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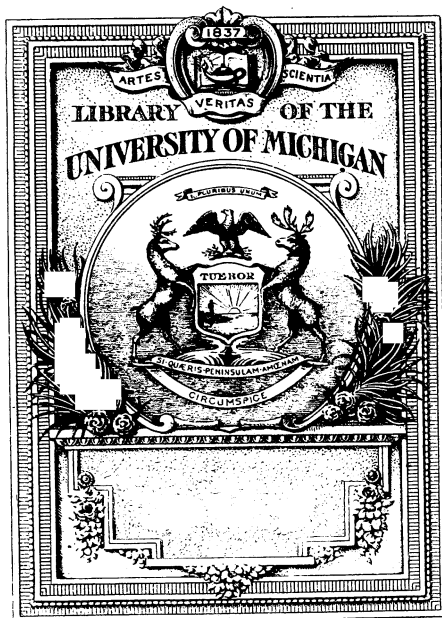
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T H E  
S T A T I S T I C A L A C C O U N T  
•  
O F  
S C O T L A N D.





THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

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

---

By SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME THIRD.

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

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# C O N T E N T S.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755. in 1790-1. Inc. Dec.			Page.
1	Dingwall, -	997	1379	382	1
2	Petty, - -	1643	1518	—	125 21
3	Kinguffie and Inch,	1900	1983	83	34
4	Fordice, - -	3212	*3425	213	45
5	Monymusk, - -	1005	1127	122	66
6	Anfruther Wester,	385	370	—	15 77
7	Gairloch, - -	2050	2200	150	89
8	Marnoch, - -	1894	1960	66	94
9	Ellon, - - -	1494	2308	814	103
10	Loudoun, - -	2523	1830	—	693 98
11	Eyemouth, - -	792	1000	208	112
12	Linton, - - -	413	383	—	30 119
13	Glammifs, - -	1780	†2040	260	124
14	Dyce, - - -	383	352	—	31 130
15	Inch, - - -	1513	1450	—	63 134
16	Dunscore, - -	651	§1033	382	140
17	Luggan, - - -	1521	1512	—	9 145
18	Bonkle and Preston,	691	622	—	69 153
19	Lochgoilhead & Kilmorich,	1505	1012	—	493 160
20	Dirleton, - -	1700	1200	—	500 194
21	Coull, - - -	751	465	—	286 198
22	Blackford, - -	1681	1360	—	321 203
23	Ashkirk, - - -	629	539	—	90 213
24	Smallholm †, - -	551	421	—	130 216
25	Maybole †, - -	2058	3750	1692	219
26	Fernell, - - -	509	620	111	224
Carried over,		34,231	35,859	4483	2855

\* This was the number in 1782. The minister of this parish made no return for 1790-1, but says, "The population, since that period, has rather *increased* than diminished."

† This was the number in 1783; and Mr Lyon says, "he has reason to think the number since is *not diminished*."

§ The additional population, mentioned in the Appendix, p. 597, is here included.

‡‡ In these two parishes, the number of examinable persons only being returned, a proportionable addition, at the rate of one fourth of the examinable list, is made for children under 8 years of age.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755. in 1790.†. Inc. Dec. Page.				
	Brought over,	34,231	35,859	4483	2855	
27	Stenton, - - -	631	624	—	7	231
28	Beath, - - -	1099	450	—	649	233
29	Fintray, - - -	905	920	15	—	236
30	Culfalmond, - -	810	618	—	196	240
31	Dairfie, - - -	469	540	71	—	242
32	Bracadale - - -	1907	2250	343	—	245
33	Roths, - - -	746	1500	754	—	250
34	Fliik, - - -	318	331	13	—	252
35	Skirling, - - -	335	234	—	101	254
36	Durris, - - -	889	651	—	238	258
37	Makerfton*, - -	165	255	90	—	262
38	Torofay, - - -	1012	1733	721	—	265
39	Monedie, - - -	1492	‡1320	—	172	269
40	Maxton, - - -	397	†326	—	71	276
41	Inverkeillor, - -	1286	1747	461	—	280
42	Logie, - - -	1985	§1500	—	485	287
43	Stitchell and Hume,	959	1000	41	—	290
44	Etterick, - - -	397	470	73	—	294
45	Forgandenny, - -	1295	978	—	317	298
46	Hobkirk, - - -	530	700	170	—	311
47	Drumoak, - - -	760	708	—	52	315
48	Lefwalt, - - -	652	1194	542	—	318
49	Stobo, - - -	313	318	5	—	324
50	Larbert and Dunipace,	1864	4000	2136	—	333
51	Penningham, - -	1509	2000	491	—	339
52	Polmont, - - -	1094	1400	306	—	344
53	Hoddom, - - -	1393	1198	—	195	347
54	Dun, - - -	657	500	—	157	359
55	Southend, - - -	1391	1300	—	91	363
56	Applecrofs, - -	835	1734	899	—	369
57	Manor, - - -	320	229	—	91	383
58	Tain, - - -	1870	2100	230	—	389
	Carried over,	64,516	70,687	11,844	5673	

\* This parish has decreased of late ; but has increased, upon the whole, since 1755.

‡ This includes the population of the New Parish. See Appendix, p. 605.

† This was the number in 1782, and no enumeration has since been made.

§ This was the population about 30 years ago. Mr Wright makes no return for 1792.

# CONTENTS.

vii

No.	Name.	Population in 1755. in 1790-1. Inc. Dec. Page.			
	Brought over,	64,516	70,687	11,844	5673
59	Newtyle, - -	913	594	—	319
60	Kildonan, - -	1433	1365	—	68
61	Lerwick, - -	1193	1259	66	—
62	East Kilbride, -	2029	2359	330	—
63	Arroquhar, -	466	379	—	87
64	Fern, - -	500	490	—	10
65	Bonhil, - -	901	2310	1409	—
66	Dalziel, - -	351	478	127	—
67	Arbirlot, - -	865	1055	190	—
68	Dores, - -	1520	1365	—	155
69	Airth, - - -	2316	2350	34	—
70	Kinnellar, - -	398	342	—	56
71	Kincardine, - -	1743	1600	—	143
72	Tongue, - -	1093	1439	346	—
73	Inchinnan, - -	397	306	—	91
74	Farr, - -	2800	2600	—	200
75	Garvock, - -	755	460	—	295
76	Cleish, - -	692	653	—	39
77	Rogart, - -	1761	2000	239	—
78	St. Madois, - -	189	300	111	—
79	Durnefs, - -	1000	1182	182	—
80	Straiton, - -	1123	934	—	189
	Appendix, - -	—	—	—	—
	Total,	88,954	96,507	14,878	7325
	Population in 1755,	—	88,954	7325	—
	Increase in 1791,	—	7553	7553	—

ADVER.



# ADVERTISEMENT,

*To the 3d and 4th Volumes.*

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I HAVE now the pleasure of delivering to the public, a very valuable addition to the volumes already printed of the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND. They contain, in all, 151 parishes, which sufficiently proves, that the whole work, on the same scale, may be comprehended within bounds not too bulky—a matter, at the same time, not very easily accomplished, as it is difficult to fix on that happy medium, which, avoiding prolixity on the one hand, yet preserves, on the other, every fact or observation of real curiosity or importance.

The value of this inquiry, not only to this, but to other countries, appears every day more and more indisputable; and it is to be hoped, that the example of Scotland, in this respect, will soon be imitated by other nations. For that purpose, a specimen of the work has been translated into French, and transmitted to every person of power, political influence, or literary merit, on the continent of Europe. The

VOL. III.

b

specimen



specimen contains 6 districts, and is drawn up, in such a manner as to give, within narrow bounds, a view of the progress of human society. The first district, (that of Kingussie in Badenoch), is entirely pastoral; the second, (Morham in East Lothian), is employed in agriculture; in the third, (Moulin in Perthshire), there is the commencement of manufactures: From the fourth, (Neillston in Renfrewshire), the effects of the complete establishment of manufactures, on the manners and morals of the people, may be traced. The fifth, (Montrose \*), is a district possessed of foreign commerce; and the work concludes with an account of Edinburgh, as a specimen of the progress of luxury. The very flattering encomiums, bestowed by several foreigners, of the first merit and distinction, who have had an opportunity of examining this paper, proves to what a height the character of the clergy of Scotland will be elevated, by their statistical exertions.

In a work of this nature, it is impossible to avoid committing a number of mistakes †. It is even attended with considerable difficulty to print a volume, the manuscript of which is written in from 50 to 80 different

\* Montrose and Moulin are in the 5th volume, which is now in the press, and in which it is also proposed to include Edinburgh.

† One mistake, in the 2d volume, in justice to the able and learned minister of Kettle, it may be proper to take notice of, it appearing, on farther inquiry, that the very important table, given in the Statistical Account of the parish of Kettle, (vol. 1st), was suggested by Mr Barclay himself, who is consequently entitled to the praise of that meritorious idea.

different hands: And it is impossible, on every occasion, to stop the progress of the printer, in order to procure, from a distant correspondent, an explanation of his original communications. But every clergyman of liberality of spirit, and every reader of candour, will readily make allowances for accidental errors, to which, indeed, a work of this nature is so peculiarly liable.

It is at present only necessary to add, in regard to the succeeding volumes, that it is the author's intention, to persevere in the same plan, until he has given a similar account of every parish of the kingdom. His object is, to lay the foundation of a great, methodical, and complete survey of Scotland, and perhaps of England, which he hopes will be undertaken, by the government of the country, at the commencement of the ensuing century. If periodical surveys are afterwards taken, every 50 or 100 years, they will furnish the best means of ascertaining the progress of national improvement, and will point out the proper system to be pursued, in order to bring political society, in these kingdoms, to the highest pitch of happiness and perfection.

