and 8s 6d. per boll,) on account of the high duty laid on that article, at that and the other ports on the north coast of this island. Every boll, or 72 stones, costs 12s. to the consumer.——Montrose is also the nearest port for exporting grain, which, being a long carriage, is of considerable disadvantage to the farmer.——Lime and marle are the only means of improvement in this parish, and these are both to drive a considerable distance. Good lime cannot be had nearer than 12 miles, and marle 7 miles. There is indeed lime to be had nearer, but of an inferior quality.

This parish has also its advantages. The road to the port of Montrose, is very good, smooth, and level, without the interruption of hills, and is seldom interrupted by storms in the winter time ; so that the communication is free and open at all seasons.——This parish being contiguous to Brechin, has a regular communication by post, every day of the week. In Brechin there is also a ready market for provisions of all kinds, which can be spared from this place. And, in return, may be had every other article, both for the necessity and conveniency of families.——The soil being good, and the climate temperate, give the advantage of good grain, which ordinarily comes to full maturity, without being hurt by the early frosts, or blasting storms in autumn ; so that the farmer has the advantage of a true crop.——This parish has the advantage of being excellently well watered, not only from the two rivers

already mentioned, but also by a number of fine springs, from which issue great abundance of exceeding fine water in almost every field.—There is plenty of freestone.—The number of ploughs will not exceed 9 or 10; some of which are made for 4, and some for 2 horses, as occasion requires. About 20 carts, or at most 24, are used for the purpose of husbandry. —There is no inn, or even alehouse in the parish.—The tenants have their leases on very reasonable terms; are happy in their intercourse with one another, and enjoy in a considerable degree the blessings of social life.

## NUMBER XLIII.

## PARISH OF KINNELL.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. CHAPLIN.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

**I**T is said, that Kinnell signifies the *head of the pool*, the church and manse being placed near a deep pool in the water of Lunan. It is situated in the county of Forfar, presbytery of Aberbrothock, and synod of Angus and Mearns. — The soil is of two kinds. One is clay, and naturally wet; the other light, producing good crops in a moist season, but much parched when it is dry. The air is healthy. No sickness prevails to any extent. Sometimes in the month of February there are fevers, but chiefly among the poor, in consequence of their low diet, damp houses, &c. — There are no mineral springs, lakes, or woods in the parish. The water of Lunan runs through a part of it, in which, are excellent burn trouts, which are in perfection in the months of June and July.

*Population, &c.* — The ancient state of its population cannot now be known. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 761 souls; but, this is supposed to be a mistake, as, till

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within

within these 25 years, they never exceeded 600. They now amount to 830. The increase is owing to the tenants having use for more hands, being busied inclosing their farms, and improving them with lime and marle. There are likewise a number of small possessions, which give great encouragement to population. There are no villages, nor any uninhabited houses in the parish. At an average for the last 10 years, there have been 6 marriages, 20 baptisms, and 12 deaths yearly.——There are only 3 heritors, none of whom reside.

*Rent, Tenants, &c.*——The valued rent is L. 2,700 Scots. The real rent about L. 1,700 sterling. There are 18 greater, and 50 smaller tenants. Some of the greater pay from L. 50, to L. 150 *per annum*. The smaller, who are generally tradesmen, pay from L. 5 to L. 15 yearly.——There 2,000 arable acres, and from 4, to 500 of muir. The acre is let from 10s to 15s.——There are 160 horses, and about 600 black-cattle : No sheep.——The principal crops are oats and barley; some pease and beans; a great deal of clover and rye-grass. A considerable quantity of flax, and some wheat, are also raised. Turnips and potatoes are now a general crop all over the country. There is much more grain raised, than is necessary for the support of the inhabitants. There was nothing remarkable in the state of the parish, in the years 1782, and 1783; meal was dear, but there was no real scarcity.

*Church, &c.*——The church was built in 1766, and the manse in 1726. All the inhabitants of the parish very regularly attend the established church, except one Seceder, and three of the Episcopal persuasion. The king is patron. The living consists of 48 bolls meal, 32 bolls bear, and L.27:14:6 in money, besides a garden, and a glebe of six acres.

*Schools.*

*School.*—The legal salary is 200 merks Scots. Perquisites are, for a marriage, 2s 6d. for the baptism of a child whose parents are above the rank of cottagers, 1s. from cottagers, half a merk Scots; and for certificates, 4d. For teaching English, 1s. per quarter; for writing and arithmetic, 1s 6d; and for Latin, 2s. In the summer, there are from 30 to 40 scholars, and, in the winter 50 and upwards.

*Poor.*—There are, at present, 8 persons on charity, at 4s. each per month; besides several others, who get cloaths, shoes, and coals, once a year. The sum spent yearly for their support, is about L. 26 sterling, arising from weekly collections, seat rents in the church, and the interest of some money belonging to them. The Session is very attentive to their necessities, allows none of them to beg, and pays the schoolmaster for teaching their children. But a great many beggars, from distant places, infest the parish continually.——It has been said, that all the parishes in Scotland, except two or three in the Highlands, can maintain their own poor at home:—Why, then, are they allowed to wander about, oppressing the country at large?

*Antiquities.*—There was a mound of earth lately opened in the parish, and several human bones found in it of a large size. There was also an urn, containing burnt human bones. The outside of it was ornamented clay, and the inside charcoal. It is probable, that the burning of the dead was confined to the chief ranks, as being both troublesome and expensive. When burnt, they were put into earthen urns, as among the Greeks and Romans, and a barrow of earth thrown up in proportion to their rank.—Buchanan speaks of a battle, in the reign of James II. between the Lindsays and Ogilvies, about the year 1443. Tradition adds, that the battle was fought near  
this



this place, and that a man, of the name of Irons, was slain in the pursuit. On account of his extraordinary size, his boot and spur were taken off, and hung up in an aisle adjoining to this church, belonging to the family of Airly. The boot, in a course of years, would fall down and perish; but the spur still remains on the wall, covered with rust. It measures 8 inches in length, and 4½ in breadth, and the rowel is as large as a crown piece.

In 1790, a boy, going from school, found, under a bit of slate, a considerable number of silver pennies; some of them were in good preservation, considering how long they have been under ground, and have the following inscription, *Ed. R. Angl. Dns. Hyb.* The reverse is, on some of them, *Civitas London.* on others, *Civitas Cantor.* or *Civitas Dublinens.*

*Miscellaneous Observations*—The roads are tolerable.—The statute-labour is sometimes exacted in kind, and sometimes commuted. There are no stone bridges in the parish, no turnpikes, no services of any consequence; no post-office. The nearest is Aberbrothock, about 4 miles distant.—No peat, some bad turf; but plenty of coal, from Aberbrothock, for 6s the boll, which is 70 stones weight.

*General Character*.—The people are sober, regular, and industrious. No emigrations, no banishments, no murders no suicides in the memory of the oldest. There are two ale houses in the parish, which have no bad effects on their morals. There is a considerable alteration to the better, within these 20 years, in dress, manner of living, houses, &c.

## NUMBER XLIV.

## PARISH OF CRAIG.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES PATON.

*With a MAP.**Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HIS parish was originally called Inch-Brayoick, or Inch-Broyock; by which name, an island of 34 Scots acres, near the harbour of Montrose, but within the bounds of this parish, is still known. It is probably of Gaelic origin; Inch-broyock, signifying, in that language, the Island of Trouts.—To this day, two-thirds of the fishing ground, around the island, go by the name of the Trout-shot.—At what period, the parish began to be denominated Craig, cannot now be ascertained. The continental part was perhaps commonly called Craig; and when the place of worship was transferred, from the island to the continent, the whole might obtain that name. It was natural to give it that appellation, as the whole coast, (about 4 miles in extent,) is lined with rock. It is always to be found, by digging the ground a little way; and, in many places, in appears above the surface.

This

This parish is situated in the presbytery of Brechin, in the synod of Angus and Mearns, and shire of Forfar. It is between 5 and 6 miles long, and its greatest breadth is somewhat more than 2. To the south and west it is considerably elevated, being about 400 feet above the level of the sea. It contains, in all, 3308 : 1 : 26 acres, Scots measure; the whole of which (a few hundred acres excepted) is arable. The soil, is, in general, very good, and produces excellent crops.

*Rivers, High Grounds.*—The Southesk, after crossing a basin of water, about 8 or 9 miles in circumference, (which is filled by the tide twice every 24 hours) divides this parish from that of Montrose. It afterwards falls into the sea, at the eastern extremity of this parish.—On the coast, Dunninald is the highest ground, Govanhill in the middle, and Pittaris hill, and Mount-bay to the West; from all which there are very extensive and pleasant prospects. Mount-Bay was formerly called the King's seat, Red-castle, in the neighbourhood, having formerly been a royal residence.

*Climata, Diseases, Mineral Springs, &c.*—The air, in a situation so elevated, is pure; the climate generally healthy.—The most common diseases are fevers and consumptions; there are some instances of dysenteries, and rheumatisms; agues are very rare, and there are some few cases of epilepsy and of lunacy. A singular kind of distemper, called the *louping ague*, has sometimes made its appearance in this parish. The patients, when seized, have all the appearances of madness; their bodies are variously distorted; they run, when they find an opportunity, with amazing swiftness, and over dangerous passes; and, when confined to the house, they jump, and climb in an astonishing manner, till their strength be exhausted.—Cold bathing is found to be the most effectual remedy.—

There

There is a spring in Rossie, strongly impregnated with iron; which is drank, and, it is said, with good effect, by persons of relaxed habits.

*Tides and Fisheries.*—The course of the tide, on this coast, is north and south, the flood coming from the north. —In this parish, there are two pretty large fishing villages, Ferryden and Ufan; the first, contains about 38 families, and the other 20; all of whom are fishermen, or persons connected with them. Those of Ferryden employ six boats, 4 men to each boat; and, in the summer season, 3 barks for the coal trade. The fishermen of Ufan have 3 boats, and 6 men to each boat. Last war, about 24 men from these villages, and the rest of the parish, served on board his Majesty's navy, and a few in the army. —The fish caught on the coast are cod, ling, haddocks, skate, flounders, and turbot. There is also great abundance of muscles, lobsters, and crabs. The common price of white fish here, may be calculated at 3 farthings per pound. The salmon fishings on the Southesk, belonging to two proprietors in this parish, were formerly very productive. Those of Rossie, some seasons, yielded 10,000 salmon, and grilfes; but, since the year 1781, they have fallen off greatly. The barrel of salmon sold, 20 years ago, for about 3 guineas, and the fresh salmon for 2s. per Dutch stone; but, of late, the prices have increased to near double.—A few years ago, a quantity of oysters were brought from the Firth of Forth, and put down in a place where they were likely to breed. But, there is some reason to suspect, though the point is not yet ascertained, that oysters cannot thrive in the neighbourhood of muscles.

*Progress of Improvement.*—About 60 years ago, this parish was, in a great measure, open, scarcely a single field being

inclosed. The late Mr Scot of Dunninald, and his brother, Mr Scot of Rossie, were the first who began to inclose their property, in 1730. Thorn hedges, and hedge-row trees were first tried; but this mode being found tedious and expensive, earthen fences, with furze or whins on the top, were adopted. But these, after a trial of many years, being found insufficient, the gentlemen have begun to inclose with stone dykes, or walls; and, if they persevere, with the same spirit with which they have begun, (which there is reason to believe will be the case,) in a few years, the whole fields of the parish will be inclosed in that manner.

*Roads.*—Formerly, the king's high-way, which passes through this parish, was very insufficient, and, in the winter, season, almost impassable. But, about the year 1750, by the application of the statute labour, an excellent road betwixt Ferryden and Arbroath, was begun, and in a few years completed. This year, a new turnpike road, a little to the west of the other, through this parish, was begun, (by a tract more circuitous indeed, but deemed to be more level, and commodious for travellers,) and will soon be finished. By means of the statute labour, now generally commuted, we begin to enjoy good private roads, of which we stood in great need.

*Wood.*—About the beginning of this century, there was little wood in this corner; but within these 70 or 80 years, a good deal has been planted, and the parish may now be said to be pretty well wooded; particularly in the waste part of it, where a great many acres have been inclosed and planted.

*Agriculture*—About 60 years ago, Messrs. Scotts began gradually to make considerable improvements in the cultivation of their lands. They had plenty of lime within the parish;

rish; but several years elapsed, before the rest of the country began to follow their example. Of late, however, still farther improvements have been made, particularly by a quicker rotation of green crops: The lands are kept in better heart, and produce more plentiful crops than formerly.

*Price of Land, and Rent.*—Rather better than a century ago, Patrick Scott, Esq. bought, (with the exception of two small pieces of property,) the whole parish, for about L. 10,000 sterling; and, within these 8 years, that property, viz. Rosfic, including Craig, and Dunninald, exclusive of the estate of Ufan, was sold for L. 64,000.——About the year 1730, the average rent of land here, was about 4s 6d. whereas all the farms, let within these few years, give from L. 1 : 5 to L. 1 : 10, per acre.——The valued rent of the whole parish, is L. 4275 : 4 : 1 Scots. The real rent, including the produce of lime, and of salmon fishings, is above L. 4000 sterling.

*Services.*—The meagre look, the tattered garment, the wretched hovel, the ill-cultivated and unproductive field, with the other miserable effects of feudal tyranny, and the sure effects of personal services, are curses, from which this part of the country, has long since been generally delivered. The only relic of this kind here, is, the thirlage to a mill, to which the tenants, upon one of the estates are subjected; but which is soon to be removed.

*Ferry Boats.*—By the register of the kirk-session here, it appears, that, upon the sabbath day, especially in time of public worship, no boats were permitted to cross at Ferryden.—Whereas now, they are more employed on that, than on any other day of the week;—the liberly of modern times having assumed, or being allowed, a slacker rein,

*Castles and Forts.*—There were, in this parish, two castles, that of Black Jack on the sea shore, formerly the residence of the family of Dunninald, of which, by the falling of the rock, there are hardly any remains; and the castle of Craig, which was demolished not many years ago. At the extremity of the parish; to the east, where the Southesk falls into the sea, there are the remains of an earthen fort, in the form of a square; each side of which was about 50 feet; the walls 16 feet thick, and, formerly, as high, or higher than a man's head. Within, there was a house, for the purpose of affording shelter to the men, and holding stores or ammunition. Without the square, and facing the mouth of the river, there was a breast-work of earth, where cannon had been planted, to defend the entrance of the river. Tradition reports, that it had been made use of in Oliver Cromwell's time; but whether erected by him, or in more antient times, cannot now be ascertained. At this fort, some cannon were placed, so late as the 1745.—About 20 years ago, the town of Montrose built, within this square, a quadrangular tower, between 20 and 30 feet high, for a land-mark, to direct vessels at sea; and, along the south side of the river, at a small distance from one another, two conical towers, or pillars, were lately erected by that town, for directing vessels, when to take the river, with safety.

*Population.*—There has been a regular and progressive increase, in the population of this parish, for these many years past. About a century ago, the number of souls was about 676. It rose, in 1738 to 806. The report to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 935. In 1768, the number was 1264, and, on the 24th of February, 1791, it came to 1314. Of which there were,

Under

|                           |   |   |   |      |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| Under 10 years of age     | - | - | - | 359  |
| Between 10 and 10         | - | - | - | 227  |
| —— 20 and 30              | - | - | - | 214  |
| —— 30 and 50              | - | - | - | 299  |
| —— 50 and 70              | - | - | - | 170  |
| —— 70 and 80              | - | - | - | 31   |
| —— 80 and 90, and upwards | - | - | - | 14   |
| Total                     |   |   |   | 1314 |

Excepting one man, who is about 91 years of age, no person, in this parish, exceeds 86. The number of males is 639, of females, 675. The number of families, 302. Prior to 1693, the average of births was about 26; about 1738, they rose to 31. More recently, the births, deaths, and marriages were as follows:

| Years                     | Births | Deaths | Marriages. |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| 1768                      | 52     | 25     | 13         |
| 1778                      | 50     | 16     | 13         |
| 1788                      | 45     | 25     | 16         |
| Average of these years 49 |        | 22     | 14         |

*Poor.*—The average amount of collections for the poor, from the year 1653 to 1758, inclusive, was about 2s 10d. per week. In the year 1760, when the present incumbent was settled, there was only about L. 83 laid out at interest. The collections have since increased considerably, and, for some years past, have been, at a medium, 12s weekly.—Some years ago, the funds received, from Alexander Arbuthnot, Esq. Commissioner of the customs at Edinburgh, an addition of L. 100, and lately, from a proprietor of this parish, L. 50. These sums, together with former savings, amount now to L. 200, properly secured at an interest of 5 per cent.

The



The number of weekly pensioners is 12. The weekly pension is 12s 9d. besides considerable sums given from time to time, to other poor, not upon the list, and the purchase of coals for all the poor annually. It may here be remarked, that, besides the private benefactions of residing heritors to the poor, they derive much benefit from the circumstance of such families being of our own communion, and attending the established church, which has generally been the case, for a century past. During 40 years, and upwards, no poor have had occasion or been allowed to beg; the parish being both able and willing to maintain its own poor. Many however, are apt to give liberally to strolling vagrants, or sturdy beggars, who infest this district and the neighbourhood; an evil, severely felt, and which stands much in need of an effectual remedy.

*Church, Patronage, &c.*—The patrons are the masters of the New College of St. Andrews. The manse was built about the year 1748; the offices in the year 1774; and an excellent garden wall, in 1788. The manse is inconveniently situated; being distant from the church about a mile. The stipend is L. 42 : 4 : 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ , with 3 chalders victual, half meal, and half bear. The glebe consists of 7 acres, including houses and garden. The church was repaired, and almost new built, in the year 1760. There were, in popish times, 4 burial places in the parish. The principal one, at present, is in the island of Inchbrayock.—The inhabitants belong, with very few exceptions, to the established church. In 1788, there were only 6 Seceders, and 16 Episcopalians.

*School.*—Very lately, a substantial and elegant house was built for the schoolmaster; and his yearly salary was raised, within these few years, from L. 8 to L. 20.; the school fees, and other perquisites, may amount to L. 20 more. Adjoining

ing to his house; is a school-house, sufficiently large and commodious, with a small garden.

*Manufactures.*—In the manufacturing line, there is nothing carried on here to any great extent. The reasons may be, that the great object of pursuit, in this district, is agriculture, and that the situation of the parish, much elevated and remote from rivers, does not furnish the water that would be requisite for extensive bleachfields, and for the operations of mills. There are, however, 36 weavers including apprentices, 6 carpenters, 4 masons, 4 smiths, with a few servants of each class; 2 slaters; and one baker.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The good and justly celebrated Bishop Leighton was of the family of Ufan, in this parish. Only one man, with his family, has emigrated from the district, for these some years past. The cause of this was, not oppression, nor want of employment, nor poverty unaided; (for none of these evils are felt here,) but the spirit, which prevailed at the time, and the delusive hope of gaining much with little labour.—There are, in this parish, in wheat, oats, barley, pease, flax, turnips, potatoes, and cabbages, about 2700 acres. Number of horses, 183; of black cattle, 804; of sheep, 1013.—There are 6 houses for vending ale and spirits, in one of which only ale is brewed. The practice of smuggling foreign spirits, from which this coast is not yet free, is productive of much loss to the public, and of many evils to individuals.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—One advantage arises from the nearness of the parish to Montrose, where the inhabitants can purchase what they want, and sell what they have to dispose of, with little loss of time; and, when the bridge is  
built

built over the Southesk, (with the near prospect of which we are now flattered,) the communication will be much easier, and attended with many additional conveniences. — Another advantage is the easy access which the farmers have to lime. At Boddan, in this parish, there is a lime-work carried on to great extent; and, to that spot, all the improvements in husbandry, made in this country, is, in a great measure owing. The greatest disadvantage, is the high price of coals, owing to the heavy duty, which takes place here. This tax is much complained of, as evidently partial, impolitic, and unreasonable. A small duty laid at the pit, would yield much more to government than the present one; and the burden being laid equally upon all, would be much more easily borne, and could scarcely be objected to, on any just and reasonable grounds.

## NUMBER XLV.

## PARISH OF KIRKDEN.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. MILLIGAN.

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish has two names, *Kirkden*, alias *Idvie*. The first only is in common use; and is evidently derived from the situation of the kirk and manse, which are built in a den. It derives its other name from the barony of Idvie.—It is about 5 English miles in length, and the broadest part of it does not exceed 2. About the middle, for near a mile, it is very narrow.—Kirkden lies in the presbytery of Arbroath, in the synod of Angus and Mearns, and in the county of Angus or Forfar. The soil is various. About 1200 acres are dry kindly land, mixed with small stones, called by the farmers, a beachy soil. This part is, in general, soonest fit for the seed in the spring; and the crop upon it is soonest ripe in autumn. About 900 acres are deep dry land, and the bed is till. The remainder is a cold clay bed, and is naturally wet and spongy, but has been greatly improved by draining.

*Air, Climate, Diseases.*—The air is commonly clear and salubrious, excepting sometimes in the evening, about the end of April, or the beginning of May, when the wind is westerly. In the pleasantest days, and sometimes for several days together, we see the fog rising on the German Ocean, about 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon; and, even when we enjoy the most delightful sunshine, we know, that, in an hour or two, we shall be involved in *darkness*, that may almost be *felt*. So slowly does the *damp* approach, that it is often some hours before it reach us, after we see it a-coming. In general, however, the inhabitants are remarkably healthy. About 25 or 30 years ago, the ague, especially in the spring, was so general, that many farmers found it difficult to sow and harrow their lands, in the proper season, owing to their servants being so much afflicted with it. At present, this disease is little known in this parish, or in the neighbourhood. This is perhaps owing to the draining of the grounds, the great change that has taken place in the mode of living, dress, &c. Every year, several children die of the small pox, the prejudices against inoculation being still very great. In vain, the patriotic Mr Dempster provided, last season, an able physician and proper medicines: Though inoculation, by these means, might have been got *gratis*, hardly one accepted the generous offer.

*Rivers and Fish.*—The Finny and Lunan, both of which rise in the parish of Forfar, either pass along, or partly intersect the parish of Kirkden. There is excellent burn-trout in both, which are, however, every year, much destroyed with the watering of flax, either in the rivulets themselves, or in places from whence the deadly streams run into them. Eels are also caught in the season; and sea fish are brought from the coast in considerable quantities.

*Manufactures.*

*Manufactures.*—There is hardly a house in the parish, where one or more women are not employed in spinning yarn, for the Osnaburgh weavers. Many millions of yards of Osnaburgh cloth, are, every year made in this county, of which this parish manufactures its proportion. The women all spin with both hands; and a good spinner can earn 3s, or 3s 6d, *per week*. Girls of 13, or 14 years of age, earn 2s, and many of them 2s 6d a week; and they reckon their board only about 1s 6d. For this reason, many, instead of going to service, continue with their parents and friends, merely for the purpose of spinning, as being a more profitable employment, and, in which they enjoy more liberty. But there are many, who do not like to be so closely confined to spinning, and therefore go to service, where only a part of their time is spent at the wheel. Weavers are interspersed, at small distances, all over the country; and most of them give out flax, and pay the current price for spinning it. Much of the flax grows at home; but great quantities are also brought from abroad. Till lately, the manufacturers of this neighbourhood went to Forfar or Arbroath, for the stamping and sale of their webs; but now there is a market, every fortnight, for these purposes, at the neighbouring village of Letham.

*Population.*—On the last day of October 1790, the number of persons living in the parish of Kirkden, properly parishioners, were 727; of whom there were 359 males, and 368 females.

|                       | Males.    | Females.  |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Below 10 years of age | 80        | 91        |
| Between 10 and 20     | '98       | 69        |
| — 20 and 50           | 124       | 154       |
| — 50 and 70           | 43        | 47        |
| Above 70              | 11        | 6         |
| — 80                  | 3         | 1         |
|                       | <hr/> 359 | <hr/> 368 |

Thomas Lyal, Esq. of Gardyn, the oldest man now living in the parish, was 85 years old, the 9th of October, 1790, and is yet a healthy man. A labouring man of this parish died last year, aged 92 years, and a few days. The return to Dr Webster of the population of Kirkden, in 1755, was 563. The inhabitants have therefore increased 160. The cause seems to be the flourishing state of manufactures.

The parish registers being very inaccurately kept, no certain conclusions can be drawn from them. From 1780, to 1787, inclusive, the number of marriages were about 71, and of burials, 66.

*Division of the Inhabitants.*—In this parish there are 133 families; 17 of which, consist, but of two persons each; and 2 or 3 solitary individuals. Of the above there are 4 residing heritors, 33 farmers, (persons who have no other occupation) 26 weavers, 5 wrights, 4 taylors, 2 masons, 2 cadgers, (fish-carriers,) 4 blacksmiths, 3 shoemakers, 6 millers, 2 creamers, (persons who go through the parish, and neighbourhood, and buy butter, hens, eggs, &c. mostly for the Dundee market,) and 19 labourers. The above are all heads of families. There are about 60 labouring servants, male and female; but almost all the females are chiefly employed in spinning; and there are 9 or 10 household servants in the heritors

ritors families. Many families have no occasion to hire servants, having a sufficient number of children to perform their work. And the scarceness of single servants makes others engage cottagers, whose family ties make them more dependant and humble. Thus evil produces good, and pride prevents depopulation. Each of these married labourers has a house and yard; a cow maintained summer and winter; 52 stones of meal; the carriage of their coals and other fuel; and commonly, some ground allowed them for lint: and some of them have L. 5, some L. 6, and some of them L. 7 in money. Besides these servants, reapers are engaged for harvest; a good female shearer at about L. 1, and a male at about L. 1 : 6. All the inhabitants are of the established religion, except the residing heritors, and 1 or 2 in their families, in all about a dozen, who belong to the church of England; and about 21 Antiburgher Seceders, including children.

*General Character.*——The inhabitants of this parish, with very few exceptions, are an industrious, civilized, and contented people. No person has been banished from it, nor been guilty of murder, suicide, or any atrocious crime, within the present century; if we except those, who, from mistaken loyalty, followed the Pretender, in 1745.

Christmas is held as a great festival in this neighbourhood. On that day “the servant is free from his master,” and goes about visiting his friends and acquaintance. The poorest must have beef or mutton on the table, and what they call a dinner with their friends. Many amuse themselves with various diversions, particularly with shooting for prizes, called here *wad-shooting*. And many do but little business all the Christmas week; the evening of almost every day being spent in amusement. All the lower classes of the people still observe the old stile.

*Church.*



*Church.*—The church was built in the year 1749; and the manse was repaired, and the office houses rebuilt in 1783. The living consists of 16 bolls of meal, 6 bolls of bear, and 850 merks Scots, (L. 47:4:5 $\frac{4}{5}$ ), in money, and 6 acres of land; in all about L. 66 sterling a year.—The Crown is patron.

*School.*—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scots, (L. 5:11:1 $\frac{4}{5}$ ), with some perquisites which do not exceed L. 3 *per annum*. There are few scholars.

*Poor.*—The number of poor at present, who receive occasional alms, is 10; but all of them have property, and earn most of their subsistence, except 3 old persons. They live in houses near their children, who are in a thriving condition. They receive out of the poors funds, the price of a boll of meal, one after another, as they require it, on applying to the elders, any Sunday after sermon, and also money to buy fuel in the season. Orphan children are boarded at the rate of L. 4 sterling *per annum*. No person, properly belonging to this parish, is in the habit of strolling about as a mendicant. Indeed, in this manufacturing country, such as are able to go about and beg, are generally fit, unless they have infant children, to earn their bread at home, the women by spinning, and the men by filling pirns, (rolling up yarn upon lake reeds, cut in small pieces for the shuttle). By experience, we have found it to be a great saving of our poors funds, to aid those who are sinking into poverty, before they fall too low. To support the poor we have the weekly collections and seat-rents of a loft, in the church, erected out of the poors money, in all about L. 15 or L. 16 *per annum*; and L. 156 lent out upon interest, at the rate of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  *per cent*. This fund, for these 16 years past, has been fully adequate to the demands of the poor, without

without any application to the landholders; who, about 20 years ago, were in the use of contributing annually a certain sum for their relief. The poor are not only well provided for, but very well satisfied with the attention that is paid them.

*Divison and Rent of Lands.*—The whole extent of the parish is nearly 3500 acres; about 3000 of which are arable, and the remainder planted, or moor, not yet improved. It is divided among 6 proprietors, 4 of whom reside in it. Only about a half of the parish is yet inclosed; but the inclosing proceeds apace; the better sort of farmers being very sensible of the great advantage which may be derived from it.

There are about a dozen of persons, including 3 proprietors, who farm from about 30 to 150 acres each. The rest of the parish is divided into smaller portions, from 36 down to 6 acres; for there are very few families in the parish, who have not one, or more cows, not excepting those who live partly on charity.——The rent of most farms, lately let in lease, taking the good and bad land of the farm, at an average, is 15s. One large inclosed farm, however, lately let at L. 1 the acre.——The late leases are, in general, for 19 years. For a crop of lint land, some pay L. 5, and some (this year) L. 6: 3, the acre. Those who let the land, plough and harrow it, and carry the flax to and from the watering.——Personal services, those badges of antient slavery, are still partly continued, though lighter than formerly, and now limited. Several of the tenants, however, are altogether freed from them. It is a pretty common thing, to pay a certain number of kain fowls. Some of the tenants are obliged to give a draught of one, or more horses, for a specified number of miles, if required; or to send one or more carts for coals to the proprietor, and to give, perhaps, a day of all their reapers,  
in

in harvest, upon receiving notice the evening before. The evil consequences, which must result from this, are obvious.

*Mode of Cultivation*—There are 44 ploughs in the parish all drawn by horses; but many of them hardly deserve the name of ploughs; for several of those, who rent about 12 or 15 acres of land, keep only one horse, and, joining with another in the same state, with these two, commonly but indifferent, horses, they cultivate both farms. A tenant with two ploughs, and 8 strong horses, is supposed able to manage a farm of 200 acres to great perfection. It is true, there are often but two horses in the plough; and he stirs his barley ground sometimes, with one horse only, while the other horses are doing other parts of the farm work.——The mode of farming is various, according as the tenants, who have old leases, are skilled in husbandry, or otherwise, or according to the taste, and knowledge of the proprietor, by whom, in the late leases, they are often tied down to a certain rotation of crops. In general, however, about half of the land is in grain of various kinds, and the other half sown with grass seeds. Whatever number of crops, in grain, are taken, the land lies as long in grass. The following is a common rotation: After grass, 1st, oats, 2dly, turnips, pease, potatoes, or lint; 3dly, barley and grass seeds, keeping it in grass three years.

*Stock and Produce*.—The stock in this parish principally consists of black cattle and horses: there are almost no hogs, and not above 150 sheep. In regard to produce, after supplying the parish itself, large quantities of meal are annually sold in the neighbouring towns; and about 1200 bolls of barley, (31,600 stone), are annually exported. Through the whole summer, butter and cheese are weekly carried to the different markets around us.

*Fuel.*—This parish, and the neighbourhood, bring most of their fuel from Arbroath. The cart load of coals, (72 stones), costs generally 6s 8d. besides carriage; yet this is our cheapest, as well as best fuel, for there is little peat in this neighbourhood, and none in this parish.

*Roads and Bridges*—The roads have, till last year, been made by the statute labour, which was, long ago, found altogether insufficient, for making and keeping them in good repair. The labour of one parish was often carried out of it, to make a road in another, while the roads, within the parish itself, were exceedingly bad.

In 1790, an act of parliament was obtained, to raise money by turnpikes, for making certain county roads, therein laid down. In this act, the statute labour is converted into money, at the rate of L 1 : 4, sterling, on the L. 100 Scots of valued rent, to be raised yearly, till the parish roads are made. By this act, no money can be levied in one parish, to make the roads of another.

The turnpike act met with considerable opposition, before it was carried in the county; as most improvements do in their infancy; and there are still grumblers: But the gentlemen now seem all agreed; and the most respectable farmers acknowledge, that turnpikes must be a great advantage in this county, where roads were formerly, at no time good, and, in winter, were so deep, as to be almost entirely unpassable.