He will conclude with the following address, originally printed in French, which was prefixed to the specimen of the Statistical Survey of Scotland, above mentioned, as it tends still farther to explain the nature and importance of this inquiry.

ADDRESS

A D D R E S S

T O T H E

R E A D E R.

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**T**HE superiority, which the philosophy of modern times has attained over the antient, is justly attributed to that anxious attention to facts, by which it is so peculiarly distinguished. Resting not on visionary theory, but on the sure basis of investigation, and of experiment, it has arisen to a degree of certainty and pre-eminence, of which it was supposed incapable. It is by pursuing the same method, in regard to political disquisitions, by analysing the real state of mankind, and examining, with anatomical accuracy and minuteness, *the internal structure of society*, that the science of government can alone be brought to the same height of perfection.

Many inquiries, it is certain, have, at various periods, been made, into the political circumstances of nations: Unfortunately, however, they have uniformly been instituted, with a view of ascertaining the

the state of the country, for the purposes of taxation and of war, and not of national improvement. Their object has been, not to meliorate the condition of the people, but to fill the exchequer, or the armies of the state \*; and the utmost that could be expected from them, was to render taxation, and other public burdens, less unequal. But, in modern times, more extensive and more important objects of investigation have been pointed out. Real statesmen, and true patriots, no longer satisfied with partial and defective views of the situation of a country, are now anxious to ascertain the real state of its agriculture, its manufactures, and its commerce,—the means of improvement, of which they are respectively capable—the amount of the population of a state, and the causes of its increase or decrease—the manner in which the territory of a country is possessed and cultivated—the nature and amount of the various productions of the soil—the value of the personal wealth

\* Sallust, in his *Orat. ad Caesarem de Republ. ordin.* II. i. cap. i. has clearly explained the objects of antient statesmen. “In republica, cognoscenda, multam, magnamque, curam habui, uti quantum, *armis, viris, opulentia*, ea possit, cognitum haberem.” From Townsend’s *Travels to Spain*, vol. 3. p. 348, it appears, that in 1575, Philip II. proposed making similar researches, on a very great and extensive scale; but they never seem to have been brought to any conclusion. In Prussia, in Sweden, in Saxony, in Sardinia, and in Tuscany, such plans have been attempted; but rather with a view of ascertaining the present state, than the means of future improvement.

wealth or stock of the inhabitants, and how it can be augmented—the diseases to which the people are subject, their causes and their cure—the occupations of the people—where they are entitled to encouragement, and where they ought to be suppressed—the condition of the poor, the best mode of maintaining them, and of giving them employment—the state of schools, and other institutions, formed for purposes of public utility—the state of the villages and towns, and the regulations best calculated for their police and good government—the state of the manners, the morals, and the religious principles of the people, and the means by which their temporal and eternal interests can best be promoted.

Impressed with these ideas, in the month of May 1790, I circulated amongst the clergy of the Church of Scotland, a number of *Queries*, for the purpose of elucidating the political state of my native country. Nothing could be more flattering than the reception they met with, from that learned and respectable body. Scotland is divided into about 950 parochial districts; and, in less than eighteen months, reports were received from above one half of that number. The returns that were transmitted, also, were not trifling or superficial; but, in general, such as might be expected from men of extensive knowledge, and of sound abilities, acquainted with the various topics to which their attention was directed. With so much zeal, indeed, have they entered into this inquiry, that, in less than three or four years from its commencement,

ment, this great and extensive survey will probably be completed.

Astonished with so rapid a progress, and convinced that the most important and beneficial consequences must be derived from it, to Europe in general, but more especially, to these kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, I flatter myself, that it will not be deemed improper or presumptuous, to submit, to persons of power and authority abroad, the propriety of carrying on, in other states, similar investigations. It is an undertaking which, though great and laborious, yet may be effected in smaller kingdoms, by the exertions of one individual; and, in the greatest empires, by any body of men constituted for that purpose. In order to explain its nature, and the best means of carrying it into execution, there is herewith printed, an analysis of the statistical account of a parochial district, a table which may render such accounts less obscure or voluminous, and specimens of the accounts of certain districts in Scotland, in many respects different from each other, and including almost every possible variety.

If similar surveys were instituted in the other kingdoms of Europe, it might be the means of establishing, on sure foundations, the principles of that most important of all sciences, to wit, *political or statistical philosophy*. That is the science, which, in preference to every other ought to be held in reverence.

No

No science can furnish, to any mind capable of receiving useful information, so much real entertainment ; none can yield such important hints, for the improvement of agriculture, for the extension of commercial industry, for regulating the conduct of individuals, or for extending the prosperity of the state ; none can tend so much to promote the general happiness of the species.

STATIS-

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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

## S C O T L A N D.

P A R T III.

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N U M B E R I.

PARISH OF DINGWALL.

(*County of Ross.*)

*By the Rev. Mr DANIEL ROSE.*

---

*Situation and Boundaries.*

**T**HE parish of Dingwall, situated at the west end of the Frith of Cromarty, lies in the presbytery of Dingwall, of which the town of that name is the seat, and in the synod and county of Ross. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Kiltearn; on the north lie a vast tract of high mountains; and on the west and south by the parish of Fodderty. That part of the parish of Urquhart, called Ferrintosh, lies on the skirt to the south-east; but from it Dingwall is divided by the river Conan, which, at high water, is widened to about half a mile by the influx of the sea.



*The Name and General Appearance.*—The name was formerly *Dingnaval* or *Dingnavallis*, and took its origin from the richness and fertility of the soil of the lower grounds, which form a considerable part of the parish. Excluding a small district, peopled by few inhabitants, and divided from the rest by a high hill, this parish forms nearly an oblong of one and a half by two miles. It consists partly of a pretty extensive valley, and partly of the sloping sides of hills, a great portion of which is in a high state of cultivation. The waste ground is not very considerable, and there are no commons in the parish; the great bulk of the land is in culture; and the whole forms a beautiful interchange of hill and valley, wood and water, corn-fields and meadows.

*Soil.*—The soil over the whole parish is abundantly fertile, and the greater part is uncommonly rich. It generally consists of a deep loam, or clay mixed with a considerable quantity of vegetable mould, which, in seasons of any tolerable mildness, and with an ordinary degree of good culture, seldom, if ever, fails to produce luxuriant crops. Every kind of pulse, and all the culmiferous grains are accordingly found to thrive well in this parish. But, from the flatness of the ground in the lower parts, and the steepness of the neighbouring hills, together with the nature of the soil, a wet season is always uncommonly pernicious to its produce. It retards the labour of the farmer both in spring and in autumn, to a degree not experienced in other places, which are neither more favourably situated with respect to climate, nor nearly equal in point of fertility of soil.

*Climate.*—The climate of this part of the country is upon the whole tolerably good. It is not subject to any destructive inundations, nor has it more frequent rains than most other parts

parts of the kingdom; but it is exposed to high winds, which, though never rising to any signally pernicious violence, are often inconvenient to the inhabitants, and sometimes hurtful to the growing corn. The winter is not attended with any peculiar degree of severity.

*Diseases.*—This district has never been remarkable for the prevalence of any peculiar disease. To periodical visits of the small-pox we are exposed in common with every part of the kingdom. It returns after unequal and uncertain intervals; but it seldom gives us a longer respite than from six to eight years. The last summer it was, in the natural way, extremely mortal. This distressful circumstance, however, was attended with some happy consequences. It opened the eyes of the lower classes of people to the advantages of inoculation, against which their prejudices had before been as violent as they were general.

*Mineral Springs.*—All along the side of the hill, fronting the south, which forms the northern part of the parish, there are mineral springs strongly impregnated with sulphur. One of them at Drynie appears nearly, if not fully, as strong as a spring in the neighbouring parish of Fodderty, which has been found extremely efficacious in curing a variety of cutaneous diseases.

*Rivers and Fishings.*—There are some rivulets in the parish, but no river except Conan. In these some excellent trouts are caught; but they are so few as never to be brought to market. The Conan is not, nor probably ever can be made, navigable for large vessels. On this river, however, there is a very productive salmon fishery. The time allowed by law for fishing, is from the 30th of November to the

the 26th of August; but, on account of the frost in the winter, or the quantities of rain, which, by falling in the hills where the river has its sources, keep it too high to admit of hauling the nets, there is generally no regular fishing till the spring is well advanced. Though there are cruives\* on the river, the water runs above them in the almost incessant floods which happen previous to that time; and most of the fish getting over the dyke †, a great number is seldom caught in the chest ‡ before March or April. When sold to the people of the country, 2 d. a pound is the usual price of the fresh fish throughout the season.

There is belonging to the public good of Dingwall, a stiel salmon fishery on Conan, or a fishery on that part of the river into which the sea flows. Five and twenty years ago, it brought no rent, but is now let at L. 18 : 10 *per annum*.

*Sea.*—The sea, at high water, washes a considerable part of the parish, running in apparent canals, in several directions, along the side of the town, and forms a beautiful variety of islets and peninsulas. But, even in this state, it is very shallow for several miles down the frith; and, at low water, it recedes to the distance of near four miles, leaving nothing but a slimy strand, which makes it unfit for the navigation of any large vessels, adverse to the production of fish of almost any kind, flounders excepted, and barren of all objects which merit the attention of the naturalist, the farmer, or the politician.