*Antiquities.*—A plain in the parish of Kirkden, between the Finny and the Lunan, seems, in days of yore, to have been often a field of blood. There is an obelisk in it; and many Roman urns, with bones in them, have, at different times, been dug up. The obelisk is niched into a large stone. There are on it, some imperfect figures of horses, &c. It is supposed by

some, to have been erected, upon the defeat of the Danes by Malcolm II. about the same time with the cross at Camiston, in the parish of Monikie, mentioned by Buchanan. Near this obelisk, there was a green hillock, consisting of sand and gravel, which was cut away 16 years ago, in straightening the road, in which some graves were found. The bones in them were by no means of a larger size, than those belonging to persons in modern times.

In this parish there are two artificial conical mounts, called Laws: the law of the barony of Idvie, and that of Gardyne. The last is now covered with fir trees. The gallows stood upon the top of the Law. Thomas Lyal, Esq. was told by David Philip, sometime ago, a tenant in the parish, that he (David Philip) saw two Highlandmen taken in this parish, with stolen cattle, and immediately judged, condemned, and hanged, on the Law of Gardyne. The Law of Idvie has also an aperture on the top, where probably the gallows stood, or was occasionally erected, in feudal times.

The castle of Gardyne was built in 1568. It is firm and entire. An addition, to make it a more commodious dwelling, has been added in later times. The castle is romantically situated, on the brink of a precipice, at the bottom of which, there is a beautiful plantation of thriving trees, through which there runs, a purling stream, of the purest water.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is a mineral well in the parish, which has cured swellings and sores of the feet and legs, merely by washing, after the applications of several physicians had proved ineffectual.——Potatoes are beginning to be more used in the towns; but, in this parish, they are seldom eat by the labourers, even by those on public charity, excepting in the months of October, November, and December.——None, belonging to this parish, stroll a-

boot

bout begging; yet many Randies (sturdy vagrants) infest this country, from the neighbouring towns, and the Highlands; who, from an undiscerning humanity, and sometimes, perhaps, from timidity, are but too much encouraged.——

A very great change, in the appearance of the people has taken place, within these few years. About 15 years ago, all the men servants wore coarse home-manufactured cloth and bonnets. There were then seldom three men's hats seen at church, on a Sunday. Now, most of the men servants wear, on Sunday, good English cloth, (at least what goes by that name); and there is hardly a bonnet to be seen in church. — Many of the lower classes of females still continue to cover their heads with the plaid in church: But several of them wear cloaks and silk hats, and begin to dress after the manner of those in the more southern counties of Scotland.—— Within the last 10 years, about 9 or 10 cottages have become ruinous; but a greater number, and houses of a better sort, have, in that time, been built.

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER XLVI.

## PARISH OF MID-MARR.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By JOHN OGILVIE, D. D. F. R. S. E.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

**A**LL that part of the west of Scotland, which lies between the rivers, Dee and Don, was originally termed Marr. The three great divisions of this extensive region, are, Brae-Marr, Cro-Marr, and Mid-Marr. The first denotes the highest part of the country; the second, a lower and more cultivated district: the last had its name, probably from its central situation, in respect to the two rivers, each of which is distant about 6 miles from the church.——The parish is situated in the presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil, in the county and synod of Aberdeen. It is about 15 miles distant from that city. Its length, from east to west, is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles; and its breadth, from north to south, between 5 and 6 miles in some parts, exclusive of that part of the hill of Fare, which belongs to the parish, but which is uninhabited.

An exact measurement of the estate of Mid-Mar, which is equal to about one half of the parish, having recently been made;

made, the following may be considered, as a pretty just estimate of the quantity, and state of the lands, within the whole district.

|  | Arable.               |                    | Pasture. | Mofs. | Wood | Muir.      |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|-------|------|------------|
|  | Incl <sup>d</sup> ed. | Not in-<br>closed. |          |       |      |            |
| Estate of Mid-marr   | 559                   | 1082               | 440      | 60    | 87   | 716 acres. |
| Supposed belong-<br>ing to other e-<br>states in the pa-<br>rish | 650                   | 1200               | 500      | 60    | 123  | 600        |
|  | 1209                  | 2282               | 940      | 120   | 210  | 1316       |

Total 6077 acres, of which nearly three-fifths, is in cultivation; so that, including that part of the hill of Fare, belonging to Midmar, which contains 464 acres of mofs, and 3239 of muir, the contents of the whole parish is about 9780 acres.

*Hills, Fossils, Mineral Springs, &c.* — In Mid-marr, the only eminence, that deserves mention, is the hill of Fare, which forms its southern boundary. The base of this mountain is about 17 miles in circumference; and its height 1793 feet above the level of the sea. On that side, which is contiguous to the castle of Mid-Marr, there is a thriving plantation of fir trees, of almost every species. The interior part contains, in its mofs, an invaluable article of fuel to the neighbouring inhabitants. It affords also excellent pasture, for numerous flocks of sheep; and produces mutton of a very superior flavour. No place, in this part of the country, so near the coast, abounds perhaps so much, in muir-fowl, hares, and other game, which find, at the same time, both food and shelter, in the luxuriant heath, which overspreads its surface.



surface. Foxes indeed are, both numerous and mischievous; and are expelled from their hiding places with much difficulty.

Several chalybeate springs are found here, which, in scrophulous and scorbutic habits, have been found highly beneficial. These springs are distinguished at the fountain-head, from the common element, by a brown viscous substance, either adhering to the edge of the rill, or floating on its surface. They may be traced, in the same manner, at considerable distance from their sources, by the brown tincture of their channel, and of the earth on each side of it. The water takes a blue cast upon mixing spirits with it, and is rendered black, by a small infusion of strong tea, as is the case of the well-known medical spring of Peterhead.—— The chief fossil is granite, of which, an excellent kind, capable of receiving a very beautiful polish, is found in different parts of the parish.

In the middle of this eminence is the vale of Corrichie, well known as the scene of a battle, wherein the contending parties were headed by the Marquis of Huntly, and the Earl of Murray. Huntly fell in this engagement, in which his forces were routed by those of his antagonist, the general of the unfortunate Mary. A small possession, on the north side of the hill retains, at this day, the name of *Craig-Hume*, in memory of one of that family, who was slain in that battle, and is interred in the neighbourhood. It is proper also to observe here, that the name of *Queen's Chair*, is given to an excavation, I know not whether natural or artificial, on the side of a rock, near this valley. Here Mary is said to have sat, while returning southwards from Aberdeen, to view the scene of the recent engagement. In the neighbourhood of this spot, a remarkable echo is occasioned by the contiguity of three small eminences, from two of which, and the adjoining wood, the last accents  
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of the voice are thrice reverberated, in a tone uncommonly shrill and distinct. The principal remains of antiquity in this parish, are three Druidical fanes, of which, one, near the new church, is remarkably large; and an artificial mount, of considerable magnitude, which is now a part of the glebe\*. This mount is obviously a work of art. A ditch or trench, that is cast round it, is now covered with grafs, from the bottom of which to the summit, the perpendicular height is about 30 feet. The acclivity is gentle at the entrance, but steep in every other part. The middle part of the summit contains a cavity, with a small circular rising in its centre. Here, tradition reports, that criminals were tried, and justice administered. Upon the muir of Dalharick, in the north-west part of the parish, a battle is said to have been fought, between Wallace and Cumming, wherein a person of distinction fell, of the name of Douglas: A tumulus, or cairn, marks the place, in the field, where his body was interred; and a brook that runs through it, retains, at this day, the name of *Douglas' Burn.*

*Soil, Climate, and Productions.*—The ground rises gradually from the east to the south-west and west extremity of this parish, of which the soil towards the west, extending two miles from the church, is, in general marshy; and the crops are late in ripening. In the north and east divisions, on the  
contrary

\* Of Druidical fanes, and what the ancients have related, concerning the manners and customs of the celebrated order, from whom that appellation is derived, some account is given, in a poem, entitled *The Fane of the Druids*, published by Murray, London; to which the reader is referred for particulars on this curious subject.

contrary, the mould is commonly good dry earth, on a deep clayey bottom, the country level, and the harvest as early as in most parts of the county. The principal crops of grain, are barley, oats, and pease; of which the two last species are sown in March, and reaped in September; and the first, sown about the beginning of May, is commonly reaped towards the end of August. But these circumstances are rendered precarious, by the nature of the soil, as well as by the uncertainty of the seasons. In general, the harvest is concluded, about a month sooner in the north than in the south-west part of the parish. Potatoes may be considered as a part of the principal annual produce of the land. Turnip sowing begins to be practised by the farmers. Some rich hay crops are raised, near the residence of the heritors of Mid Marr and Shiels, as well as on some of the principal farms. Flax is raised only for private use. In general, it may be observed, that the produce of the parish considerably exceeds the consumption, so as to admit of an annual export.

The causes, that concur chiefly in obstructing improvement in agriculture, in this part of the kingdom, are, the prejudices of the farmers in behalf of old established practices; the short leases granted by heritors; and certain services, which tenants are bound, in many instances, to perform, under the penalty of forfeiting their possessions. These causes strengthen each other, by mutual co-operation. The prejudice of a farmer, in behalf of ancient practice; (always powerful in an unenlightened mind,) may be counteracted, during the course of a long lease, when he has leisure to look about him, and to make trial of experiments, of which he has estimated the profit, as well as remarked the effect. On the contrary, he, whose lease must expire within a few years, will be attached, perhaps insensibly, to the practice and modes of his predecessors, from the impossibility of imitating a method, of which

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he might have been brought to approve. In this manner, he is induced to justify a mode of cultivation, which, whether right or wrong, he *must* carry into execution. The effect of services, when rigorously exacted, in dispiriting the farmer, and in rendering him indolent, and even indifferent to his most important occupations, must be obvious to any person. It ought to be remarked here, in justice to the proprietors, that different tenants of this parish have been long resident on their possessions, particularly in the estates of Mid-Marr and Sheils. A fact, somewhat singular, is, that the farm of Bankhead, in the latter estate, has been occupied, during three centuries, by a race of farmers of the name of Fowler: These, with the Tytlers of Corfinday, (of whom different families and well known names are descended,) have possessed the same farms during many generations, and been esteemed at all times for their integrity and the propriety of their conduct.

*Rent, Heritors, Farmers.*—The valued rent of Mid-Marr amounts to L. 2387 Scots; the real rent, as nearly as can be conjectured, is from L. 1000 to L. 1100 Sterling. The farmers are in number 35; who pay, for their best arable land, about 20s; and, at an average, about 15s *per* acre, for all their infield ground. They draw from their subtenants, for such land, from 20 to 25s *per* acre, themselves ploughing it. There are here two residing heritors. The public road and cross roads, in one part of the parish, are in good order; in another, both of late have been much neglected, as the principal heritor does not reside in it. The public road is kept up by statute labour, to which the males, from 15 to 60 years of age, are called out, twice a year, at Mid-summer, and after harvest. An exemption from personal service may be obtained, by the payment of 1s 6d a year. But there are few instances, wherein the individual does not either work himself,

or put a sufficient man in his place. Statute labour first took place, in this district, about the year 1752.

*Cattle, Sheep, Husbandry, Utensils, Carriages, &c.*—There are in Midmar, according to a pretty exact estimate, 132 horses, 525 black cattle, and about 1955 sheep, 59 ploughs, and 91 carts. No waggons are necessary here, and no residing heritor has a carriage.

*Healthiness, Longevity, Stature, Population, &c.*—The healthiness, and longevity of the inhabitants, is the surest proof of the purity of the air of this region. One of these, Robert Mackay, died, some years ago, at the reputed age of 103; another, a respectable tenant, named John Mackay, aged 90, died about the same time; and, of two women, natives of the parish, one died in her 90th, the other in her 97th year. The antient population cannot be exactly ascertained. On the whole it has rather decreased. The number of inhabitants at present is 945; between which, and the return to Dr. Webster, of 979, in the year 1755, the difference however, is inconsiderable. During 10 years, from 1720 to 1730, the annual average of marriages was 10, and the births 26; from 1780 to 1790, though the average marriages were the same, the births were fallen to 20. One principal cause of this difference will be found in the change, that has lately taken place, in the manners of the people. In the lower classes, the expense of dress, of convivial meetings, and other appendages of luxury, have over-balanced the increase of wages, and the profit of trade. Among the better order of farmers, an emulation takes place in these, as well as in other corresponding articles. Young men were enabled, during the former period to marry early, by having practised an oeconomy, which is now exploded by the fashion of the times.—

Young

Young women, in the same manner, acquired a competent dowry in those days, at an early season of life, by attention to this great circumstance; and time was not wasted by either, in idle and expensive gratifications. Marriage, therefore, which, about 50 or 60 years ago, were contracted in early youth, and produced a numerous offspring, are now postponed to a later season, and are of consequence less productive. The following is an exact numeration of the present inhabitants.

|                       | Males. |   | Females. |   | Total. |
|-----------------------|--------|---|----------|---|--------|
| Under 10 years of age | 78     | - | 80       | - | 158    |
| From 10 to 20         | - 80   | - | 82       | - | 162    |
| 20 to 30              | - 70   | - | 87       | - | 142    |
| 30 to 40              | - 46   | - | 50       | - | 96     |
| 40 to 50              | - 43   | - | 41       | - | 84     |
| 50 to 60              | - 73   | - | 75       | - | 148    |
| 60 to 70              | - 59   | - | 61       | - | 120    |
| 70 to 80              | - 12   | - | 15       | - | 27     |
| 80 to 90              | - 5    | - | 3        | - | 8      |

In all 945

Many of the men exceed 6 feet in stature; from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet, may be the ordinary height of the men, and 3 feet 4 inches, to 5 feet 8 inches, that of the women. One instance of extraordinary muscular vigour occurs, in Peter Thomson, a man now broken down by age, who has been known to perform feats of strength, to which three ordinary men would scarcely have been equal.

*Manner of living, Character, &c.*—The people follow, in general, the occupation of husbandry. There are, at the same time, blacksmiths, carpenters, taylors, shoe-makers, and other

ther necessary tradesmen, sufficient for the exigencies of the parish, some of whom are excellent workmen: there are likewise a few shopkeepers. They live together in scattered villages, in houses thatched with straw; those of the principal farmers are not incommodious, in which they entertain with becoming hospitality. The near neighbourhood of Aberdeen renders larger towns less necessary. The lower ranks are sober and decent in their manners, intelligent and tractable; and, with their wealthier neighbours, abundantly ready to contribute, according to their ability, to the relief of the necessitous poor. The whole parish are members of the established church, two families of Seceders excepted. The chief manufacture, is that of stockings, which are knit by the women, by which they can earn 2s. a week. The only language spoken here, is that dialect of the English, common in the north of Scotland.

*Patron, Stipend, Church, Presbytery.*—Mid-Mar, is a *viv* patronage, to which Sir William Forbes presents twice, and the Crown once alternately. The annual stipend, glebe included, is from L. 80 to L. 90, varying according to the price of grain. The former parish of Kinnairney being now united to Mid-Marr, and Cluny, its glebe is equally divided between the ministers of these two parishes. A new church was built in 1787; the work is well executed, but the side-walls are not of a proportionate height. It would otherwise have been neat and commodious. The minister of this, with those of the neighbouring parishes of Cluny and Echt, are subjected to a considerable local inconvenience, from being included in the extensive range of the Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil; the road from these parishes to the Presbytery seat, and higher parts of the presbytery, being, by the hill of Fare, at all times unpleasant, and, in winter, commonly impassable, these ministers are often precluded from supplying occasional vacancies

cies, and from attending the meetings of Presbytery, even on the most urgent occasions.