The goods imported to this place from London, Glasgow, Leith, and other manufacturing and trading towns are carried in the London and Leith smacks, which maintain a constant communication every three weeks or month at most,

\* Weare,

† Dams,

‡ Lock.

most, between the southern and northern parts of the kingdom. There are in this parish only two boats; one of which is very small, plies at high water, between Dingwall and Ferrintosh, the other serves for the carriage of bulky articles from place to place.

*Quarries.*—Three quarries have been opened in this parish. The stones in one of them, which is not now used, were of a very indifferent quality, being apt to moulder into sand, when long exposed to the weather. Another, the property of the public, and discovered within these fifteen years, is of a much better quality. Its stones, though hard, are extremely useful in all those parts of houses where hewn-work is not necessary, and lying within a quarter of a mile of the town, they have contributed not a little to its improvement and increase. The third quarry, which is of a fine light blue colour, is private property. It is of a still superior quality, as it is fit for hewn as well as for coarse work, and is capable of a very fine polish. It has, however, one disadvantage; there is a small intermixture of iron ore, upon which the rain in time operates, and stains in a very ugly manner the contiguous stones.

*Domestic and Wild Animals.*—The domestic quadrupeds and birds are such as are usually found in every other part of the country. There are plenty of hares, and at a little distance, great numbers of red-deer. Once, and, only once, the minister saw two roe deer in the parish. They were probably driven by the severity of the weather, from the woods among the neighbouring hills, to those in the lower part of the country, where better shelter and more easy access to pasture were found. There are some foxes, with the usual smaller kind of quadrupeds.

The

The stationary birds are of the common kinds. Plenty of partridges, grouse, black game, plovers, and water-fowl of various species. The migratory birds are pretty numerous. They are the bernacle or rood-goose, the woodcock, land-rail, lapwing, cuckoo, fieldfare, redwing, swallow, mountain-finch or snow-flake, and sometimes the Bohemian chattering. The latter appears seldom, but then it comes in great flocks, feeding upon the berry of the mountain-ash; all the former are very plentiful in this parish.

*Trees.*—The vegetable productions of the parish are such as are common to the whole country. There are few trees indeed of spontaneous growth, except alders, which abounded much some years ago, but are now rapidly giving place to corn and grass fields.

*Population Table of the Parish of Dingwall, Anno 1791.*

Males in the parish	-	-	-	617
Females	-	-	-	762
Total inhabitants	-	-	-	1379
The return to Dr Webster in 1750			-	997
Increase	-	-	-	372
The town contains	-	-	-	745
The country part of the parish			-	634
Annual average of births *			-	38
				Marriages

\* The following circumstances are somewhat curious. The year 1783 was a year of great scarcity, and the births of the succeeding year were 16 below the average, and 14 below the lowest number of any of the other late years. The year 1787, on the contrary, was a year of plenty, and the following year the births increased in a similar proportion. They were 17 above the average, and 11 above the number of any of the other years.

Marriages	-	-	-	-	7
Proportion of males to females born*					5 to 4
Under 10 years old	-	-	-	-	329
Between 10 and 20	-	-	-	-	329
20 and 50	-	-	-	-	560
50 and 70	-	-	-	-	127
70 and 100	-	-	-	-	34
Above 100	-	-	-	-	none
Average of births to the whole inhabitants					1 to 36
----- marriages	-	-	-	-	1 to 153
----- bachelors to married men and widowers					1 to 21
Farmers, <i>i. e.</i> those whose sole dependence is on the produce of the ground they cultivate					33
Mechanics of different kinds	-	-	-	-	60
Their apprentices, about	-	-	-	-	21
Merchants or tradesmen	-	-	-	-	7
Men servants of different kinds	-	-	-	-	117
Women servants of different kinds	-	-	-	-	132
Clergyman	-	-	-	-	1
Physician	-	-	-	-	1
Writers or attorneys, beside other inferior practitioners of the law †					6
					All

\* In the year after the year of extraordinary scarcity, 1783, and in the year after the year of uncommon plenty, 1788, the deviation from this proportion was very remarkable. In the year 1784, there were born 15 males, and 7 females, and in the year 1789, 20 males, and 12 females.

† It may appear strange that there are so many attorneys in this town; but, as it is centrally situated, three times more business is done in the sheriff court of Dingwall, than in all the other sheriff courts of the county. It is remarkable, however, that this business has greatly decreased, since Ferrintosh was deprived of its exclusive privilege of distilling whisky without paying King's duties. During the continuance of that privilege,  
the

All the inhabitants of this parish are of the established church, two Seceders excepted, and ten families, which are either partly, or wholly, of the Episcopal persuasion. These have here no fixed clergyman; but they have the ordinances of religion occasionally dispensed among them, by ministers from other parts of the country.

*Houses and their Inhabitants.*—The inhabited houses of every description in the parish amount to 239, but of such as are well built, and have two stories, to about 40. Of the smaller and middling kinds, a good number has been built within these ten years past; but as many others of the same sort have been removed by the converting of several small into three larger farms, there has probably been no very considerable increase of their number. Of the better kind of houses, which are let at from L. 7 to L. 16 *per annum*, about seventeen have been built in the above period. In this account, however, houses are not included which have been erected on the sites of others gone to decay, but such only as were built where no houses of the same size were before, and so make an addition to the total number of houses in the parish. There is no uninhabited house or cottage in the town or neighbourhood. The demand, on the contrary, for houses, particularly for the middling sort, is very great. At an average the number of inhabitants to each house is  $5\frac{2}{3}$ .

*Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—The greater part of the parish is arable, and produces corn of different kinds, chiefly oats,  
next

the quarrels and breaches of the peace among the inhabitants, were very frequent, and often furnished a good harvest to the Dingwall procurators. But now that this course of business has in a great measure failed, the people have become much more peaceable.

next barley, then pease, then wheat, a few beans, and occasionally a very little rye. The quantity of ground sown with oats is about 500 acres, with barley 200, with pease 50, and with wheat 10. About 100 acres are annually employed in the production of sown grasses for hay, and about double that quantity is pasture ground. Potatoes form a part of the food of all, and the greater part of most, of the parishioners. The culture of them is generally considered as favourable to the ground, and an excellent preparative for grass crops; because the necessity of keeping them clean destroys the weeds, and the general idea of much manure being requisite to insure a good crop serves to secure the melioration of the ground: This latter advantage is greatly increased by the populousness of the town. The people in general collect considerable quantities of dung, which they know not how to use to better purpose than the cultivation of this root. They accordingly manure the land, plant the potatoes, and keep them clear of weeds; in consequence of which, the gentlemen or neighbouring farmers allow them to have ground rent free. Nearly 25 acres are annually employed for this purpose. The cultivation of flax is so inconsiderable an object, that it is left more to the charge of the housewife, than of the farmer. Small patches of hemp, a plant which always thrives remarkably well, are sometimes sown; but it is raised for the use of individuals only. Plantations of trees of different kinds cover at least 900 acres of ground. They consist chiefly of Scotch pines, oak, ash, beech, elm, plain, and larch. In all those plantations there is excellent shelter, and in many parts of them very good pasture.

Seed-time commences about the middle of March; but it is as irregular as the climate is variable. For it sometimes

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happens,



happens, from the severity of the spring, that no fowing takes place till a month later. The harvest is subject to the same uncertainty, yet it commences in general about the beginning of September.

*Horses and Black Cattle.*—The horses of all descriptions amount to 374; of these 56 are of the larger sort, and 318 of the small country kind. The depth of the roads leading to the moor, and perhaps the steepness of the ascent, make it eligible for the farmers and cottagers to prefer this breed of horses. Larger ones would certainly sink deeper, and perhaps not so easily climb the hills. The black cattle, great and small, somewhat exceed 600. Many of these are draught oxen; but they chiefly consist of milk cows and young cattle.

*Ploughs and Carts.*—Scots ploughs are generally used; there are, however, about nine chain-ploughs in the parish. They are sometimes drawn by oxen, generally by horses, but often by a mixture of both. About 18 are drawn by oxen, 48 by horses, and 27 by a mixture of both. The whole number of ploughs in the parish is 93. In the choice of the species of animals by which they are drawn, the farmers are regulated by the situation of the grounds, and other circumstances. There are only 24 carts, properly so called, in the parish. Of the smaller open kind used by country people in the north, there are about 2410; but these being seldom used, except in the season for drawing peats, and in harvest, it is difficult exactly to ascertain their number. The farmers collect their manure into dunghills, and spread it on their fields, by means of a kind of carts called *kellachies*. They consist of small solid wheels, on which a frame is placed, with trams for the horse; and in

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an opening of the frame, a conical coarse wicker basket is set, where the dung is carried. In hilly and uneven places, their lightness may be a reason for using them; but, in places differently situated, blind attachment to inveterate customs can only account for the use of them.

*Rent of Land and Houses.*—The annual land rent of the parish is, I am informed, about L. 1200. The rents of the houses are difficult to ascertain. It may not be improper, however, to observe, that such houses as day-labourers and servants occupy, are commonly let at from 15 s. to 21 s.

*Church, &c.*—The living of this parish is L. 58, 32 bolls of oat-meal, 9 stones Dutch weight to the boll; and 16 bolls of barley, country measure, which is considerably larger than the Linlithgow. Eight bolls were the common rent of the glebe, when it was let to a farmer. It consists of about eight Scots acres. The present minister is a bachelor, and has been settled in the parish upwards of 10 years. The King is patron. Within these two years, a commodious good manse was built. The church is nearly a ruin. It had connected with it, by wide arches, one large chapel, and several small ones, which were probably used both as cemeteries and places of devotion. They have long been shut out from the church, and used only as burying places. The heritors have it in contemplation to build a new church soon, which will be both convenient for the parishioners, and ornamental to the town.

The heritors, including proprietors of burgage tenements, amount to 39. But, strictly speaking, there are only two, for there are only two separate valuations in the parish; viz. the valuation of the estate of Tulloch, and the magistracy of Dingwall. Upwards of four-fifths of these proprietors live  
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in the town; of the two wealthiest, one only resides occasionally in the parish, and the other has his principal family seat in the neighbourhood.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in the parish who receive aid from charitable funds, is 58, of which 8 are males, and 50 females. The annual amount of the weekly contributions for their relief is extremely small, viz. about L. 7 or L. 8. A sum of money, however, at interest, yields L. 35. In the number of poor are included those who, although not wholly unable to work, are incapable by their labour to earn what is sufficient for their own or their families subsistence. None are admitted on the poor's roll, or obtain occasional aid from the funds, without previously acknowledging the session to have a claim on the effects they may chance to leave, to the full extent of the sums they have received.

*Prisoners.*—In the course of the year 1790, there were 18 persons confined in the jail of this town. Of these there were imprisoned for debt 11, for petty theft 5, for horse and sheep stealing one; and one woman, from a distant part of the country, has lain here under sentence of transportation, since the autumn circuit 1789. But in this parish no murder has been committed for these last 40 years; nor has an individual been banished.

*School.*—The parochial is the only school in the parish. The schoolmaster's salary from the town and parish, amounts to L. 16; his emoluments as session-clerk, to L. 3 : 10; and the school-fees, *communibus annis*, to L. 24. He has also a very good house with a garden from the town. The number of scholars is variable, from 60 to 80. The present  
master's

master's knowledge fully qualifies him for his office, and his assiduity is unwearied.

*Price of Provisions, Labour, &c.*—The prices of provisions within these 30 years past have undergone a great alteration. At the commencement of that period, mutton, pork, even beef, &c. were sold in the lump, by the quarter, or the whole carcase. From 8 d. to 10 d. was the usual price of a quarter of good mutton, 2 s. 6 d. of a quarter of pork, and 5 s. 6 d. or 6 s. of an exceeding good quarter of beef. Now the average price of all these kinds of meat is 3 d. *per* pound, which is at least double their former value. A good fat goose was then sold at 10 d. a duck at 3 d. and a fowl at 2½ d. They now fetch twice as much money. Butter was then bought at 6 s. a stone; it is now sold at from 12 s. to 14 s. common country made cheese at 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. at most; now it is never under 5 s. Barley and oat-meal were commonly sold at that period for 8 s. or 10 s. a boll; they have not for many years been under 16 s. How much soever these changes may evince the general increased prosperity of the country, they nevertheless bear very hard on individuals, whose livings are stationary at a certain allowance in money.

The wages of a common labourer are 6 d. a day, and of masons and house-carpenters, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. Supposing a labourer to have constant employment the whole year, he will earn L. 7 : 16. His wife, though she should have the charge of a moderate family, will gain by spinning, with tolerable diligence, 1½ d. a day, which is near L. 2 a year. There is no room for children to exert industry, as there are no manufactures. The whole earnings of the family, therefore, making no allowance for sickness, idle days, avocations, or any other exigences, cannot exceed

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L. 9 : 16. Large families are, however, on such reared, and often on smaller incomes, with the assistance of a small field for potatoes, and perhaps a little patch of ground for greens, cultivated after hours of labour, or when other employment is not to be got. How this wretched pittance is distributed among the variety of objects which are necessary to human life, in a very simple state, and how it is made sufficient for the subsistence of a family, is inconceivable. But habits of frugal management, taught by poverty to the indigent, are found to effect what the affluent do not imagine, and cannot easily believe.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads in this parish are exceedingly deep in winter. Their badness may be attributed in part to the nature of the soil through which they pass; but it is owing also to the not adopting a proper method in the reparation of them. One public road leads across Conan, which forms a communication between the very populous district of Ferrintosh and this town. From a desire to save labour or time, the ford is often attempted, when the tide is too far advanced, or the river too high, and the consequence is frequently fatal. A bridge over this river would not only be a vast accommodation to travellers, but would also be a mean of saving many lives. There are two excellent bridges on a rivulet, in the course of the public roads; two, however, are still wanted, one over each of the burns which form the south and east boundary of the parish.

*Antiquity and Government of the Borough.*—This town had its charter of erection into a royal borough, from Alexander II. in the year 1226. By this charter, which another granted in the reign of James IV. confirmed, the town was empowered to choose a provost, two bailies, a dean-of-guild, a  
treasurer,

treasurer, and 10 counsellors. It was also entitled to all the privileges, liberties, and immunities, possessed by the town of Inverness. The town is one of the five boroughs, constituting the northern district; and, in common with Kirkwall, Wick, Dornoch, and Tain, sends a member to Parliament.

*The Antient size of the Town.*—There are some circumstances which would seem to indicate, that the town was once much more extensive than it is now. The cross now stands at the east end of this borough; but a street of about 200 yards long runs from it to the north east; and a gentleman of the town in digging some time ago for manure, found the remains of a causeway at the distance of 300 or 400 yards, in a line south east from the cross.—The former had few houses built along it, till 30 or 40 years ago, and the latter has yet none near it. These circumstances, however, afford some kind of presumption, that the antient might have exceeded the present size of the place.

*Ruins of the Castle.*—The street north east of the cross, leads to the ruins of what once was the principal residence of the Earls of Ross. This building, situated close to the shore, had on three sides an extensive plain. It was situated at a considerable distance from any rising ground, and a little river with a deep slimy channel, into which the sea flowed, winded about two of its sides. It seems to have been a regular fortification, which in those days was well adapted for defence. The castle was built at the west end. A part of it, which still remains, has the stones so strongly cemented with the mortar that it is easier to break a solid rock, than to separate those of which it is composed. To the north east, but contiguous to the castle, there is an area of about half an  
acre

acre which was inclosed. The whole was furrounded with a deep ditch, and a regular glacis still remains. After the forfeiture of the Earl, the proprietor of the estate of Tulloch was appointed hereditary constable of the castle, and the trifling salary of 20 merks, or L. 1 : 2 : 2 $\frac{2}{7}$  Sterling, is to this day annexed to the office. This Earl was once distinguished among the most powerful of the Scottish barons. He was proprietor of a great part of this country; and many of our most considerable families possessed their lands by charters from him, dated *apud castrum nostrum de Dingwall*.

About 25 years ago, the annual revenue of the borough did not exceed L. 7. It is now upwards of L. 100. This vast increase arose chiefly from the feuing out of commonities to the gentlemen and other inhabitants of this place, for the purpose of their being converted into arable ground, or otherwise improved. Part of these were of excellent soil, perfectly level, contiguous to the town, and of easy culture; all of them were good subjects of improvement, of one kind or other. If the inhabitants of the town, some centuries ago, were either as numerous, or as wealthy as they are at present, their wants must indeed have been few, or they themselves extremely ignorant and inactive, when they left waste such tracts of lands, which were so easily convertible into fertile fields or thriving plantations. The town has of late been greatly enlarged, as well as improved in the appearance of its houses. This change appears to be chiefly owing to that superior taste, and spirit of improvement, which generally prevail, together with the accidental influx of money through private channels. Articles are now in universal demand, which were formerly unknown; and luxuries when once known, soon come into general use. To obtain these articles, the people resort to the town, where they are to be found;

found; and accordingly, a large retail trade is carried on here, considering the size of the place. This trade could not fail of introducing additional wealth, and its consequences luxury, and improvements of various kinds. Besides, the gentlemen of this neighbourhood, are in general fond of a country life, and are happily attached to their own family feats. Their style of living, and their expences, are widely different from those of their ancestors. Much of the money they circulate must centre in the neighbouring town, and men of trade or business seldom allow it to pass through their hands without retaining some portion of it. Those means of improvement exist much more in Dingwall than in either of the other two boroughs of the county. For these, lying at the extremities of the shire, do not feel so much the advantages of local situation, and have not been happy enough to experience in the same degree the favours of fortune. Of the three boroughs, Dingwall is accordingly by much the most flourishing.

Eighteen years ago, a very neat spire was built over the steeple of the town-house, and it was furnished with an exceedingly good clock. And seven or eight years ago, the streets were new paved.

The town of Dingwall is the centre of the county of Ross, with respect to local situation, to the value of the property on all sides, and to the residence of the inhabitants. Nature, therefore, and common sense, both point it out as the most proper place for the transaction of all the most public business of the shire. The convenience of gentlemen, and the interest of the people, both require that it should have this privilege.

*Miscellaneous Observations*—This parish is very happily situated. Though the branch of the sea on which it lies is not



navigable by large vessels, yet it furnishes a water communication with all the maritime parts of the kingdom; and though it does not produce much variety of fish, yet it supplies the means of an easy conveyance of the produce of the country, to the markets of the town. Besides, the parish lies in the centre of a fertile and well inhabited country. It is conveniently situated in respect to the midland and western highlands. Most of the roads from them meet in this place, and of course it is often well-supplied with their produce. From this view, it must be obvious, how well it is situated for most kinds of manufactures. There is abundance of people in the parish and neighbourhood, who would be glad of employment; living is comparatively moderate; the home market for several sorts of manufactures would by no means be inconsiderable; and a communication with the foreign market would always be easy and open.

Gaelic is still the language of the common people, in which, therefore, the greater part of public worship is performed. But most of the parishioners now understand and speak English. There are comparatively few of the younger people who were not early sent to school, and taught both to read and to write.