In consequence of a legacy of L. 150, from the late Robert Harvey, Esq. of Grenada, the capital stock belonging to the poor, amounts to L. 217.—The emoluments of the school are about L. 15 *per annum*.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—Mr William Meiston, professor of philosophy in the Marischal college of Aberdeen, a man of considerable genius, was a native of the parish of Mid-Marr. He was the author of a small collection of poems, of which a 6th edition was published at Edinburgh, in 1767. Some account of this author is prefixed to his poems, to which those who desire to know the particulars of an unfortunate and eventful life, are referred. The burlesque of these pieces is not dissimilar to that of the celebrated author of Hudibras. That this gentleman did not rise to excellence, in the line which nature had chalked out to him, we may ascribe, without injustice, to the two great foes of every nobler effort of human genius, *indigence and dependence*. Mr Meiston's father was a blacksmith, much respected for his knowledge and sagacity. To the memory of this and his other parent, our author erected a monument, in the parish churchyard. This circumstance, omitted in the account of his life, ought to have been mentioned, not merely to commemorate that instance of filial piety; but also on account of the pure and classical style in which the epitaph is composed.

*Conclusion.*—The change, that has taken place, on the general manners of the inhabitants of this district, as on those perhaps of all others in its neighbourhood, during the last half of the present century, is marked by very striking circumstances. Old persons complain of this alteration, in the author's



author's opinion, without reason. They censure indiscriminately every deviation from ancient practice, not as being culpable, but new; and they reprobate, with unmerited appellations, certain modes of conduct, which indicate only an advanced state of civilization. Thus, changes that are prescribed by fashion, and the manners of the times, are termed extravagance and affectation; conversation somewhat enlarged, or any attempt to deviate, in discourse, from their own barbarous phraseology, are imitations of the talk and manners of gentlemen; an advance towards improvement, by any new mode of agriculture, is an innovation that cannot be practised successfully; and the demand of written security for money, is an indication of distrust, that is inconsistent with ancient simplicity and confidence, when individuals demanded no other security for small sums, than a verbal promise of payment. These changes have their origin, partly in the larger and more diversified intercourse of society, and partly in the more universal diffusion of property, of which men are naturally rendered more careful, as they become more sensible of its value, and are benefited by those advantages, of which it placeth them in possession. Perhaps, indeed, progress in agriculture has not kept pace with other branches of improvement. Yet, if the latter shall go forward, in the succeeding, as in the present century, some corresponding advancement must be made on the former; as men will find, in the melioration of their farms, the only resource, whereby expence, that will become unavoidable, can be supported.

N U M B E R    X L V I I .

UNITED PARISHES OF KEITH-HALL  
AND KINKELL.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE SKENE KEITH.

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*Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HE antient name of one of these parishes was Montkeg-  
gie; the origin and etymology of which are unknown.  
Kinkell retains the old name, which is derived from the Gaelic, and signifies the *head*, or *principal church*. It obtained this name, because other six inferior parishes belonged to the parsonage of Kinkell. In 1754, the Lords Commissioners for the plantation of kirks, disjoined about one third part of the parish of Kinkell, and annexed it to Kintore. The other two thirds of Kinkell, they annexed to Keith-hall, or Montkeggie: And they appointed, that these parishes, in all time coming, should be called, the United Parishes of Keith-hall and Kinkell. This is the authority for the modern name.

These parishes are situated in the presbytery of Garioch, and in the synod and county of Aberdeen.—They contain  
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between 10,000 and 11,000 acres, the greater part of which has been measured. They extend rather more than 6 English miles in length. Their greatest breadth is 5; but in some places they are considerably narrower.

These parishes are hilly, but not mountainous. The soil varies considerably. The western part, having a fertile soil, produces good crops: But the eastern is, in general, very unfruitful. This is partly owing to its exposure to the E. the N. and N. E. partly to the poorness of the soil, and coldness of the subsoil, and no doubt, also partly to its elevation, many of the fields being 350 feet above the level of the sea.—

The air, on the whole, is reckoned salubrious; but not equally so, being moist and unhealthy near the marshy grounds.—Inflammatory fevers, sometimes attended with putrid symptoms, prevail in the eastern division; and of late, slow nervous fevers, which are more tedious than fatal; and the measles and small pox occasionally make their appearance. The rheumatism and nervous complaints, commonly called hysterics, are not unfrequent; the first among the active, after violent exercise, or sudden transitions from heat to cold; the second among the sedentary, whose sole occupation is the knitting of stockings. The *scarlatina anginalis*, or scarlet fever, with a sore throat, was fatal to many, in 1783. It was probably occasioned by the badness of their provisions. The *schrophula*, or king's evil, is in a few families: Yet it does not prevent the marriages of those, who are known to be affected with that dreadful disease.

*Rivers.*—There are two rivers, the Don and the Ury.—The Don produces salmon. The Ury has none, except in the spawning season. Pike, eel, and trout are found in both. The channel of the Don is full of large rocks at Stonywood, about 5 miles distant from Aberdeen, which would make it extremely

tremely difficult to render it navigable. But if a canal were carried along the side of that river, for 3 miles, a navigation might be carried, to Inverury.—With little expence the Ury could be rendered navigable, as its fall, for 12 miles, counting its windings, does not probably exceed 30 feet. Both these rivers are apt to overflow the adjacent grounds. The greatest inundation was in 1768. Another, not much less, took place in 1774. In 1789, though the flood was not nearly so great, the Don overflowed its banks eleven times during the harvest season.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Earl of Kintore is patron.—The stipend is nearly 89 bolls of meal and bear, and L. 43 : 13 : 5 in money.—The church and manse were built in 1771 and 1772, at a place in the centre of the district, called Legate, so named, because the Pope's Legate staid there all night, (at a small chapel, which still retains the name of Monk's Hillock,) the night before the great battle of Harlaw : as Legate's den, in the chapel of Garioch, was the place, where he in vain attempted to reconcile the contending parties.

In this district there are 38 Quakers, 3 Seceders, 2 Methodists, and 10 Episcopalians. The rest are of the established church.

*Population.*—The population of these parishes has decreased since the year 1750, and even since the present incumbent was settled. The return to Dr Webster, was 828 souls in Keith-Hall, and 429 in Kinkell, two thirds of which, or 286, being united to Keith-Hall, would make the total population of the district, at that time, about 1114 souls ; whereas from 1778 to 1782, there were only 900 persons of all ages, viz. 230 in Kinkell, and 670 in Keith-Hall : and at Whitsunday 1782, the farmers in Keith-Hall parish having entered

into new leases, and moss having become very scarce, the tenants were restricted to a certain number of subtenants; so that, in winter 1784, the minister's parish list was reduced to exactly 797 persons. In 1796 it rose to 816; and at Whit-funday 1791, to 838. Of last this number, 232 were below 15; 76 between 15 and 20; 134 between 20 and 30; 129 from 30 to 40; 88 from 40 to 50; 75 from 50 to 60; 52 from 60 to 70; 36 from 70 to 80; 13 from 80 to 90; and 3 from 90 to 100. Among these, there are only two residing heritors, the Earl of Kintore, and Major General Gordon, of Balbithan. 31 farmers pay L. 10, or more of rent; 113 are small farmers, or subtenants, and 64 have only a house, and sometimes a small garden, subsisting chiefly by knitting stockings. Of the small farmers and subtenants, 4 are blacksmiths, 6 house-carpenters, or cart-wrights, 3 taylor, 5 shoemakers, and 2 weavers. — There are only 3 non-residing proprietors.

*Proportion of the Sexes.* — The number of the males and females is exactly equal. Before the Earl of Kintore came to reside in these parishes, there were generally 6 or 8 more males than females. (The number of maid-servants in great houses, exceeds, for the most part, that of men-servants. In farm-houses the reverse holds true). By inspecting the register of baptisms it appears, that out of 2025 births, 1025 were males, and 1000 were females. Consequently the proportion of males to females, is exactly as 41 to 40; only more males remove to Aberdeen, or go abroad, which renders the numbers at home so equal.

*State of the Poor.* — The number of families on the poor's roll has varied from 18, its present number, to 30, besides  
those

who get occasional supplies. In 1782 there were about 50 families, or 220 persons of all ages, who received assistance either from the poor funds, or from the bounty of parliament. In the eastern division of the parish, then inhabited by about 500 persons, there was not grain to preserve 100 alive. Above 2 chalders of meal were received in a donation from the public, and 3 chalders were sold for only 10s per boll, (or 20s per sack). All the money the session had, was distributed among the poor; and L. 10 were borrowed on a small property belonging to them in the borough of Inverury. Some of the parishioners put money into the minister's hands, free of interest for 18 months, to purchase grain; and the farmers, who had no money, sent, in their turn, horses and carts gratis, to Aberdeen, for pease, bear, oats, and coarse flour. The price of grain was kept low here, compared with many other parishes;—and, in this district, no forestallers made any profit. The debt then contracted by the parish, was only paid off in 1790. At present the poor get annually about L. 18; of which L. 10 is the amount of the ordinary collections; from L. 5 to L. 7, is received at the administration of the sacrament; and L. 2:5 of land rent from property in Inverury, besides what is drawn for the use of the smort-cloths, and for penalties.

*Black-Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.*—The number of black cattle at Whitfunday 1791, in this district, was 1038: their value, as nearly as could be computed at that time, was L. 3733. The number of horses was 204: their probable value L. 1400; The number of sheep 1844: their probable value, L. 483. The aggregate value of all, L. 5616. This is about 5 years free rent, or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years gross rent of this district; or nearly one fifth part of the value of the landed property of the parishes of Keith-Hall and Kinkell. But though their price is high at present, their number and intrinsic value has of late much decreased. Above

40 years ago, by the best accounts that can be procured, there were at least double the number of black cattle, in this district, and more than 5 sheep where there are 2 at present. And in a few years hence, it is probable, there will not be one half of the present number. The number of horses alone has increased, since black cattle came to be less used in the plow. In 1778, there were 26 oxen ploughs, each plough consisting of 10 or 12 oxen, besides other small ploughs. At present there are only 8 ploughs, which have 10 oxen in the plough. The number of young cattle has also decreased since 1782 and 1783. At that time many farmers were obliged to sell all off, or great part of their oxen; and they have not yet been able to supply their place, though they raise as many young ones as they can, to pay their rents and stock their farms. Almost all the stock of black cattle are reared in the district itself. About 20 horses are of the west country, or Irish breed; the rest are home-bred, and of the kind called Galloways. They are lighter, live longer, are more hardy, and easier kept than the other; and seem to retain a little of the original blood. A great number of them have been carried to the southern counties within these 8 years past.

*Product.*—Oats, bear, barley, pease, turnips, potatoes, a few carrots, and a good many greens and cabbages, are the principal productions of the district. There may be 3000 acres in oats of different kinds; near 300 in barley; 100 in clover, and rye-grass; and from 36 to 40 acres in turnips. The ancient husbandry, within these 10 or 18 years, is beginning to wear out;—and, with proper encouragement, the farmers would inclose and improve their farms. The district supplies itself with provisions; and sends a considerable quantity to Aberdeen.

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*Mode of Cultivation.*—The ancient division of the land was into infield, outfield, and fauchs. The infield was dunged, every 3 years, for bear; and the two crops that followed bear were oats invariably. The outfield was kept five years in natural grass; and, after being tathed by the farmer's cattle, who were folded or penned in it, during the summer, it bore 5 successive crops of oats. The fauchs, after being 5 years in natural grass, got a single plowing, (hence they were called *one fur ley*), the land continuing without a crop for one year, and then bearing four crops of oats, without any dung. The species of oats used for this last, and partly for the outfield, is called small oats, hairy oats, or shiacks. They yield from five pecks, to half a boll of meal. And are measured by handwaving, i. e. they are stroked by the hand about 4 inches above the top of the firloot. They raise a great deal of fodder, or forage; and exhaust the ground more than any other crop.

Since the introduction of turnips, the farmers make it a general rule, not to take more than one, and never more than two crops of oats in succession, in their infield grounds. But in regard to the outfields and fauchs, when they manure them with lime, without taking a turnip crop, the wretched system of 5 successive crops of oats is still continued. Two or three farmers begin to think of a rotation of crops; without fixing, however, on any regular rotation. The old Scottish plough, the Yorkshire, and a mixture of Scots and English ploughs, are used in this district.

*Forest and Fruit Trees.*—There is a considerable number of large ash and plane, and a few good Scots firs, all above 60 years old, near the houses of Keith-hall and Balbithan; but too little, of any other kind of wood, in this district. What there is, consists of elm, black cherry, larix, spruce and Scots pine. A few apple trees, and some pears and cher-  
ries



ries are found in the gardens : And, in 1762, Lord Marischal caused plant several hundreds of geans or black cherries, which have answered very well.

*Farm-houses and Cottages*—These are generally built of stone and mortar, sometimes with stones, without any cement; and are covered with turf. Within these five years, a very few of them have been stob-thatched, or covered with a deep coat of straw,—and snecked or harled with lime. None of the walls are built with lime; nor are any of their roofs covered either with tiles or slates.—Yet they are much better, than they were, before they got new leases. They are to get allowance for their houses, at the end of the lease; but they get nothing, or next to nothing, allowed them, in the first instance; as is the practice in most of the improved counties. The whole dead inventory, or value of the houses, belonging to the heritors, does not much exceed L. 150, in both these parishes.

*Fuel*.—The fuel made use of is of various kinds. Peats, from the Burreldale mofs, constitute the principal fuel in Keith-hall. Turf from the moors, and broom, and furze or whins, are used in Kinkell, where they have little mofs, and that of very bad quality. A few coals are used, in the estate of Kinmuck, by the farmers: But only a few; for they are very dear. A boll of coals, of 36 stone, costs from 4s to 5s at Aberdeen; and the carriage, where carts are hired, about half that sum; so that, every pound of coal costs more than half a farthing.—Till the tax on coals be taken off, or equalized over the kingdom, the farmers, in the north of Scotland, will never succeed in agriculture; because the whole summer is spent in collecting fuel to their heritors, and themselves. Every possessor of a plough of land, must cast, and  
carry

carry home to the heritor's house, and build, a leet of peats, in the principal estate in this district.—This costs him a week's labour of his carts, and about 10s for digging and building them. Peats are not sold publicly, but are frequently stolen, and sometimes sold privately, to those who have no moss. All the mosses are under bad management, and must soon be exhausted.

*Manure.*—The dung of animals, here called *muck*, and peat-ashes, are the principal manures. Within these twelve years, lime has been driven, in considerable quantities, from Aberdeen, a distance of 14 English miles. Some slacked lime has also been driven, from some lime kilns, in the parishes of Udney, New Machar, and Old Machar. It is a very expensive manure. At the average expence of lime and carriage, every boll of shell-lime, (Aberdeen measure, holding 130 Scotch pints,) costs 5s; and an acre of ground will require 16 bolls,—or L. 4, for lime,—and the carriage from Aberdeen. Of late years, the price of lime has fallen considerably at Aberdeen; but it is still very dear.

*Rent and Size of Farms.*—The largest farms contain about 250 acres, including pasture grounds, and rent from L. 60, to L. 66 a year. These are called two ploughs. One plough, near the river, rents about L. 35; and, in the east division, from L. 20 to L. 25. In small parcels, good land is rented at 20s *per* acre. The farmers are generally charged 12s an acre, for their infield land: And their outfields and fauchs are rated at from 3s to 10s. The first, (that which is let at 2s,) is really the dearest, in the way they manage it, viz. plowing without manure, and taking four or five crops of oats). In general, good grounds are valued very cheaply by the heritors,

and

and land-measurers; but the bad lands are by far too dearly rented. As land is worth no more than what it will produce, after clearing all charges, the infields, valued at 12s, are better worth 18s, than the outfields, estimated at 6s, are worth 4s; and than those, rated at 3s, are worth 1s, if kept in crops, or 1s 6d the acre, if kept, as they ought to be, in grass, and used as sheep's pasture. Accordingly, those farmers are most thriving, who have most good ground, even though the proprietors think they have a great rent paid them. In general, the whole lands, in this district, are worth the whole rent charged from all the tenants: But that rent is, in some cases, very ill proportioned among the different farmers; and both the cheapest and dearest lands in the county, are to be found in this district. At the same time, the great rise in the wages of servants, day-labourers, and expence of harvesting, and of farm utensils, is more generally complained of, by the farmers, than the rise of their rents.