In this parish there are two inns, and nineteen ale or whisky houses. The former are kept by well behaving respectable people; they are frequented by travellers, and used for public meetings. Of the ale-houses only seven are regularly licensed. Most of this description, indeed, whether licensed or not, are the worst of nuisances. They not only endanger the morals of the people, by furnishing secret opportunities of indulging a propensity to drunkenness, but by encouraging theft in servants, and by diverting the earnings of mechanics and labourers, and the productions of farmers, from the support of their families. It is, therefore, a false  
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and pernicious lenity, which, under the pretext of charity, is sometimes shewn to such traders; for indulgence to them, often proves ruin to the innocence and welfare of thousands.

The lower order of people is not remarkable for any extraordinary degree of hospitality. Living in a country well inhabited, and much resorted to by strangers, and not enjoying those means of wealth which arise from extensive commerce, or regular manufactures, this virtue cannot have much room to exert itself among this class. According to their situation, however, they are by no means unwilling to share what they possess, either in the way of hospitality or charity. The more wealthy are noted for their hospitality and attention to strangers. Luxury is a vice with which the people cannot be charged. I with truth permitted me to say that they always had abundance of the necessaries of life. Indeed, total want is a thing little known in this part of the country; but between that and any approach to luxury, the distance is very great, and the intermediate stages are extremely numerous. In general, the people are sober and industrious, decent in their behaviour, and submissive to the laws. Every country furnishes some exceptions to the good character of its inhabitants. There are no temptations to any extraordinary expences; neither commerce nor manufactures have yet given scope for dangerous speculations; and the people still retain that fond attachment to patrimonial inheritances, however trifling, which the feudal institutions inspired. The lands, however, sometimes change their proprietors, and when sold, the price is high, perhaps 30 years purchase; and it is still daily advancing.

The parish is sufficient to supply itself and the town with provisions. Indeed, on this subject, it is difficult to speak with any degree of certainty; for most of the barley which  
the

the parish produces is sold to distillers, and many of the cattle are purchased by drovers. The Dingwall butchers are therefore often obliged to go to a distance for cattle, sheep, &c. and the mechanics furnish themselves with their summer-meal from other parts of the country. It is difficult to draw the balance between those exports and imports; but, on the whole, it is probably in favour of the parish.

Near the church an obelisk stands, which, though of no great antiquity, attracts the notice of all travellers. It is erected on an artificial mount, the bottom of which covers about two-thirds of an English acre. The obelisk is six feet square at the base, and rises in a pyramidal form to the height of 57 feet. It was erected by George first Earl of Cromarty, secretary of state for Scotland in the reign of Queen Anne, and was intended to ornament and distinguish this spot, which he designed to be the family burying-place,

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NUMBER II,  
PARISH OF PETTY,  
(County of Inverness.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM SMITH.

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*Name, Extent, and Boundaries.*

THE parish consists of the original parish of Petty, and the parish of Briachlich, which was annexed to it. At this last place there are still the remains of a church or chapel. There is no account, traditional or written, when this annexation took place.

This parish lies in the presbytery of Inverness, and synod of Moray, and in the county of Inverness, excepting a small spot that belongs to the county of Nairn. It extends along the south side of the Moray Frith, about eight miles in length, and near half that much in breadth. It is bounded by that Frith on the N. or N. W. by the parishes of Airdierfier and Nairn on the N. E. by that of Croy, on the E. the S. E. and S. and by the parish of Inverness on the S. W.

*Surface, &c.*—It is nearly of the form of a rectangle. The greater part of it is flat or nearly level: but the ground rises considerably to the south, and, in one place, between the plain and the Frith. The face of the country is very agreeable, as the parish contains large tracts of cultivated fields; and, where the ground rises towards the south, the fields are separated by rills of water, falling

ing in some places over rocks; there are clumps of forest trees almost at every farm house. But what contributes most of all to the rural beauty of this place, is, that the Earl of Moray, has, within the last twenty years, inclosed and planted, in different places, at least 500 acres of what was till then bleak and barren heath. These plantations consisted at first almost entirely of Scots firs; but, as the firs grew up, they were weeded and thinned, to make room for trees of a more valuable kind, chiefly oaks, which thrive amazingly well, to which the firs serve as a shelter. While these plantations thus decorate the country, the weedings are of some use to the inhabitants for firing and other purposes.

*Air, Climate, and Diseases.*—The air in this part of the country is serene, and the climate dry. Though the ground in general is rather flat and low, there are no marshes nor stagnating water in it, to occasion noxious vapours. The high hills in the neighbourhood attract the clouds, especially during the summer months, so that this parish suffers frequently by excessive drought at that season of the year, while places at no great distance have no reason of complaint on that account.

The people of this place are not liable to any peculiar local diseases, but are in general as healthy as their neighbours. As they have not yet been prevailed upon to inoculate for the small-pox, when a malignant kind of that disease prevails, which generally happens once in five or six years, it sweeps away a number of children.

This parish cannot be accounted remarkable for the longevity of its inhabitants. There are at present a few persons in it above 80 years old; several above 70; and many near that age.

*Population.*

*Population.*—There was an actual numeration made of the catechizable persons in this parish, about 16 years ago, when they amounted to about 1370. Since that time the population has diminished; for by a recent numeration for the purpose of this statement, the number of persons above eight years old is 1302, and of children under that age is 216, in all 1518 souls. In Dr Webster's report, the number of souls is 1643.

The population of this parish appears to have undergone very great changes, during the last century and a half. For, by an old register of births, that has every appearance of accuracy, the average of births for the ten years, between 1650 and 1660, is 51. From that time till 1704, there is no register extant; but, from the year last mentioned down to the present time, there are registers of the births and marriages, but with chasms of some years in different places, and appearances of negligence and inaccuracy. During the ten years from 1704 to 1714, the population appears to have been very great; for the average of births recorded is 71, and of marriages 16. But, from that period downwards to the present, it has been constantly decreasing; sometimes rapidly, and at other times more slowly. What is very remarkable, the average of births for the ten years, between 1750 and 1760, is 50, that is, nearly the same that it had been a century before. Since the 1760, it has continued to diminish, till it has come to the state already mentioned. What is the average of births at present, or for the last ten years, cannot be ascertained with exactness, as the register has not been kept with accuracy.

Different causes have contributed to diminish the population of this parish, during the last thirty years. Though the farms in this parish are far from being large, they were smaller, and of course more numerous, before that time.

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Some tenants had not only cottagers, as at present, under them, but parcelled out part of their farms to subtenants, who also had cottagers under them.

But the chief cause of the decrease of population is scarcity of fuel. That necessary article of life, which half a century ago was tolerably plenteous, has of late years become extremely scarce.

*Character and Manners of the People*—The inhabitants of this parish are in general sober, peaceable, and industrious. Crimes of an atrocious nature are extremely rare, or rather unknown among them. Though they are far from being unfocial, but have pretty frequent convivial meetings, as at weddings and the like, yet, after spending some hours cheerfully together, they separate in a peaceable and friendly manner. Drinking to excess and quarrelling are accounted reproachful, and, therefore, persons addicted to these vices are avoided. They appear to be satisfied with their condition; and most of them are easy in their circumstances according to their stations, nay, some of them have even made a little money. But it must also be acknowledged, that some, from want of industry and oeconomy, and some from misfortune, or from having very large families, are in very straitened circumstances. They are very ready, according to their abilities, to relieve the indigent and distressed, especially such as have been reduced to that condition by calamity or misfortune. They are fair and honest in their dealings, and obliging to one another.

In their manners they shew a good deal of attachment to old fashions and habits. Though, from their frequent intercourse with people that speak the English language, it might be expected that they would have acquired some knowledge of it, yet the Gaelic continues in general use among them.

Most

Most of them can speak nothing else, and the few that can speak the English do it but very imperfectly. The Highland dress is still retained by them in a great measure. The plaid is almost totally laid aside; but the small blue bonnet, the short coat, the tartan kilt and hose, and the Highland brogues are still the ordinary dress of the men. The women in like manner retain the Highland dress of their sex, but have adopted more of that of their low country neighbours than the men.

*Occupation and Division of the Inhabitants.*—There are no towns, no villages, no manufactures in this parish. All the inhabitants are farmers, cottagers employed by them, or artificers employed by both. Besides the ordinary farmers, or tenants and cottagers having huts from them, there is a great number of crofters, who have been planted by the proprietors in waste ground to improve it. The number of farmers is not less than ninety; three or four of them have pretty large farms, paying L. 100, L. 80, and L. 60 Sterling yearly; but the more general run is not above L. 20 or L. 25 of yearly rent, and there are a good many of them even below L. 10. The cottagers are partly servants and labourers employed by the tenants, and partly follow other occupations, as taylors, weavers, shoemakers, &c. There are four mills in the parish for grinding the grain. There are also some fishers in the parish, as many as man two or three boats.

*Heritors and Rent.*—This parish is the property of four heritors, the Earl of Moray, Arthur Forbes of Culloden, Esq; John Campbell of Calder, and James Rose of Brea. Their respective valued rents stand as follows: viz.



The Earl of Moray	-	Scots	L. 2423	10	0
Culloden	-	-	441	15	0
Calder	-	-	120	0	0
Brea	-	-	157	3	0
			<hr/>		
Total			L. 3142	8	0

It is supposed that the average rent of the land is about 14s. the acre. Some of the good land is much higher rented, as high as 18s. or 20s. and some of the bad, as low as 5s. or 6s.; but the general run is from 12s. to 16s.

Personal services, called *carriages*, were formerly in use in this parish and the neighbourhood; but, though still exacted in some places in the neighbourhood, they have been totally abolished many years ago, to the mutual satisfaction both of master and tenant.

None of the heritors of this parish reside in it. There is a large old house near the church, called Castle Stuart, belonging to the Earl of Moray, which was designed for a seat of the family; but it has been for many years out of repair and uninhabitable. Around this house there is a large garden and orchard, surrounded and sheltered by large forest trees. The garden is remarkable for different kinds of excellent straw berries; and the orchard for a great number of large old trees, bearing the species of small cherry, called black and red geens. These geen-trees were sent there from Kent, about a century ago, by Alexander Earl of Moray.

*Soil, Mode of Cultivation, and Produce.*—The soil of this parish is various. Some of it is a pretty rich black mould, capable, with proper management, of bearing any kind of crops. But the far greater part of it is light and sandy; yet even that light soil might be brought to very good account

count by artificial grafs, and green crops. A few of the occupiers of the larger farms have made inclofures; fome with hedge-rows, and fome with ftone dykes; they raife green crops, fow artificial grafses, and have adopted the other modes of cultivation introduced into the more improved parts of the country. But the whole of the ordinary tenantry ftill retain the fame practices that were followed by their predeceffors. Their fields are quite open,—there is no grafs fown,—no fallow,—no green crops raifed; but barley fown with manure, and oats without it, as long as the land will produce more than the feed fown in it; after which it is allowed to reft three years as lee, and then it is broke up to undergo the fame treatment.

The manure ufed is the dung of the cattle of the farm, made into a compoft dunghill, with at leaft twice as much earth or fand. Such as live on the fide of the Frith, get fome fea-weed or ware, which they lay on their lands, and which gives in ftiong lands a good crop of barley; but the fucceeding crops of oats are generally poorer than after the ordinary dung. In light foil the ware does not answer when the feafon is dry, but opens it too much.

Though, from the improper management of the lands, this parifh does not produce near fo much grain as it otherwife might; yet in the moft unfavourable years, it produces more than is fufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants. The price is various; but in general, the boll of oat-meal weighing nine ftone Dutch, is nearly a fhilling cheaper than the boll of barley; and the barley in general fells very nearly at the Haddington prices. Befides grain, there is a good deal of potatoes raifed, not only by the tenants, but alfo by the crofters and cottagers. Some of the tenants raife flax, which the women fpin and get manufactured into linen,  
fome

some of it pretty fine, for sale, and some of a coarser quality for domestic use.

*Time of Sowing and Reaping.*—The oats are commonly sown in March, or about the beginning of April; immediately after the oats are sown, the potatoes are planted; after which the barley is sown about the end of April or beginning of May. The earliest barley is ripe in the end of August or beginning of September. The harvest commonly becomes general in September, and is finished by the end of that month, or the beginning of October.

*Number of Ploughs, Horses, Cattle, &c.*—The exact number of ploughs in this parish cannot be easily ascertained. But the error will not be great, if they be stated at an hundred. The number of horses is not less than 450. Some of them are of a pretty large size, and so stout that two of them draw a plough; but the most of them are very much below that size. The number of black cattle is about 1400, mostly oxen used in the plough, eight of them together. They are of the light nimble Highland breed; when turning unfit for work, they are disposed of to dealers in cattle for the English market. Few of these cattle are reared in this place; they are generally brought from the Highlands when young. Though there is not much pasture ground in this parish, yet most of the tenants cottagers have sheep. The number is about 2500. They are of a very small size, the carcass will not weigh above two stone Dutch. The wool is spun by the women, and manufactured into coarse cloth for domestic use, and the sheep are disposed of to butchers from Inverness and Fort-George.

*Fish,*

*Fish, Harbours.*—The Frith along the side of this parish does not abound in fish; Culloden has on his property what is called a *shell fishing*, where salmon are caught of an uncommonly excellent quality, but the quantity is not considerable. At times haddocks and whittings are found in the Frith, but rarely, and of a small size. Haddocks of any size, and the larger kinds of fish, as cod, ling, skate, &c. are seldom found nearer than the coast of Sutherland or Caithness. In some seasons herrings appear in this Frith, and in great quantities, and continue several months, perhaps from October to February; but they generally take three or four years to repeat their visit. Cockles and muscles are found in the ebb, but in no great plenty. About forty years ago, there were oysters in this Frith, but they are now entirely gone, except on a small spot opposite to Culloden's lands, where some are still found. Inverness is the general market for the fish caught by the fishers of this place and neighbourhood. The landing places on this part of the Frith (for there are no harbours) are but indifferent. The water is shallow at and near the shore, and at low water the sea retires to a great distance. There are two or three places within this parish, where safe and commodious harbours for small vessels might be made at a small expence.

*Price of Labour.*—Labour is performed chiefly by servants hired for the half year, who receive stipulated wages, and their maintenance, either in the employer's family, or meal in place of it. About forty years ago, the half year's wages to an ordinary farm-servant, including some small perquisites, was no more than 13s. 4d. When meal was given in place of maintenance, it was at the rate of six bolls in the year, one-third of it oat-meal, and the other two-thirds barley-meal, either measured with the wheat firloft, or weighed,

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at the rate of nine stone Dutch to the boll ; which comes to 54 stone Dutch in the year. A day-labourer at that period had 4d. a day with, or 7d. without maintenance. Of late the wages of both have been increasing, that of a hired servant now is 40s. in the half year ; and that of a day-labourer is 6d. with, and 9d. without maintenance. At heavy work, such as the peat-moss, harvest, &c. day labourers get 9d. with, and 1s. without their victuals. The wages of female servants, though it has increased of late, is still more moderate than that of the men ; at an average it is about 15s. or 16s. in the half year, with maintenance, which they always receive in the family in which they serve.

Servants and labourers having families, live much more comfortably than would at first view be expected from the smallness of their wages. But, besides their wages and meal, all of them have some perquisites from the tenants, along with their houses ; as land to plant potatoes, or sow a little barley, a small garden for cabbages and greens, &c. With these and the industry of their wives, they contrive to support themselves, and to bring up a family.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The military road from Stirling to Fort George crosses this parish, that road with two bridges on it within this parish, was made, and is kept in repair by government. The military road from Fort George to Fort Augustus, passes along the whole length of the parish ; there are four bridges on it. This road was made about twelve years ago by the statute labour, but has lately been repaired, and in some places altered in the direction, and four bridges have been built upon it, at the public expence. Both these roads are in excellent repair. The county road from Inverness to Nairn goes also through this parish ; it was made  
by

by the statute labour, and had two or three bridges built on it at the expence of the county.

*Poor.*—The poor are not numerous in this parish, but it is much infested with beggars from other places; for there is no regulation in this part of the country to restrain common begging. The funds for the relief of the poor depend entirely on the weekly collections at the church, which do not amount to more than L. 5 or L. 6 in the year; fuel being scarce, poor people have not the same inducement to settle here, as where parochial funds are large and fuel abounds.

*Cottages pulled down and built.*—Within the last ten years, a number of cottages have been pulled down; not fewer than fifteen or sixteen, and there are at least as many empty at present in the parish. But, to compensate in some measure for this diminution, there have been about ten new ones built. So that, within the period above mentioned, cottages have become twenty fewer in number than they were before.

*Ale-houses and their Effects.*—In this part of the country, the inferior kind of public houses ought not to be called ale-houses, as formerly, for ale is seldom sold in them. The only entertainment to be found in them now is whisky, which is much more expensive and pernicious than ale. The number of these houses has been doubled of late. Formerly there were not above five or six, but now there are not fewer than a dozen! Hitherto there has been no reason to complain of their having any bad effects on the morals of the people; but the more sober and judicious entertain great apprehensions that idleness, quarrelling, and other bad consequences,

consequences, will be produced by so many temptations to drinking spirits.

*Church.*—The Earl of Moray is patron of the parish of Petty. The church and manse are near each other, and are situated on an eminence facing the fourth east, near the head of a small bay issuing out of the Frith. This situation is both healthy and agreeable, as it is dry, and commands an extensive view of the country; but the church is situated rather inconveniently for the parishioners, as, instead of being in or near the center, it is placed on a spot almost detached from the rest of the parish. The church was built about three and twenty years ago, has received very little reparation since, and appears to be in a sufficient state. The manse was built about forty years ago, and has been repaired different times. The stipend is 78 bolls of barley, 2 bolls of oat-meal, and thirty pounds Sterling of money, with about ten acres of glebe land, most of it a poor light soil. The present incumbent, Mr William Smith, was admitted in September 1775, was married in 1779, and has five children; two of them sons, and three daughters. His predecessors in office were Mr John Morrison admitted in 1759, who died in November 1774; Mr Æneas Shaw admitted in 1742, who was translated to Forres in 1758; Mr Lewis Chapman admitted in 1738, who died in 1741; Mr John Duncanson admitted in 1728, who died in 1737; Mr Daniel M'Kenzie admitted in 1719, who was translated to Inverness in 1727. He was preceded by Mr Alexander Durnoon the last Episcopal minister of this parish, who was admitted in 1684, and continued till his death in 1718. All the inhabitants of this parish are of the established church.

*School,*

*School*.—The school-house was built in a pretty substantial manner in 1784, at about half a mile from the church; which situation, as being more central, is much more convenient for the parishioners. A great number of scholars attend the school, as even the poorest of the people are becoming sensible of the importance of giving some education to their children. The salary is twelve bolls of oat-meal, allocated on and paid by the tenants. The school fees are low, being only 1 s. in the quarter. The schoolmaster is always session clerk, for which he has a salary of 13 s. 4 d. and certain dues, as 6 d. for registering each baptism, marriage, &c. All these emoluments put together will make about L. 20.