*Provisions*—The price of provisions varies considerably in different seasons. Good oat meal, at an average of 20 years, has been 10d. farm meal, 9d. a peck, of 8 Amsterdam, or Scots troy pounds. Malt 1s. to 1s 4d. a peck, Aberdeen measure, or 20s to 26s. the Winchester quarter. (In the whole district of Garioch, the farm meal, made of small oats, which both heritors and ministers must accept from the farmers, is 10 per cent. worse, than the oat meal sold in the market at Aberdeen). Butter sells, in this district, from 6d. to 8d. the pound, of 26 avoirdupoise ounces, which is the weight of the pound at Old Meldrum, the nearest market town. At Aberdeen, the pound of butter is 28 ounces; and, in other places, 20, 22, and 24 ounces, all in the same county. Cheese sells at 5s. the stone of 26 lb. In general, the necessaries of life

and a peck of mixed meal, at an average, to each person. But for brose, a dish much used, they keep some of their oatmeal unmixed. A man and his wife, without children, need 2 pecks of oat-meal, and half a peck of bear meal, if they have a cow. Where they have no cow, they use from half a peck to 2 pecks of malt weekly, according to the number of the family, and the nature of the man's employment. In general, the day-labourers are in much better circumstances, than those who have large crofts; and good mechanics can afford to live better, than the farmers in this district. The greatest difficulty they experience, is that of getting their small pieces of land plowed, as ploughs are very scarce.

*Manufactures.*—The knitting of stockings, is the principal manufacture of this district. It is carried on by almost all the women, and by many boys and old men. Different manufacturers, from Aberdeen bring out wool, and give to the people, from 10d. to 2s. a pair for working it. A woman will make from 3d. to 3½ a day, and do some little things about her house, at the same time. Or she can work at her stocking, while feeding her cows in the baulks, or patches of grass between the ridges, which are not uncommon in this district. On the whole, however, this employment is too sedentary, and gives too little exercise for the body.—Since the introduction of loom-stockings, the knitting or netting of stockings with wires, has been on the decline; and, as the Germans are our great rivals in this manufacture, and the price of labour is cheap there, a peace with Germany always reduces greatly the price of this commodity. At present, the price is low; and, as the principal manufacturers must give from 10 to 12 months credit to Dutch merchants, this branch of commerce is falling off, and must decline more and more, as it seems to be conducted on bad principles.—The former

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staple manufacture of this county was sergés or *finneyings*. And, as the sheep were formerly much more numerous than at present, and both the raw materials, and the price of labour, belonged to the country people, this was incomparably a better manufacture, than the knitting of stockings, from coarse English wool. It was lost by bad workmanship. A stamp-office for this woolen manufacture, would have saved a valuable branch of commerce. Very little linen is made, and still less flax grows in this district. — The stocking manufactory brings in from L. 450 to L. 600 a year, according to the price of stockings, and the dearthness of provisions. — In 1782 and 1783, the average price of stockings was below 1s. for manufacturing, each pair. But provisions were so dear, that the people wrought incessantly; and, by the best accounts, 18,000 pair of stockings were made yearly, at that time, in this district.

*Carriages, Carts, &c.* — There is only one carriage kept in this district. There are 63 double carts, of which about 40 are pretty good; there are 40 single carts, most of which are very bad. Thirty-five years ago, there was but one cart in the parish of Keith Hall; and the dung was carried on horses backs in creels; the men filled the creels, and the women led the horses. No woman is now employed in this servile work. But the women are thought to be less healthy and vigorous, since they were confined to the knitting of stockings. Some better manufacture may be established. — Within these 20 years, the whole clothing of the inhabitants was raised and manufactured in the district, or in the neighbourhood. Now at least one third is brought from England; and the difference between the value of the dress used now, and what was used 50 years ago, would nearly pay the rents of the two parishes. In this article, the expence of shoes has become very conspicuous:

are from one third to one half dearer, and articles of luxury more than double, within these 40 years\*.

*Expences*

\* If we inquire into the proportion, between the present and ancient prices of both the necessaries and luxuries of life, the inquiry is involved in many intricacies, which, perhaps, no one writer has sufficiently attended to. We ought not only to distinguish, between the quantity of silver in a nominal pound, from the time that a pound of silver was a real pound weight, down to the time when it was reduced, in Scotland, to less than the value of one third-part of an ounce of silver, or  $\frac{1}{8}$  part of its original weight, but we must also consider, how much of pure silver, and how much alloy, were in a pound of coined silver, at different periods. Then we have to consider, how far this money went, in purchasing articles of luxury, and how far in purchasing the necessaries of life. It farther deserves to be considered, that, since the discovery of America, the value of gold and silver, as articles of commerce, has fallen, it is supposed, one third part; and that this fall is independent of every other cause, except the increased quantity of these metals.

After these remarks, made with a view of preventing mistakes, both in giving and receiving the accounts of the price of provisions in Scotland, the following selection of articles is submitted. In 1438, oat meal sold in Aberdeen at 4s Scots per boll. The pound Scots at that time, was equal to L. 1 : 13 Sterling, if the silver had the same quantity of alloy, which coined silver has at present. The boll of meal, therefore, was above 6s and 7d Sterling. But on account of the great quantity of alloy, it would not much exceed 5s. Yet at that period, this certainly was a high price for oat meal. Wheat cost 7s Scots or 11s 6d Sterling per boll. In 1576, the conversion for the Bishop of Aberdeen's rents, when not paid in kind, was L. 1 Scots for wheat, worth at that time only 3s Sterling, from Scottish money being so much changed in its value.

*Expences of a common Labourer's Family.*—The expence of a labourer, and his mode of living, are very different, according as he has a cow and an acre of land, or only a house and small garden. In the first case, a peck of bear meal is mixed with two or three pecks of oat meal for bread; and a man and his wife, with 3 or 4 children, will live tolerably well, with milk, and

And oat meal was converted at 10s Scots, or 1s 6d Sterling. Thus the price of provisions was really much cheaper, in 1576 than in 1438, though the nominal value was higher. In 1591, at the valuation of the effects, and confirming of the testament of Mrs Catherine Grant, wheat was valued at L. 3 Scots, or 7s and 8d Sterling. Only three years before that period, viz. in 1588, there was a famine, and oat meal sold for L. 18. Scots, or L. 2: 6: 1, Sterling per boll. In regard to the expence of cloaths, it appears, from the records of the City of Aberdeen, (from which all the Statements in this note are taken) that the Town Council of Aberdeen gave Manns or Magnus Cobbar, 20d or 1s and 8d Scots, in 1498, to buy a coat for ringing his bell once a week. This coat to the bell man must have been coarse, yet it certainly was cheap, as 20d Scots at that time were equal to only 9d Sterling. In regard to the price of candles, tallow, in 1531, was 6s Scots, or 1s and 11d Sterling per Stone. With respect to beef and mutton, a mart ox was valued, in the Bishop of Aberdeen's rental, at L. 1: 10 Scots, or 4s and 6d Sterling; equal to the converted price of 3 bolls of oat meal. This, no doubt was very cheap; but the beef was probably indifferent. A sheep in 1507, at the highest, sold in Aberdeen for 2s and 8d Scots, or 1s and 3d Sterling. In 1576 it was converted for 5s Scots or 9d Sterling. Only 40 years ago, the farmers in this district sold an old ox, at the end of harvest, for a guinea, or 25s, and never above 30s. Little meat was then used in Aberdeen, compared with what is made use of at present, there was little demand from England, and no turnips, at least in this district, for feeding old oxen.

She was twice married; first, to a namesake of her own, who came from the south country, and is said to have composed the Song, to her praise, that is so generally admired, and partakes much of the music, which, at that time, abounded between the Tay and the Tweed. Her second husband was one James George: And she had children by both. Like most other beauties, she was unfortunate. Her father killed a man in the burgh of Inverurie; and was obliged to fly to Caithness, or Orkney, where his uncle was bishop. His flight, and the expence of procuring a pardon, ruined his estate. This is the tradition. But, perhaps the Lafs of Patie's mill may be claimed by as many parishes of Scotland, as Homer's birth-place was by the cities of Greece. It is only certain, that, in this district, there was a young woman, heiress of Patie's mill, who was lampooned by a disappointed lover, and praised by a successful one\*.

*Language.*—The language spoken in this district is English, or rather that particular dialect of Scottish, known by the name of Broad Buchan, or Aberdeenshire dialect. The frequent use of the vowel *i*, long *e*, or diphthong *ee*, for *o* and *u*;—the sharpness of the accents, which makes strangers believe that the natives are always quarrelling; and a rise, instead of a cadence, at the end of sentences, distinguish the pronunciation of the lower classes. Yet, there is not a provincial dialect, in Britain, better understood, on the Royal Exchange of London, than that of Aberdeenshire, if it be used without any affectation. The unmusical sharpness of the sounds renders it distinctly audible. No Gaelic is spoken within 30 English miles of this district, excepting by natives of the Highlands; though many of the names of places, as, Caskiebean, (the Shadow

\* This observation is verified: See Page 82. Parish of Galfon.



dow of the Hill) Balbithan, (the Town above the River,) &c. are derived from that language.

*Character of the Inhabitants.*—They are, in general, very industrious, and live plainly, and in such sobriety, that, since 1788; three different attempts, to settle an ale-house among them, have proved abortive. They dress better than their neighbours. It has been said, that the people of Kintore and Inverury put all their money in their bellies, and those of Keith-hall and Kinkell on their backs. They are, in general, very charitable and humane. No instance has occurred, in the memory of any person, of any inhabitant of the district being brought before a court of justice, for any crime. Several of the young men go to Aberdeen, as mechanics: But none go into the navy, and very few into the army.

*State in 1782, & 1783.*—Several families, who would not allow their poverty to be known, lived on two diets of meal a day. One family wanted food from Friday night till Sunday at dinner. On the last Friday of December, 1782, the country people could get no meal in Aberdeen, as the citizens were afraid of a famine; and a poor man, in this district, could find none in the country, the day after: But the distress of this family being discovered, they were supplied. Next day, the session bought, at a sale, a considerable quantity of bear, which was made into meal. This served the poor people, till the importation at Aberdeen became regular; and every man of humanity rejoiced, that the danger of famine was removed. In the beginning of this century, many died of want, in particular, 10 highlanders, in a neighbouring parish, that of Kemnay; so that the session got a bier made to carry them to the grave, not being able to afford coffins for such a number. At that period, the Earl of Kintore gave

cuous: Formerly, these were made of the hides of oxen, killed by the farmers, and tanned by the shoemakers of the district. Now they are chiefly made of English tanned leather, and none is tanned in the district. Almost every servant has a coat of English cloth, and a watch of Birmingham or London manufactory, as a necessary appendage to dress; while printed cottons, or other showey, but unsubstantial articles of dress, are preferred by the young women, to the manufactures of the country. On the whole, the balance of manufactures, sold to other parishes, or sent to Aberdeen, compared with the articles of dress, both useful and ornamental, bought by the inhabitants, is far from being so favourable to these parishes, as it was only 20 years ago.

*Remarkable Places.*—There are three Druids temples, and the remains of several more in this district. There are 3 large cairns, which are seen at a considerable distance; one near Balbithan, called the Cairn More, or great cairn; one at Kinmuck, which commands a prospect of the low country; and one on the hill of Selbie, which commands a prospect of great part of Garrioch, Buchan, and Formartin, and the sea coast, nearly from Aberdeen to Peterhead. Near the old house of Balbithan, there is a small ring ground, called the Law, where justice was antiently administered.

*Memorable Events*—Tradition records, that a great battle was fought between the Scots and the Danes, on the moor of Kinmuck; a range of fields near it, now arable, and also the moor, are called *Plair-haffey*, which signifies, the Field of Blood. The Scottish army are said to have killed a boar at Kinmuck, which denotes the boar's head. This was an omen of victory.—A great multitude of small cairns are scattered over the moor; and General Gordon, one of the heritors, remembers

members to have frequently observed the vestiges of an encampment, on the south side of the moor, having a large morass (the mosses of Balbithan and Kinmuck) on the back, and the burn of Denmiln, or Danemiln, on the right of the camp. The field of battle extended the whole length of the parish of Kinkell, on the north, or above two English miles. The Danes were defeated, and pursued to the burn of Dennyburn, or Danes-burn, on the other side of the parish.

*Eminent Persons.*—The famous Johnston, next to Buchanan, the best Latin poet of modern times, was born at Caskiebean, which he celebrates. He mentions a curious fact, viz. that the shadow of the high mountain of Benochie, distant about 6 English miles, extends to the house of Caskiebean, at the equinox. The High Constable of Dundee, Scrimgeour, who fell at Harlaw, was buried at Kinkell, and has a Latin inscription on his monument, ill preserved. Many others, who fell in this battle, are said to have been buried at Kinkell, which was the principal church in that part of the county. Tradition also speaks of an eminent woman, *The Lass of Patie's mill*. Her maiden name was Anderson. A great grandson of hers, aged 89, and a number of her descendants, reside in this district, and in the parishes of Kinnellar and Dyce. Her father was proprietor of Patie's mill, in Keith-hall; of Tulliekarie, in Fintray; and Standing Stones, in the parish of Dyce. From her beauty, or fortune, or from both causes, she had many admirers; and she was an only child. One Sangster, laird of Boddom, in New Machar parish, wished to carry her off, but was discovered by his dog, and very roughly handled by her father, who was called *black John Anderson*. In revenge, he wrote an ill natured song, of which her great grandson remembers these words:

Ye'll tell the gowk that gets her,  
He gets but my auld sheen.

*She*

some of his tenants oxen; some of them, oats for feed, and a year's rent, to take his vacant farms, in this district; and forgave arrears of rent, in the bad season. In 1782 and 1783, a conversion, at a moderate rate, was allowed to those tenants who were in arrears; and those, who were removed from their farms, were allowed to keep a horse and a cow, and their household furniture. Since the decay of the feudal system, however, there is not the same attachment, between landlords and their tenants, or vassals, which subsisted about 80 years ago.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of this district are, good soil near the rivers, freedom from mill-multiples; the stocking manufacture; the high price of black cattle at present, and the sobriety of the people.

The disadvantages are, distance from lime and marle, and from any considerable market-town;—the sudden increase of rents, which were raised above one-fifth part, all at once, and before any improvements could be made on the farms;—the impolitic restriction of the farmers to a certain number of sub-tenants, instead of restricting the size of the croft to tradesmen and day-labourers;—the scarcity of mechanics, and the badness of their work;—rents being paid in kind, i. e. in bear and oatmeal;—the number of carriages, or feudal services, every farmer being obliged to bring 6 cart-loads from Aberdeen yearly, to the principal heritor, besides, peats from the mofs;—want of stock in the farmers, who were never rich;—bad houses, owing to the farmers having had no leases for 20 years before 1782, but possessing their farms by tacit relocation; and the want of a chamberlain, or land steward, under the factor and commissioner, who should have power to receive from the poorer tenants any arrears of rent, in small sums, which they could not pay at the term day; with a superintendance over the ma-

nagement of the farms, and the general improvement of the estate.

*How to meliorate the Condition of the People.*—This might be effected, by giving the tenants, (which is done in most of the improved counties of Scotland,) an allowance of a year's rent for the building of houses;—by granting them longer leases than 19 years, upon progressive rises of rent;—by lending them, without interest, for 2 or 3 years, money to buy lime, the tenants bringing it out themselves, and being bound to lay it on turnip or fallow grounds;—by advancing one half of the value of stone fences, the tenant paying only 5 per cent. of interest, and either paying the other half, or what is generally more than half the expence, laying down the materials;—giving small premiums to the farmer, who has the best field of turnips; and converting, where a farmer has a certain number of acres in sown grass, all the carriages and leet peats into money;—encouraging meetings, where the farmers may open their minds, and communicate their plans to one another;—encouraging day labourers, and discouraging all large crofts, whose occupiers spend the summer in leading home more peats, than would serve many day-labourers;—encouraging good ploughmen, by small premiums; and proportioning both the rents and size of farms, better than they are at present.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XLVIII.

## PARISH OF KILMUIR.

(ISLE OF SKY.)