*Antiquities*.—There are not many monuments of antiquity in this parish. The most striking are two earthen mounds; one of them close by the church-yard, and the other about 200 yards west from it. They are evidently artificial, the outside being sod, or turf, inclosing sand or light earth. They appear to have been exactly circular, contracted a little as they ascend, and quite level on the top. The circumference at the bottom is 150 feet, at the top 120, and the height is 42. The tradition concerning them is, that they were places for administering justice; so their name imports, for they are called *tom mbdit*, i. e. *the court hill*.

There are in different parts of this parish circles of large flat stones, standing on one end on the ground, supported between two other large stones buried under ground, so that where there is a single circle above, there is a double one under ground. They are said to be Druidical temples.



## NUMBER III.

## UNITED PARISHES OF KINGUSSIE AND INCH.

(County of Inverness.)

By the Rev. Mr J. ANDERSON.

*Name, Extent, and Situation.*

FROM the name of this parish, which, in its literal acceptation, signifies † “*the Head of the Fir-wood,*” it seems evident that a large tract of the lands adjacent to the church had been formerly covered with fir trees; though at present there is not a single tree of this kind within some miles of it; and the country in general, owing to a scarcity of planted wood, has, to the eye of a traveller, a bleak and naked appearance.

The extent of the parish from east to west, is nearly 17 miles, and from north to south upwards of 20; but of this only the low part and the glens along the rivers are well inhabited, the rest being in general a range of hills appropriated to pasturage, where but a few hamlets are thinly scattered, for the accommodation of those who attend their cattle during the summer months. It is bounded by the parish of Laggan to the west, the united parishes of Moy and Dalrossie to the north, Alvie to the east, and Blair in Athol to the south.

Et

† Cean-Ghiubhsaiche.

It is situated in Badenoch, a district in the shire of Inverness; and is perhaps more elevated above the level of the sea, and farther removed in every direction from the coast, than any other parish in Scotland.

*Climate and Diseases.*—As a consequence of the elevation of the parish, the climate is naturally cold; and though from this circumstance it might be regarded as healthy, yet there are other causes, arising from the local situation, that render some diseases exceedingly common; the low meadow grounds have so little declivity, that every flood in the Spey overflows them, and the stagnation of the water not only renders the land swampy, but produces noxious vapours. Hence rheumatisms, consumptions, and other complaints of a similar kind, are very frequent.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—The river Spey intersects the parish, running from west to east. It winds in a number of beautiful curves, through a rich fertile meadow, interspersed with allar and willow trees; and the rising grounds to the south being mostly covered with natural birch and hazle, the rocks appearing shaggy and abrupt to the north and west, with the mountains in every direction, seen towering in distant prospect; the whole, viewed in the calm of a summer's evening, forms a scene truly romantic and picturesque. The other rivers within the parish are the Truim and Calder, the Tromie, Gynag, and Peshie. All these rivers abound with trout; and some of them with pike, salmon, and charr. There is a large lake called *Loch Inch*, about a mile square, and situated at the eastern extremity of the parish. It contains plenty of all the kinds of fishes mentioned above. Of late an attempt was made to drain it, which, had it succeeded, would have been a great advantage to the county; but,  
after

after expending several hundred pounds, little has been effected, as the natural declivity of the ground is not sufficient for the purpose.

*Soil.*—In the lower ground, the upper stratum of the soil is a mixture of sand and slime, left by the overflowings of the river; a light loam constitutes the second; and clay the third. The high land, in general, is a light loam with a mixture of sand. This, indeed, is not a district adapted for raising grain. Storms are frequent at all seasons; frosts are uncommonly intense; and as they continue late in spring, and begin early in autumn, with heavy falls of rain during the harvest months, crops are always rendered uncertain.

*Agriculture and Natural History.*—Grazing seems to be the only kind of farming proper for this place; and for this the hills in general are very suitable, particularly for sheep pasturage. The hills which have nothing singular to attract attention, and are so numerous that they would form merely a tedious muster-roll of names, answer likewise another purpose. They abound with game, and are much frequented by sportsmen. Grouse and tarmagan are in great plenty. In some parts black-cock and wood-cock are also to be found; though these are more rare. In the most remote and unfrequented places, there are a number of stags and roe-deer. Wild duck are uncommonly numerous; and in the lake already described, from 70 to 100 swans reside during winter.

The natural history of the parish contains nothing so singular as to merit a particular description. A mine was opened several years ago, where some specimens of very rich silver ore were dug up; but the work was soon discontinued.

nued ; and no attempt has been since made to discover whether it was worth working or not.

Sheep farming has not as yet made any considerable progress in the parish, notwithstanding the many successful examples in the neighbourhood to recommend it. The whole number perhaps does not exceed 7000. Black cattle is the primary object. On these the tenantry principally depend for payment of their rent. Their other sales consist of sheep, wool, some goats, and a few hill horses.

The parish in general does not raise grain sufficient to supply itself. The kinds usually cultivated, are bear, oats, and rye. I have already stated my opinion on corn-farming in this climate ; and yet, notwithstanding the disadvantages mentioned, were the exertions of the industrious tenant properly directed,—were he instructed by those whose circumstances enable them to make useful experiments,—were he freed from vexatious servitudes, that are the bane of improvement, and taught to look forward with hope to the period when he should enjoy the fruit of his labour secured to him and his children, by a lease for a length of years ; there is little doubt but the soil could be brought to maintain double the number of its present inhabitants. The reverse of this picture is unfortunately too true,—The lands in many places are only held from year to year, or on very short leases. Grassums (fines) are frequently exacted ; additional burdens are imposed without regarding whether they correspond with the progress of improvement ; and personal services are so often demanded, that the tenant, in many instances, is more at the disposal of his landlord, than the feudal vassal was of his superior in former times. The rigour of these exactions has of late been in some degree alleviated ;

viated; and it is to be hoped that, in an enlightened age, the practice will be discontinued altogether.

There is no village either in the parish, or in the whole district. This inconvenience is severely felt. Not only the luxuries, but even many of the common necessaries of life, must be sent for to the distance of more than forty miles. Tradesmen have no fixed place of residence where they can be resorted to. There is no centre for the little traffic, or barter, requisite to be carried on in an inland country. The wool that could have been manufactured in the place, must be sent by a long land carriage to buyers invited from another kingdom. The flax that might have proved a source of wealth to both proprietor and tacksmen, has been neglected, because skilful people are not collected in one close neighbourhood, to carry it through the whole process.

*Population, &c.*—The number of inhabitants ascertained by a late survey, amounts to 1803. Of these there are males above ten years of age 645, females 693,—children of both sexes under ten years of age 645,—total as above. It is to be regretted, that no data sufficiently accurate to form any proper estimate of the inhabitants in past times, are to be found. If an opinion may be hazarded, where facts only ought to be attended to, there is reason to think that the number of inhabitants within the last thirty years has decreased; but not greatly. Dr Webster's report makes this parish contain 1900 souls.

The baptisms and marriages for eight years are as follow. No table of burials has been kept.

Baptisms.

Baptifms.			Marriages.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1783.	16.	15.	31.	1783.	4.
1784.	23.	17.	40.	1784.	13.
1785.	21.	28.	49.	1785.	23.
1786.	20.	9.	29.	1786.	4.
1787.	21.	25.	46.	1787.	13.
1788.	33.	19.	52.	1788.	9.
1789.	20.	11.	31.	1789.	18.
1790.	18.	20.	38.	1790.	9.
39 at a yearly average, 312.			12 on a yearly average, 93.		

The inhabitants consist of six heritors, three of whom are resident; several officers retired on half-pay, from the army and navy; and the remainder almost wholly of husbandmen and cottagers; excepting smiths and weavers, there are few mechanics of any kind. This is owing partly to the cause already stated, there being no village in the place; and partly to the genius of the people, which is more inclined to martial enterprize, than to the painful industry and laborious exertion requisite to carry on the arts of civil life. Till of late, it was even with reluctance that they would hire as day-labourers; and still the greater number of those employed in this way, are brought from other countries.

*Prices of Labour and of Provisions.*—A shilling per day is reckoned but very ordinary wages. Many receive 15 d. and 16 d. and some refuse to work under 18 d. The wages of women, however, is not in proportion; during harvest, and when employed at peats, they receive 8 d. a day, and at every other season of the year only 6 d.

The price of provisions is in some articles uncommonly high,

high, and in others sufficiently moderate. Oat-meal, on an average of years, sells at 20s. the boll of 9 stone. Oats for feed, at 16s. 18s. and sometimes 20s. Bear and rye frequently 21s. Beef and mutton cannot be valued by the pound, as there is no market for butcher-meat; but both in general are dear. Ducks and hens are 6d.; chickens 2d.; eggs  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per dozen; cheese 5s. the stone of 24 pounds when green; butter 12s. the stone when salted; milk 2d. a Scottish pint when warm; potatoes 6d. per peck; and sometimes, when sold for seed in spring, 1s.

From the foregoing circumstances, the poverty of the inhabitants may be inferred as an unavoidable consequence. An aversion to labour, combining with local disadvantages, and feudal oppression, cannot fail to render a peasantry poor, dispirited, and comfortless. To say the truth, the wretched appearance of numbers of them, is a sufficient proof of the hardships they endure. A few individuals, perhaps, in the rank alluded to, may be found who are easy and affluent; but, whoever is at pains to examine minutely the condition of the bulk of the people,—to view the mean ill constructed huts in which they reside,—and to consider the scanty and precarious crops on which they depend in a great measure for subsistence; will be far from thinking that the picture of their misery is drawn in exaggerated colours.