*By the Rev. MR. DONALD MARTIN.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HE antient, as well as the modern name of this parish, is Kilmuir, which, in Gaelic, signifies, the church of Mary, to whom, at a very remote period, it had been dedicated.—It is situated in the county of Inverness, in the island and presbytery of Sky, and synod of Glenelg.—The form of the inhabited part of the parish is a semicircle, having within it, the extremity of a ridge of mountains, which runs from North to South, through this and two other parishes. Its length is 11 computed, or about 16 English miles; and its breadth is supposed to be at least 8 English ones. It is bounded by the parish of Snizort on the south, and in every other quarter, is surrounded by the sea. The air is moist, but not unhealthy; and the inhabitants are not subject to any peculiar or epidemical disorders. The nature of the soil, in general, is a deep and fertile clay; but the reaping of the produce is rather uncertain, on account of the variableness of the climate.

The general appearance of the inhabited part of the country is flat. The hills, in the lower part of the district, are green, but the mountains are covered with heath.

*Coast, Fish, &c.*—The extent of the sea-coast may be computed at 30 English miles. The shores are in general high and rocky.—There is a great quantity and variety of fish to be caught on the coast,—such as herrings, cod, ling, turbot, skate, &c. but the fish are caught, not by regular fishermen, but by the country people, for the use of their families, when their domestic occupation will permit, and are not sold or sent to foreign markets. When a shoal of herrings comes on the coast, whales of various kinds and magnitudes follow it. Some seals always frequent the rocks and small islands, belonging to the parish.—Strong gales from the north-west very frequently throw into several creeks in the parish, great quantities of common sea-weed and tangle. When this happens in the months of March and April, the people lay it on their fields as manure, and it produces an excellent crop of barley.—There are about 80 tons of kelp made annually from the sea-weed cut from the rocks. —At the northern extremity of the parish, there is a high and rocky promontory called Hunnith, at the point of which, there is a most rapid current. It is believed, that a light-house would be of great service to mariners at that place, more especially, as it is not far distant from the dangerous rocks of Sker-na-mile.—There are numerous creeks, in which boats can enter; but only two places, in which vessels of large burden can anchor with safety. The first is the harbour of Duntulm, which enjoys the advantage of most excellent holding ground, and is admirably sheltered on all quarters, the north-west, perhaps, excepted. At the south end of the harbour, which is the proper place for vessels to enter, there are the ruins of the superb castle of Duntulm

tulm, the antient residence of the M'Donald family, situated on a high rock, the foot of which is washed by the sea.—The other harbour is called the bay of Altivaig, which has good ground for anchorage; but, being open to the northern sea, is judged rather unsafe. The islands on the coast of this parish, are five, Tulm, Flada-whein, Altivaig, Flada, and Troda.

*Migratory Birds.*—The cuckow, in a good year, announces, pretty early, the approach of summer with her notes. It is not unusual to hear 3 or 4 of them at one time.—The swans come hither in the beginning of winter, and live on a lake in this neighbourhood, till the hatching season comes on. Then they go home to their native north, and remain there, until the next winter frost precludes them from food in those countries, and drives them to happier climes. Hundreds of them, at a time, may be seen moving in all the majesty, that any of the feathered tribe can be possessed of, on the surface of the aforesaid lake.—There is another migratory bird, that comes to Flada-whein, and no farther. It is a water fowl, of a beautiful colour and shape, not so large as a common duck. It has a coultter bill of a red colour, with a white stripe across. Its food is fish. The most distinguishing characteristic of this bird, is, that the time of its appearance and departure is as regularly fixed, as that of the stork. About the 8th day of May, a few emiffaries appear on the island. As these generally find all quiet, they do not return; and the great flock comes to the place on the 12th. They hatch in burrows under ground. When the country people go thither to fish, they catch some of them. The poor bird finding the hand of the enemy about to enter its abode, pushes out the egg, and retires farther in; but the covetous depredator is seldom satisfied with that offering; but carries away the bird also. On, or about the 1st of  
August,



August, they all depart, and are not seen again for three quarters of a year. — In that island there are a few of the fowl called, by naturalists, the small petterell. It appears to be the least of aquatic birds; — not larger than a starling. It is of a black colour, and much more lively in its flight and motions on the ground, than water fowls generally are. The upper mandible at the point, goes crooked over the lower. There is a protuberance at the roof of it, in which the nostrils are fixed. It is a very uncommon bird, and is most frequently seen at sea. Mariners say, that it follows ships in their wake for many days. The vulgar name, they give them, is, *Mother Cary's Chickens*.

*Church and Stipend.* — The church was built 200 years ago; and, of late, has gone much out of repair. The manse was built 13 years ago. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 80. — The king is patron. — All the inhabitants are of the Established church, except 2 or 3 Roman Catholics.

*Population.* — The antient state of the population, in this, and many of the neighbouring parishes, cannot be ascertained, no proper or accurate register having ever been kept. In 1755, the return to Dr Webster, was 1572 souls. The amount of the population now is 2065. The number of males is 999; of females 1066. All reside in the country. Both men and women frequently live to the age of 80. There are some men above 90; very few reach 100. — The people are mostly employed in husbandry. There are also some handicraftsmen; but there is so little work for them, that they live poorly when they happen to have no land. No men of landed property reside here, the whole parish belonging to Lord M'Donald; but the principal farmers are well educated

educated and well informed; and there are many officers of the army, who have retired here on half pay, after having bravely served their country, who possess all those polite and elegant accomplishments, by which their profession is distinguished.

In former times, the small-pox frequently prevailed to a very great height, and sometimes almost depopulated the country. The people in general are now so well convinced of the propriety of inoculation, that it is become the practice universally, and many useful lives are saved by it. None have died from want since 1688. The seasons were then so eminently unfavourable to the growth of corn, that the quantity was not only small, but deficient in its nutritive quality; so that the poor actually perished on the highways, for want of aliment. This country has been often in distress since that time, but not to such an extreme degree.—— About 20 years ago, some families emigrated from this parish to America, but none since. The revolution in that country, has sent home to us lately, a few of our friends. The parish affords sufficient employment for all the inhabitants; but many of the young men, notwithstanding, to the great detriment of this part of the country, go to the south of Scotland, to earn higher wages. At the same time, the reward for labour was never so high here as at present; and the product of that labour not rising proportionally in value; the farmers find servants wages to be a serious and distressing affair, though the sums they pay, are not equal to those given farther south.

*Produce.*—The vegetables raised here, are such as are usual in the south of Scotland, and they thrive equally well, both in our gardens and fields. Any trees, which have been planted near the sea, have failed. They flourished till they rose higher than

than the wall which fenced them, and then withered.—This parish has more land, employed in raising corn, than any other in this island. In the particular district in which the incumbent lives, the eye can at one view see four miles, which look like one continued field of corn, there not being the smallest portion of muir within that extent. The rest of the parish also, is well enough calculated for the production of corn, though not equal to this part. It supplies itself with provision, and in plentiful years it furnishes oatmeal to those adjacent: but when the crop happens to fail, the inhabitants live worse than those in other parishes. The flatness of the country, disqualifying it for breeding sheep; and their finest fields being in tillage, summer grass is rendered more scarce, and less productive of milk. When meal, therefore, their chief support, is not abundant, there is but little else to supply the deficiency; and when it is very scarce, as happened in the year 1778, the people are deeply distressed.—They sow in March, April, and the beginning of May, and reap from the 20th of August to the 20th of October. In 1782 and 1783, the crop failed, and the people were in a very bad situation, till a supply of meal, (which sold at a very high price), was brought from Banff and Murray.

*Poor.*—The number of poor, receiving alms, is about 60. The funds for their supply are very trifling, consisting only of a few halfpence, collected on Sunday, and fines exacted from delinquents; so that the Session cannot give them; at an average, above 3s. or 3s 6d at most, *per annum*, a piece, even to the most distressed, and still less to others. They are therefore principally supported by the generosity of the people at large; and a heavy burden it is. The whole poor's funds do not exceed L. 7. or L. 8. a year.

*Prices of Provision and Labour.*—There are no regular markets but for live cattle, which sell at various prices, according to their quality. Butter fetches 10s, per stone, (tron weight, or 24 lb.) and cheese 4s. This being a plentiful year, (an. 1790), the boll of oatmeal, consisting of 16 pecks, sells for 13s 4d. small mutton for 5s. and some for 6s. each, common fowls, even when lean, are sold at 6d.—A day's wages to a labourer in husbandry, &c. are from 6d. to 8d. exclusive of victuals. Carpenters and tailors usually make a charge for a whole piece or job of work. When a common labourer is married, he has liberty to build a house on his master's farm; and he gets grass for a certain number of cows and sheep, as they fix on. The master, with his plough and servants, tills and harrows as much ground as will contain the quantity of oat seed, (perhaps two bolls) specified in the agreement; besides which, a small portion of ground is allotted for a little barley, and potatoes. With these the wife and children of the cottager live easy, and he gets victuals and shoes for himself, from his master. But it is only with gentlemen farmers, that labourers are hired on such terms.—Male servants have from L. 3. to L. 5 sterling *per annum*, and female servants from 10s. to 30s. with victuals and shoes. The common people employ their servants in husbandry, and domestic affairs, by turns, as occasion requires.

*Agriculture.*—There is a great number of ploughs in the parish. They differ a little in shape from the low country ploughs, but are drawn after the same manner by four horses. No oxen are used. The small tenants use the plough, only in weak ground, about the end of spring. They have a notion, which cannot easily be removed, but which they say is amply confirmed by experience, that plowed land does not produce near the quantity of corn, that it would do, if tilled with an

instrument of great antiquity in the Highlands, called a crooked spade, and wrought with manual labour. Granting the fact to be as they state it, the expence of tillage, in this way, is so great, that the return, it is presumed, is scarcely adequate to it. All the farms are inclosed, and separated from each other, by march dykes; and the whole parish, therefore, may be said to be inclosed. The people are very sensible of the advantages, nay, of the indispensable necessity of inclosing.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish has given birth to many eminent persons of the noble family of M'Donald, by far the most numerous and powerful of the Highland clans. Among those, who are now no more, the late Sir James M'Donald stands eminently distinguished. His character has justly been accounted one of the most estimable in modern times. His natural parts were of a very superior order; and they were greatly improved by a liberal education at home, and by all the advantages of foreign travel. He died at Rome in July, 1766, in the 24th year of his age, univerfally regretted, both by his countrymen, and by foreigners, who contended with each other, who should pay the greatest marks of respect to his merit and his virtues.

*Miscellaneous Facts and Observations.*—There is abundance of free stone and common stone, which the people use in building their houses. Some lime stone, of a most excellent quality, is found on the neighbouring shore, but difficult to quarry, being a long continuation of a very solid flat rock, which is exposed to view, when the tide ebbs. There are the remains of Popish chapels, in many places; and there are 6 Danish forts, as they are called. It is probable, however, that these were rather places, from which, by means of fire,

or

or some other signal, notice was given of the approach of an enemy, than used for the purposes of defence. The Gaelic language is principally spoken, more especially by the lower ranks; but most of the names of places are derived from the Danish or Norwegian. Peat is the only fuel used here.

The people of this country, and indeed of all the Western Highlands, have signalized themselves, in the last, and in the former wars, by their valour, and their ability in bearing every species of hardship and fatigue. They are possessed of vivacity and penetration in a high degree. Their general size is from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet. The greatest height, that any has attained is 6 feet 4 inches. There are no manufactures, but of such coarse cloths and linens, as the country people wear. The inhabitants are very economical, industrious, and humane. In the seafaring line, they are not particularly active. There is a small boat or two, in every farm on the coast, for the purpose of fishing; but they are seldom launched. Crimes are rarely committed. About 25 years ago, a man was overtaken with a stolen sheep on his shoulder, by two neighbouring tenants. The thief declared to them, that this was his first trespass; and offered a reward, if they would keep it a profound secret. But they declined to accept of the one, or to do the other. The sheep was set at liberty; and the poor wretch hung himself, next morning, to the roof of his own house.

There is not a single bridge in the parish. In former times, the roads were quite neglected, until within these few years, when a great number of the principal persons in the district, were made Justices of the Peace, who all unite, in seeing the roads properly attended to; and their efforts are crowned with success. At first, they exacted the statute labour in kind; but, finding that method not so efficacious, they commuted it into money.

In a low valley, there is a small hill, shaped like a house, and covered with small trees, or rather shrubs, of natural growth. At one side of it, there is a lake of soft water, from which there is no visible discharge. Its water finds many passages through the hill, and makes its appearance, on the other side, in a great number of springs, of the very purest kind: They all run into an oval basin below, which has a bottom of white sand, and is the habitation of many small fish. From that pond, the water runs, in a copious stream, to the sea. At the side of this rivulet, there is a bath, made of stone, and concealed from public view, by small trees surrounding it. Its name is Loch Shiant, or the sacred lake. There was once a great resort of people, afflicted with ailments, to this place. They bathed themselves, and drank of the water, though it has no mineral quality; and, on a shelf, made for the purpose, in the wall of a contiguous inclosure, they left offerings of small rags, pins, and coloured threads, to the divinity of the place.

At the northern termination of the ridge of mountains before-mentioned, there is a most curious concealed valley: It is on all sides surrounded with high rocks, and accessible to man or beast only in three or four places. A person, seeing the top of these rocks, could never imagine that they surrounded so great a space of ground. In barbarous times, when perpetual feuds and discords, subsisted between the clans, to such a degree, that life and moveable property could not be secure, when the approach of an enemy was announced, the weakest of the inhabitants, with all the cattle, were sent into that secret asylum, where strangers could never discover them, without particular information. It is so capacious as to hold, (but not to pasture for any length of time) 4000 head of cattle. It is justly accounted a very great natural curiosity.

About

About half a mile from the church, there is a mineral well, of the chalybeate kind, but not much resorted to.

Fifty years ago, the old Highland dress universally prevailed. — Hats, long coats, boots, spurs, watches, &c. were rare. Now, every gentleman wears them; and persons of substance, of both sexes, dress as fashionably, and live in a style as elegant, as those of the same rank in the southern parts of Scotland. The common people, in general, still wear the Highland garb, and adhere more closely, to ancient customs and manners, than their superiors. All the superstitious and delusive notions, however, which formerly accompanied popery, have entirely vanished; and the people's ideas of religion and morality, are rational and solid.



## NUMBER XLIX.

## PARISH OF ROSSKEEN.

(COUNTY OF ROSS.)

*By the Rev. MR. URQUHART.**Origin of Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Rosskeen does not furnish much room for statistical investigation.——The name seems to be derived from the Gaelic word *Coinnea*, signifying a meeting or junction, and *Ross-coinnea* may denote the place, where the districts of Easter and Wester Ross join, (which is at the western boundary of this parish,) and where the inhabitants might occasionally assemble. It is central in point of distance betwixt the two royal burghs of Tain and Dingwal.——The parish belongs to the presbytery of Tain, and synod of Ross.——Its extent, so far as it is inhabited, may be from the shore to the hills, about 10 measured miles, and its average breadth about 6.

*Surface and Soil.*——The lower part of the parish, which extends along the firth of Cromarty, and for 2 miles back, lies on a gentle and easy ascent to the bottom of the first hills. The soil varies, being partly gravelly and light, partly loam; and

and some a deep and strong clay. A hill called Knock-Navic, or the cold Hill, divides the lower from the Highland part of the parish. In the higher parts, the arable land is wet and spongy; the soil light, and more adapted for pasturage than for the plough. Beyond the higher arable ground, and inhabited glens, there is a very considerable tract of mountains, fit for no other purpose, than the summer pasturage of a few black cattle, which, perhaps, might be converted with much advantage, into sheep walks.

*Improvements.*—About 60 years, ago there were no plantations of any kind within this parish, and no natural woods, excepting about the place of Ardros. But since that period, by the continued attention of Sir William Gordon, and his son, Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, a very extensive, well wooded, and beautiful place, has been formed about Invergordon castle, now the seat of Mr M'Leod, of Cadboll.—The estate of Milncraig has also had very extensive plantations made upon it, and a considerable farm about the house, has been effectually inclosed and subdivided.—There are other considerable plantations of the Scottish fir, in a very thriving condition, on other properties within the parish.

A circumstance, which well merits notice, in an account of this kind, is, that the parish is peculiarly fortunate in the means of future improvement, from a most extensive and rich bed of shell-marle, of above 70 acres extent, which lies in the middle of the lower district, on the property of Munro of Culrain, is of easy access, and can be procured at the pit, ready thrown out, at 3d. per boll. Its fertilizing quality has been amply proved on the farm of Milncraig, in its neighbourhood; but, from the strange and unaccountable prejudices of the lower class of people, to any species of innovation on their own plan of management, it is, as yet, in very little request. 'Tis pity that

that some skilful farmer of spirit, from those districts where marle is much used, did not take some of the capital farms in this neighbourhood. While he enriched himself, he might teach others how to add considerably to the means of their subsistence, and to the improvement of their country.

*Population.*—The population of the parish, as returned to Dr Webster in 1755, was 1958 souls. There are now in it 1400 examinable persons above, and 300 under 6 years of age. The births are, at an average, from 40 to 50 *per annum*. No accurate account of deaths and marriages can be given. The number of inhabitants has of late been much increased, by a species of cottagers, here called meallers, who build a small house for themselves, on a waste spot of ground, with the consent of the proprietor, and there, are ready to hire themselves out as day-labourers. At their spare hours, they trench and improve small bits of the muir around them, which they first plant with potatoes, and afterwards sow with grain. Though their improvements, taken individually, are trifling and slow, yet in the aggregate, they amount, in a course of years, to something considerable. They pay hardly any consideration to the landlord, during the life of the first settler. But, upon the whole, it is observed, that from their labour, and the industry of their wives and children, they live more comfortably, than those in a supposed superior class, and enjoy perfect independence.

*Rents.*—Lands in general are let in this parish, from 10s to 12s. per acre, of arable, though, on some situations, near the shore, they draw from 15s. to 20s. and 21s. In the heights of the parish, the value is not ascertained by the acre, but by the joint judgement of the tenant and landlord.

*Climate and Longevity.*—The climate varies in different parts of the parish; it is often mild and temperate, and all kinds of farm work can be carried on in the lower part of the parish, when, in the heights, these operations are interrupted by hard frost, or a fall of snow.——It is, however, upon the whole, a healthy parish, and many instances occur of great longevity. There are at present many inhabitants, both male and female, above 80 years of age; and, what is remarkable, there are 3 members of the session, whose combined ages amount, at this time, to 260 years.

*School.*—The parochial school has been built near the Ness of Invergordon, which affords the village there another advantage. It is, however, far from being central, and is, from that circumstance, much less attended, than otherwise it would be. The school house, and accommodation for the teachers, are sufficiently commodious. The schoolmaster's salary is about L. 15 per annum, which, with perquisites usually attached to the situation, makes it worth about L. 25, per annum.

*Poor.*—The number on the poor's list is 70, which are divided into classes, according to the degree of their respective necessities; and the very small fund, allotted for their relief, is divided quarterly amongst them.——In this parish, there is hardly any fund, but the collections made in the church, after performance of divine worship: and as very few, indeed, of the heritors reside in the parish, this seldom exceeds L. 10 per annum, from which there is a deduction of L. 2:10 sterling to the session-clerk, and a very considerable one for bad half-pence, collected; so that the share of each poor person must be very small.

The state of the poor's funds, in the generality of the pa-

rishes in the north of Scotland, are very inadequate to the end, and few more so than this one.—It were much to be wished, that some plan could be devised for the increase of the funds for the relief of the necessitous poor, in such cases as the one under consideration, without subjecting the kingdom, to the heavy burden of a general tax.

*Patron, &c.*—The Earl of Cromarty was patron of this parish, before the forfeiture in 1746. The present incumbent was settled on a royal presentation in 1783, before the restoration of the annexed estates took place.—Captain M'Kenzie of Cromarty, cousin german, and heir of the late Lord M'Leod, is now the patron.—The manse is a modern one, and, together with the kirk, kirk-yard dyke, its offices, and the parish school, were all put in complete repair, in the years 1780, 1781, and 1782. Very few country parishes have their public buildings in neater, or more complete order.—The value of the living depends, in some degree, on the price of grain, as it consists of 80 bolls of bear, and L. 50 sterling of money. There are two small glebes, one adjoining the manse, of 4 English acres of good and fertile soil; the other is contiguous to the ruins of an old kirk, called Nonekill, (or the cell or temple of St. Ninian,) and consists of above an acre and a half, in 3 different divisions, which are let by the minister to a tenant in the neighbourhood.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The Gaelic language is universally spoken, by the country people in this, as well as all the other parishes of this presbytery; but it is worthy of remark, that, though that language does not seem to be losing ground in this parish, many more read and understand the English language, than did some years ago; a circumstance which is

to be attributed to the Society's schools, which have been endowed in the height of the parish.

There are unbounded tracts of excellent peat moss in the higher, and some mosses of considerable extent in the lower district of the parish. — No species of manufacture has as yet found its way to this part of the country, though few situations are to be found so well adapted for their introduction.

There is a village of some extent upon the Nefs of Invergor-don, on a dry heathy beach, where vessels of 100 tons bur-den can lye with safety, most seasons of the year, and receive or deliver their cargoes close to the shore.

Services of tenants are in general converted, at the rate of one sixteenth part of the annual land rent. The rents in general are paid in kind, or in bear or barley, and oat meal, with kains or customs.

The rent of the parish may be about L. 2000 sterling, converting the boll of bear and meal at 12s.

The spinning of linen yarn is carried on to a considerable extent, though, it must be said, with very little advantage to the people, or to the country, it being done by commission from more southern districts, whither the yarn is transmitted to be wove, or otherwise manufactured; so that, by passing through so many hands, each of whom must have a small profit, little can be afforded to the spinners, who, though expert and industrious, do not earn above  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , or at most, 3d a day, from their labour. But this perhaps may be soon altered, as Mr M'Leod, the proprietor of the village above mentioned, is willing to encourage settlers, for that purpose, and gives perpetual feus of ground, sufficient for a house and small garden, on moderate terms. They may also have as many acres of land in lease, as they may find it convenient to cultivate. —

Coals and lime are brought to their door, by sea. Peat, and timber for building, are to be had on moderate terms, nigh at hand. So that very few situations, indeed, in the North of Scotland, seem better adapted for a manufacturing village, than the Nefs of Invergordon.

**NUMBER**

N U M B E R L.

UNITED PARISHES OF MID AND  
SOUTH YELL.

(IN SHETLAND.)

*By the Rev. MR. ANDREW DISHINGTON\*.*

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE united parishes of Mid and South Yell, are situated in one of the most northerly of the Shetland islands.— They extend, from north to south, above ten miles, and, from east to west, about six. They contain in all about 1100 marks land, (as it is here called,) which will not much exceed 500 Scots acres. The arable land principally consists of some cultivated spots, lying along the sea-coast. The inland parts of the island are mostly hills, covered with peat moss. There is very little heath, but abundance of a rough sort of grass, here

\* This is the minister, in whose favour, the late Sir Hew Darymple, of North Berwick, made an application to the late Sir Laurence Dundas, in a letter, which has already appeared in several late periodical publications, but which the reader will probably be glad to see reprinted, together with one from Mr Dishington himself, which



here called Lubbo, which grows naturally, and affords very tolerable pasture for sheep, horses, and black cattle. —

In

which explains in how accidental a manner, the application was originally brought about, and by what a fortuitous accident it was prevented from proving abortive, though it failed in regard to the particular living at first applied for.

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*Copy of a Letter from SIR HEW DALRYMPLE to SIR LAURENCE DUNDAS.*

DEAR SIR,

*Dalzell, May 24. 1775.*

HAVING spent a long life, in pursuit of pleasure and health, I am now retired from the world in poverty, and with the gout; so, joining with Solomon, that "all is vanity and vexation of spirit," I go to church, and say my prayers.

I assure you, that most of us religious people reap some little satisfaction, in hoping, that you wealthy voluptuaries have a fair chance of being damn'd to all eternity; and that Dives shall call out for a drop of water to Lazarus, one drop of which he seldom tasted, when he had the twelve Apostles, (*twelve hogsties of cloes*) in his cellar.

Now, Sir, that doctrine being laid down, I wish to give you, my friend, a loop hole to creep through. Going to church last Sunday, as usual, I saw an unknown face in the pulpit, and rising up to prayers, as others do upon like occasions, I began to look around the church, to find out if there were any pretty girls there; when my attention was attracted by the foreign accent of the parson. I gave him my attention, and had my devotion awakened, by the most pathetic prayer I ever heard. This made me all attention to the sermon; a finer discourse never came from the lips of a man. I returned in the afternoon, and heard the same preacher exceed his morning work, by the finest chain of reasoning, conveyed by the most eloquent expressions. I immediately thought of what Agrip-  
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In these parishes, there are several good harbours; particularly Mid-Yell-Voe, Hamna-Voe, and Burra-Voe.——

The

pa said to Paul, "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." I sent to ask the man of God to honour my roof, and dine with me. I asked him of his country, and what not: I even asked him, if his sermons were his own composition, which he affirmed they were. I assured him, I believed it, for never man had spoke or wrote so well. "My name is Dishington," said he. "I am an assistant to an old minister in the Orkneys, who enjoys a fruitful benefice of 50l a year, out of which I am allowed 20l for preaching, and instructing 1200 people, who live in two separate islands; out of which I pay, 1 l. 5s. to the boatman, who transports me from the one to the other. I should be happy, could I continue in that terrestrial paradise; but we have a great Lord, who has many little people soliciting him, for many little things, that he can do, and that he cannot do; and if my minister dies, his succession is too great a prize, not to raise up many powerful rivals, to baulk my hopes of preferment."

I asked him, if he possessed any other wealth. "Yes," says he, "I married the prettiest girl in the island; she has blessed me with three children, and as we are both young, we may expect more. Besides, I am so beloved in the island, that I have all my peats brought home, carriage free."

This is my story,—now to the prayer of my petition. I never before envied you the possession of the Orkneys, which I now do, only to provide for this eloquent, innocent apostle. The sun has refused your barren isles his kindly influence;—do not deprive them of so pleasant a preacher:—let not so great a treasure be for ever lost to that damn'd inhospitable country; for I assure you, were the archbishop of Canterbury to hear him, or hear of him, he would not do less than make him an archdeacon. The man has but one weakness, that of preferring the Orkneys to all the earth.

This way, and no other, you have a chance for salvation.----Do this man good, and he will pray for you. This will be a better purchase

The people are, in general, healthy; and instances of longevity are not unfrequent:

*Population.*

purchase, than your Irish estate, or the Orkneys. I think it will help me forward too, since I am the man, who told you of the man so worthy and deserving; so pious, so eloquent, and whose prayers may do so much good, Till I hear from you on this head, Your's, in all meekness, love, and benevolence;

H. D.

P. S. Think what an unspeakable pleasure it will be, to look down from heaven, and see Rigby, Masterton, all the Campbells and Nabobs, swimming in fire and brimstone, while you are sitting with Whitefield, and his old women, looking beautiful, frisking, and singing; all which you may have by settling this man, after the death of the present incumbent.

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*Letter from MR DISHINGTON, to SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.*

SIR,

*Edinburgh, August 2d, 1791.*

THO' it may seem ridiculous for one to talk of his own private concerns, I hope, I may without incurring the censure of egotism; or vanity, be allowed to lay before you the following narrative, which may serve as an explanation of Sir Hew Dalrymple's letter. In the year 1776, being an assistant to a minister in the Orkneys, who was then in a very ill state of health, I went to Edinburgh, to try, if possible, to secure the survivancy, and to be appointed his successor. In this attempt being disappointed, I went to pay a visit to Mr Thomas Hepburn, minister at Athelstaneford, with whom I had contracted an intimacy in my early years, and from whom I had often experienced every mark of the most sincere friendship. Indeed, it is but justice to his memory, to observe, that he was the friend and patron of young men, who had none to recommend them,

*Population.*—The population of these parishes, has, of late years, considerably increased. For this, two reasons may be assigned;—1. The system, adopted by the landholders, of parcelling out their lands into very small farms, for the purpose of having as great a number of persons on their property, as possible, who can be occasionally employed in fishing, from the produce of which, their principal profit arises.—2. The amazing success, with which inoculation has been attended. Formerly, the small-pox occasioned the most dreadful ravages,  
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them, or to introduce them into the world. One Saturday evening, when I happened to be with him at Athelstaneford, he received a letter from one of his brethren, informing him, that being on his way to pay Mr Hepburn a visit, and preach for him next day, he had unfortunately fallen from his horse, and received a slight hurt in his shoulder. At the same time, he desired him, if any preachers were in the neighbourhood, to send one to officiate for him; upon which, I was dispatched away on Sunday morning, and had the good fortune to be taken notice of, by my worthy and honourable friend, Sir Hew Dalrymple, whose letter to Sir Laurence Dundas procured me my present living.

Before my presentation came to hand, I received a letter from Mr Hepburn, dated October 8th, 1776; a paragraph or two of which, as far as it respects the present subject, I here send you. “Dear Andrew, the last time I saw Sir Hew, he told me, he had spoke to Sir Laurence Dundas, who told him, “Sir Hew, your man shall get the first vacancy; and to shew you, that I am fixed in this matter, I will tell you, that the Princess Amelia desired the favour of me, to give my first kirk to a young man of her recommendation; I told her, I was sorry I was pre-engaged. She asked to whom? when I replied, to you, and she said, it was well, for that it was for your man, she was applying.” This in the days of the renowned Don Quixotte, or even in those of modern chivalry, might pass for enchantment; and I tell it you,  
 Vol. II. 4 C “that

in these islands; frequently carrying off a fifth part of the inhabitants. Now, hardly any suffer by this disorder. Inoculation is successfully practised, even by the common people; but in particular by a person, whose name is John Williamson, who, from his various attainments, and superior talents, is called

“ that your soul may rest at ease. Meanwhile, I charge you, and, Messrs Lindsay and Laing, instantly to notify the first vacancy to me, that I may inform Sir Hew Dalrymple, who is going to winter at London. Whether I write you frequently or not, you may believe, that no man has your happiness more at heart,” &c.

After the presentation came to hand, I was in danger of losing all, by the *jure devoluto*: the six months since the decease of my predecessor being near elapsed, at the end of which, the right of presentation would have gone from the patron to the presbytery. It was now the depth of winter, and, at that season of the year, there is usually no communication between Orkney and Shetland; when I had therefore given up all for lost, a vessel came into Papa Sound, in Orkney, very near the manse, where I resided; and, on making inquiry, I was told, it was the packet from Leith, on her way for Shetland. There again was another surprizing and uncommon circumstance, for, it is very remarkable, that this same packet was never known to put into the Orkneys, either before or since that period. Not to trouble you any longer, with a detail of uninteresting circumstances, I hasten to conclude with one general remark. Such a combination of fortuitous incidents, or what you please to call them, served to impress on my mind, the truth of Cicero's observation, more forcibly, and with a more powerful effect, than a whole body of divinity, or 50,000 sermons, preached by the most celebrated doctors of the church. “ *Nec vero universo generi humano solum, sed etiam SINGULIS, Deus consuli et provideri solet*.\* ”

I am, &c.

A. D.

\* “ Providence seems to watch over the happiness; not only of the human race in general, but even of individuals.”

called *Jobbny Notions*, among his neighbours. Unassisted by education, and unfettered by the rules of art, he stands unrivalled in this business. Several thousands have been inoculated by him, and he has not lost a single patient.

His success being so remarkable, it may not be improper to take some notice of the method he pursues, in case it can furnish any useful hints to persons of the medical profession. He is careful in providing the best matter, and keeps it a long time before he puts it to use,—sometimes 7 or 8 years. And, in order to lessen its virulence, he first dries it in peat sinoak, and then puts it under ground, covered with camphor. Though many physicians recommend fresh matter, this self-taught practitioner finds from experience, that it always proves milder to the patient, when it has lost a considerable degree of its strength. He uses no lancet in performing the operation, but, by a small knife, made by his own hands, he gently raises a very little of the outer skin of the arm, so that no blood follows: then puts in a very small quantity of the matter, which he immediately covers with the skin, that had been thus raised. The only plaister he uses, for healing the wound, is a bit of cabbage leaf. It is particularly remarkable, that there is not a single instance in his practice, where the infection has not taken place, and made its appearance at the usual time. He administers no medicines during the progress of the disease; nor does he use any previous preparation.—He is a singular instance of an uncommon variety of talents, being a tailor, a joiner, a clock and watch-mender, a blacksmith, and a physician.

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 986 souls. The number at present is 1422. The annual average of marriages is from 10 to 12; of births, about 34; and of burials, about 11;—The average of births, for 8 years, ending in 1738, was only 27.

*Rent,*

*Rent, &c.*——The rent of the parish is supposed to be about L. 3210 Scots, or about L. 270 sterling, which, however, is so much below its real value, that, when any land, in the parish, is sold, it generally fetches about 50 years purchase. To account for this, it may not be improper to observe, that the rents, as paid by the tenants, give a very inadequate view of the landlord's income. For although it may be true, that the lands are let by the proprietor, or tacksmen, at no higher rent, than what is above stated, yet it is invariably on this condition, that the tenant, or fishing farmer, shall deliver to his land-master, or order, every article, that he can raise, (viz. fish, oil, butter, &c.) at a certain fixed price; by the sale of which, the landlord more than doubles his rent. As a proof of this, it may be stated, that two considerable landholders, finding it inconvenient for them, to receive their rents from their tenants, in this manner, (partly in money and partly in kind,) let their lands to tacksmen, who give, at least, double the nominal rent paid by the tenants, and find their account in it. Other landholders, however, make more by receiving the tenants product themselves, or by their servants under their own eye; and would not let their lands in large parcels, even for double the rent paid in money.

*Occupations.*——There are but few mechanics, or tradesmen, in these parishes, the useful arts not having yet made their appearance here, in any great perfection. Wool, it is true, the staple commodity of the country, so remarkable for its fineness and softness, might be a source of industry and opulence; yet, in the way it has been hitherto been managed, it turns to very small account. All the women, of every rank and distinction, are employed in spinning wool, and knitting fine and coarse stockings, to their great loss, and miserable mispending

mispending of their time: For, if it were fairly calculated, they cannot earn, by this species of industry, three halfpence a day. The materials they consume, in this gainful trade, might be manufactured into good cloths of all sorts, which might serve all ranks for clothing, and put a stop to that pernicious rage they have for foreign fopperies. The spinning of lint, at the same time, might be introduced amongst the women, to their great advantage.

*Poor.*—There are no funds here, for the support of the poor, but what arise from the weekly collections, and the contributions at the dispensing of the sacrament. When old and weakly, they are put on a quarter, or district; and go, from house to house, in the particular districts of the parish allotted to them; the parish being divided into more or less quarters, according to the number of the poor. They are clothed, and the expence of their funerals defrayed, by the session. The poor's funds were very inconsiderable, when the present minister was admitted to the cure; and, in consequence of the great numbers of necessitous persons, who were supplied from these funds, in the years of scarcity, they are, at this time, quite exhausted.

*Schools.*—No public schools are as yet established here, though, it must be acknowledged, that there is great need for them. Most of the people, however, can read pretty well, and many write.

*Stipend, &c.* — It is impossible to ascertain the real value of the stipend, as it is payable in articles, the prices of which are very fluctuating. The stipend has been, of late, considerably augmented, and, at present, consists of the following articles, besides the glebe, viz. 178 lispund and 10 merks but-  
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ter; 70 lambs and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a lamb, and 4 merks wool with every lamb; 211 ling and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a ling; 503 cans and  $\frac{1}{2}$  can of oil; and L. 175 : 15 Scots in money; with an allowance of L. 40 Scots for communion elements. The manse and office houses were built in 1747, at the expence of L. 50 sterling; and have been once repaired. On a late visitation, the presbytery granted decret, for upwards of L. 100 sterling, for another repair. The present incumbent was admitted minister in 1778, and has a wife and 10 children.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The system, now universally adopted, of parcelling out the lands into very small portions, that the lairds may have a greater number of fishermen, greatly contributes to early marriages; so that, a bachelor is a very singular phenomenon in this country. They delve all their little farms with the spade, and have no need of any considerable stock to begin life; all that is required being a cow, a pot, a spade, a tusk, a buthie, fishing rods, and a rug, or blanket. Thus, they increase in number, notwithstanding their poverty. Both sexes make a very decent and genteel appearance on Sundays. Though their crops, with the strictest economy, cannot maintain their families above 7 or 8 months in the year, yet, by the natural advantages they enjoy, of plenty of fuel, and immense quantities of small fish, I may venture to affirm, that, they live fully as well, and many more comfortably, than the generality of the peasants in Scotland. Though the face of the islands of Shetland, in general, and of Yell, in particular, (of which Buchanan says, *adeo fera, ut nullum animal, nisi illic natum, ferat,*) exhibits a very rude appearance, yet, improvements in agriculture are not at all impracticable; and, were due attention and encouragement given, there is no question, but this country might produce as much corn as might serve the inhabitants. But fishing schemes  
engross

engross all their attention ; and, the people being poor, and not enjoying the benefit of long leases, until these obstacles are removed, it is not to be imagined, that ever any remarkable exertions will take place among them, in cultivating the ground.

No vestiges of any antiquities, excepting a few Pictish or Danish forts, &c. which merit no particular description, are to be found here. It is most likely, that the Romans were utterly unacquainted with the Shetland Isles. The Island of Fula was probably descried by them, from the Orkneys, in their circumnavigation of Britain, its name being so similar to that of Thule, mentioned by Tacitus.

*General Character.*—The people, in general, are sober and inoffensive. Crimes of an atrocious nature are little known amongst them. They are judicious, of a ready and acute understanding, capable of enduring great toil, cold, and hunger, *supra quam cuique credibile est* ; run prodigious risks, in going out 10 or 11 leagues into the ocean, on the ling and tusk fishing, in small six-oar'd boats, which, together with all their fishing materials, they provide at their own expence. They prove excellent seamen, when they go abroad ; are much esteemed in the British navy ; and, considered in this point of view, well merit the attention and favour of government. This observation, indeed, may be applied, with equal justice, to Shetland in general. In religious matters, they enjoy a happy moderation and uniformity of sentiment ; their faith not being distracted by controversy, nor sectarism infesting their abodes.

APPENDIX.



## A P P E N D I X.

**S**OME additional information having been received, with regard to the population of the town and parish of Ayr, inserted in the first volume of this work ; and also, respecting the parish of Newton upon Ayr, which is included in this volume ; it is thought proper to add that information, by way of Appendix.

## I. A Y R.

**STATE** of the Population of the Parish of Ayr, distinguishing the Number of Inhabitants in the Town and Country, their Age and Sex, the Natives of the Parish, and those born elsewhere.—From a Survey, taken in the Year 1791, by Mr L. M'Kechnie, Session Clerk of Ayr.

## Inhabiting the Town.

|                     | Males. | Females. | Total. | Born in<br>the parish. | Born else-<br>where. |
|---------------------|--------|----------|--------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Under the age of 10 | 405    | 429      |        |                        |                      |
| From 10 to 60       | 1108   | 1517     |        |                        |                      |
| 60 to 70            | 83     | 149      |        |                        |                      |
| 70 to 80            | 60     | 73       |        |                        |                      |
| 80 to 90            | 17     | 28       |        |                        |                      |
| 90 to 100           |        | 2        |        |                        |                      |
|                     | <hr/>  | <hr/>    |        |                        |                      |
| Carried over        | 1673   | 2198     | 3871   | 1838                   | 2033                 |

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Brought

|                         | Males. | Females. | Total. | Born in<br>the parish | Born else<br>where. |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Brought over            | 1673   | 2198     | 3871   | 1838                  | 2033                |
| Inhabiting the country. |        |          |        |                       |                     |
| Under 10                | 85     | 81       |        |                       |                     |
| From 10 to 60           | 254    | 292      |        |                       |                     |
| 60 to 70                | 17     | 23       |        |                       |                     |
| 70 to 80                | 14     | 3        |        |                       |                     |
| 80 to 90                | 4      | 1        |        |                       |                     |
| 90 to 100               |        | 2        |        |                       |                     |
|                         | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>  | <hr/>                 | <hr/>               |
|                         | 374    | 402      | 776    | 299                   | 477                 |
|                         | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>  | <hr/>                 | <hr/>               |
| Total                   | 2047   | 2600     | 4647   | 2137                  | *2510               |

## 2. NEWTON

\* LIST of the 9 incorporated Trades of Ayr, distinguishing the Number of Masters, Journeymen, and Apprentices, employed in each.—From an Account taken by the Convener, in November, 1791.

|            | Masters. | Journeymen. | Apprentices. | Total. |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Hammermen  | 24       | 16          | 24           | 64     |
| Weavers    | 61       | 89          | 36           | 186    |
| Dyers      | 6        | 4           | 2            | 12     |
| Tailors    | 32       | 20          | 5            | 57     |
| Squaremen  | 34       | 68          | 33           | 135    |
| Shoemakers | 25       | 27          | 10           | 62     |
| Skinners   | 2        | 1           | 1            | 4      |
| Coopers    | 12       | 5           | 5            | 22     |
| Flethers   | 14       | 16          | 4            | 34     |
|            | <hr/>    | <hr/>       | <hr/>        | <hr/>  |
|            | 210      | 246         | 120          | 576    |

It appears, from their records, that the Dyers and Skinners were, about a century ago, among the most numerous corporations, and that the Coopers were, then, more numerous, owing to a considerable wine trade carried on with France.

Besides the above incorporated trades, there are, in the country part of the parish, 5 blacksmiths, 3 cart-wrights, and 2 taylor.

2. NEWTON UPON AYR.

**T**HE following account is the result of a pretty accurate survey of the population of Newton upon Ayr, made in the month of October, 1791.

|  |      |                           |     |
|--|------|---------------------------|-----|
| Houses inhabited                         | 268  | From 50 to 60             | 139 |
| Do. uninhabited, (some of them in ruins) | 20   | — 60 to 70                | 101 |
| Families                                 | 408  | — 70 to 80                | 33  |
| Souls                                    | 1689 | — 80 to 90                | 7   |
| Males                                    | 836  | Married pairs             | 298 |
| Females                                  | 853  | Unmarried men above 18    | 96  |
| Above 7 years of age                     | 1391 | Do. women above 16        | 165 |
| Under do.                                | 298  | Widows                    | 90  |
| From 7 to 14                             | 252  | Widowers                  | 28  |
| — 14 to 20                               | 216  | Born in the parish        | 759 |
| — 20 to 30                               | 303  | Born out of the parish    | 930 |
| — 30 to 40                               | 165  | Of these, born in Ireland |     |
| — 40 to 50                               | 175  | about                     | 60  |
|  |      | ————— and in England      | 14  |

From the above account, it will appear surprising, that the number of males and females should be so nearly equal. But all those who are at sea, being included in the number of males, and many more men than women being employed in the weaving business, and at the coalleries, these circumstances will, in a great degree, account for this equality. It is singular, that the number below 7 years of age, and of married pairs, should be exactly the same. It may likewise be remarked, that if the parish does not increase in population, as it has done for 30 years, (which is not probable, as it has

been chiefly owing to the accession of foreigners,) the number born in the parish, in a few years, will greatly exceed the number born out of it, which will be the reverse of the above statement. It is suspected, that many more of the inhabitants have been born in Ireland, than 60; several of them being unwilling to tell the place of their birth, being poor, and afraid of being turned out of the town. Upon the whole, the average number to a family is about 4 souls, and the greatest number, in the above division of ages, is from 20 to 30.

*Occupations of the Inhabitants, and the Number employed in each.*

|  | Masters. | Journeymen. | Apprentices. | Total. |
|--|----------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Weavers  | 40       | 40          | 21           | 101    |
| Wrights  | 8        | 11          | 6            | 25     |
| Carpenters   | 5        | 13          | 6            | 24     |
| Shoemakers   | 8        | 1           | 1            | 10     |
| Shipmasters  | 14       | Sailors 51  |              | 65     |
| Smiths   | 4        | 2           | 2            | 8      |
| Stocking weavers   | 4        | 1           | 2            | 7      |
| Coopers  | 1        | 1           |              | 2      |
| Bakers   | 2        | 2           |              | 4      |
| Salmon fishers, (some of whom are employed in the herring fishery, at certain seasons of the year) |          |             |              | 22     |
| White fishers  | -        | -           | -            | 26     |
| Herring do.  | -        | -           | -            | 12     |
| Coalliers  | -        | -           | -            | 24     |
| Day labourers, (the most of whom are employed at the Newton and Blackhouse coalleries)             |          |             |              | 57     |
| Clothiers, or Dyers  | -        | -           | -            | 3      |
| Travelling chapmen, the most of whom are Irish people  |          |             |              | 11     |
| Ropemakers   | -        | -           | -            | 10     |
| Braziers, or Tinkers, and Horners  |          |             |              | 5      |
| Masons   | -        | -           | -            | 7      |
|  |          |             |              | Land   |

|   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|----|
| Land labourers  | - | - | 5  |
| Carriers  | - | - | 9  |
| In the character of female servants, many of whom reside with their parents   | - | - | 59 |
| Male servants   | - | - | 3  |
| Schoolmasters   | - | - | 3  |
| Officers in the Customs, 3; and in the Excise, 2  |   |   | 5  |
| Besides these, there are 6 grocers, 2 carters, 2 tanners, 3 carriers, 4 skimmers, 2 clock-makers, 2 toll-gatherers, 1 butcher, 1 barber, 1 gardener, 1 miller, 1 heel-maker, 1 maltman, 1 gun-smith, 1 messenger at arms, 1 musician, and 1 drummer. Public houses, 17. Horses and carts, 36. |   |   |    |

*Religious Persuasions.*

All the inhabitants belong to the Established Church, except the following :

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Antiburgher Seceders, families 15, individuals |   | 40 |
| Episcopalians, families 6, individuals         | - | 20 |
| Roman Catholics                                | - | 2  |
| Methodists                                     | - | 2  |
| Moravian                                       | - | 1  |
| Burgher Seceder                                | - | 1  |
| Cameronians                                    | - | 3  |

The inhabitants of the town of Ayr, amounting to 3781 souls, and that of Newton, which may be called its Southwark, to 1689, the capital of Ayrshire may be said to contain, in all, 5470 souls\*.

\* It may be proper to add, that by the constitution of the borough of Newton upon Ayr, the freedoms cannot be affected by the debts of the possessor, only the standing crop on the ground may be arrested : nor is the son and heir of a freeman, liable to be deprived of his freedom, on the death of his father, on account of his predecessors debts.





THE constitution of the borough of Newton upon Ayr, is certainly, *in theory*, the purest and best republican system, any where to be met with. Nothing, at first sight, can yield more satisfaction, to a mind capable of feeling for the happiness of the species, than to find, that a community actually exists, whose government is founded on the generous principles of equality and independence. In the whole course of this investigation, nothing gave me more satisfaction, than the account of this district, as returned by the minister.—Upon farther inquiry, from various quarters in the neighbourhood, I learnt, however, with regret, that beautiful theories do not always answer in practice; and, in particular, that no beneficial consequences could be traced from this constitution;—that the freemen were, in no respect, superior to the inhabitants of other little boroughs;—that, in general, little attention was paid to their education, and that some of them could not read;—that no funds were allotted for the maintenance of the poor brethren;—that the place was reckoned almost a century behind other towns in point of improvement.—In regard to their property, That a considerable tract of ground, belonging to them, remained in common;—and, that no favourable presage could be drawn, from the manner in which their small possessions were cultivated;—for, that in a much inclosed country, their acres remained open, were kept constantly in tillage, and consequently, in a state greatly inferior to the lands of those who held a larger extent of ground in their possession, and whose rights were not liable to the same system of restrictions.

These cursory observations are thrown out on a subject of great political importance, which will afterwards be more fully inquired into, and, which the statistical survey of Scotland will probably be the means of ascertaining, namely, “What is the best mode of holding the landed property of a nation, and of cultivating it to the best advantage?”