*Manners.*—Should a people thus obnoxious to poverty and all its train of concomitant evils, be found less scrupulous in some particulars, than others who enjoy a happier lot; perhaps the liberal mind would find some alleviation of their errors in the necessity of their situation. But even this excuse is unnecessary on the present occasion. Instances of theft are very uncommon; more flagrant crimes in a great measure

measure unknown. Like most of the natives of the Highlands, they are brave, hospitable, and polite. Their vices may be said to be grafted on their virtues. They are quarrelsome, addicted to drunkenness, and little to be depended on for the sincerity of their professions.

*Language.*—The Gaelic language is most frequently spoken, though the English is tolerably well understood by many of them. They have preserved but few traditions of their civil history; and these are scarcely worth the trouble of recording.

*Church.*—Their ecclesiastical history, till a considerable time after the Reformation, is little known. Though it is well ascertained, that there was once a monastery in the parish, and a priory with very liberal endowments; yet there is so little known concerning them, that our antiquaries have barely mentioned them in the catalogue of religious houses, without attempting any further illustration. There have been only five clergymen in succession, since it was erected into a parish; the last incumbent officiated 57 years; the present minister has been settled 9 years; he has been six years married, and has no children. The stipend is L. 70, the value of the glebe about L. 12. There are neither manse nor office houses; the heritors allow the sum of fifteen pounds yearly in place of them. The valued rent of the parish is 3000 pounds Scots. There are no Papists nor Dissenters of any kind in the parish. Moderation in religious opinions characterizes the people in general.

*School.*—There is only one parochial school, with a salary of L. 11 : 6 : 8 Sterling. The other emoluments of the master are L. 2 for being session-clerk, with a trifling allow-



ance for registering baptisms and marriages; and the usual fees paid by the scholars. The number of these varies occasionally from 20 to 50. This is owing to the children of the tenantry being sent to attend the cattle in the hills, during the summer months, and their returning again to school in the beginning of winter. They are naturally fond of learning, shrewd, and of quick apprehension; but parents are often unable to afford the expence of giving their children even the common education to be obtained in the country; and the greater number of them, on this account, are so illiterate, that they can neither read nor write.

*Poor.*—There are no funds for supporting the parish-poor, except the weekly collections at the church. These in general amount to very little, and can afford but a very partial relief to upwards of fifty necessitous poor, whose names are on the roll. In cases of this kind, common begging is unavoidable. Where the law has made no particular provision, the indigent must depend on the charity of the public at large.

*Antiquities.*—Among these may be reckoned a green hill, on which are the remains of a ruined barrack, which was built about the year 1725, and burnt in the year 1746. This hill is thought to be an artificial mound of earth; and the conjecture is supported in part from a view of its shape and situation; but more particularly, from a circumstance mentioned by some of the old inhabitants, that, when they were sinking a well within the barrack, cross pieces of wood were found at regular distances, from the surface to the base; if really artificial, it must have been a work of immense labour and expence.

This

This parish likewise contains some Druidical circles, and the appearance of a Roman encampment. This last is situated on a moor, between the bridge of Spey and Pitmain; and is said by many who have examined it, to shew several of the lines of a camp perfectly distinct and entire. Appearances of this kind are often so little to be depended on, that every opinion concerning them should be hazarded with uncommon diffidence. Collateral circumstances, however, in this case, may add a degree of probability to conjecture. In clearing some ground adjacent, an urn was found full of burnt ashes, which was carefully preserved, and is still extant. A Roman tripod was also found some years ago, concealed in a rock; and is deposited in the same hands with the urn. These are strong presumptive proofs, that the Romans had carried their arms far beyond Agricola's wall; the Celtæ never burned their dead; nor was the tripod ever used in their libations.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—In concluding this superficial description, the writer has only farther to observe, that he has endeavoured to give a faithful statement of particulars, as they appeared to him, without any bias or partiality. That the peasantry in this, as well as in different other districts of the Highlands, suffer uncommon hardships, and are less comfortable than their southern neighbours, none who have attentively examined their condition, will venture to deny. But it is easier to enumerate grievances, than to point out the means of redress. Were the proprietors to grant them their lands rent-free, it could not answer the purpose at present. Improvements in Agriculture are slow and progressive; an influx of wealth, and a liberal patronage, may encourage individuals to make uncommon exertions for a time; but till a partial change shall be effected in the dispositions  
of

of the people in general,—till their children shall be early accustomed to be laborious, active, and industrious,—and till they shall see the advantages resulting from this practice confirmed by example; it is in vain to expect, that either their poverty, or the grievances arising from their present condition, can be wholly removed. To produce this desirable alteration, is an object meriting, in some measure, the attention of the nation at large. And may it not be hoped, in particular, that the Highland Society, a Body whose enlightened views can discern, and whose opulent circumstances enable them, to encourage the most valuable improvements for the country with which they are so intimately connected, will contribute in no common degree to this end?

N U M-

## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF FORDICE.

*(County of Banff.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES LAWRIE.**Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HE antient and modern name of this parish is Fordice, it is said to be derived from the Gaelic, and to signify *the bleak country*. And, indeed, the upper part of the parish may still be entitled to the epithet of *bleak*; but much more so, before the woods were cut down, and the marshes drained. Fordice is situated in Banffshire, in the presbytery of Fordice, and synod of Aberdeen.

This parish since Ordiquhill, Deskford, and Cullen, were detached from it after the Reformation, is nearly triangular. From the mouth of the river or burn of Boyn, on the east, to the Knockhill, is five miles Scots. From the Knockhill to Logie the same number of miles on the west. From Logie to the mouth of the burn of Boyn, near Scots Miln and Old House of Boyn, alongst the side of the sea, five miles. On the east it is bounded by the parish of Boyndie, on the south by Ordiquhill and Grange, on the west by Deskford, Rathven, and Cullen, on the north by the sea, or Moray Frith.

The

The general appearance of the country is rather flat, with many inequalities and rising grounds. There are two small and contiguous hills, those of Fordice and Durn, about a mile south from the sea, besides the Knockhill at the south-west extremity, much higher than the two preceding, and which separates this parish from part of Grange and Ordiquhill.

The coast or shore is high and rocky, with the exception of a few bays, such as those of Portfoyle and Sandend.

Many sorts of fishes are caught on the coast, ling, cod, tusk, haddock; besides dog, whiting, mackerel, holybut, turbot, cat, and flounder of various kinds. Lobsters, crabs, clams, limpets, and periwinkles. The principal market for the first four kinds was Leith and the South Frith; but now the fishers say they suffer such exactions at Leith, (a strange policy upon an article of provisions) that they seldom proceed to that market, and sell betwixt this and the South Frith. There are corallines on the coasts, and from samples taken up on the fishers lines or hooks, it is believed a few corals and sponges. There are large shoals of herrings and considerable numbers of seals, porpoises, and sometimes whales, and sharks, seen on the coast. The limestone on the coast is frequently perforated by a species of small muscle, which live and grow in the stones. The fish of this kind called *pholades* in Italy, have three or four shells, ours, like common muscles, only two. There might be large quantities of kelp made on the coast. However, the great quantity of both tangle, and belly-weed, which grows on the sea rocks, when by storms loosened and disengaged from them, and cast ashore, are carefully gathered and used

as

as manure. Sometimes belly-weed is thorn or cut for that purpose by the farmers.

An intelligent boatmaster at Sandend, says, that the course of the tides is from half tide to half tide, and that there are no extraordinary currents until they get above Cromarty; and the only dangerous rocks are the Skairs of Caufrey. The fishers direct their course by the hills of Durn and Knockhill. There is no light-house; but a beacon, it is said, would be useful upon the above-mentioned Skairs. Easter and Wester Heads of Portfoy, and Logie Head on the west towards Cullen, and a few miles from Scarnose, in the parish of Rathven, are the most remarkable head-lands. Redhyth betwixt Sandend and Portfoy, is a very useful and safe creek in some cases, having a deep beach. A ship from Onega, about twenty two years ago, by being run into the bay of Sandend, saved both her cargo and hands.

The hills are covered with grass, or heath, mostly the latter. There has been a very deep moss on the top of the Knockhill; but was never used, being inaccessible almost by horse carriages, and mostly burnt out in the dry year 1723. There is much marble (or rather jasper) at Portfoy, quarried in the ordinary manner, and manufactured into chimney-pieces, funeral-monuments, tea-cups, sun-dials, &c. Upon the first discovery, much of it was exported to France, and it is said, there are two chimney pieces of it in the palace of Versailles, and that it became fashionable in France; but the family of Boyne overstocking the market, it went out of fashion, and a ship load of it lies neglected on the banks of the Seine, as a gentleman who saw and knew the stones informed me. This quarry runs southward from Portfoy into the hill of Durn, and then across the country to the  
west

west end of the hill of Fordice, and from that south nearly to the Knockhill. The hill of Durn seems to be one mass of marble, and a kind of quartz, a white siliceous stone employed in the manufacture of stoneware. There are likewise in the lower end of the parish, through the estates of Findlater, Birkenbog, Glaffaugh, and Durn, inexhaustible quarries of limestone; large quantities of lime and limestone are transported. There is a weighty clumsy sort of slate in the rocks of Findlater. Hopes have been entertained of finding a coal mine near Glaffaugh or Sandend. Alongst with the limestone there are mixtures and layers of a black substance, like slate of coal. Boring was tried at Glaffaugh, both by the late General Abercrombie, and his father, but no discovery of coal was made. The rocks on the sea at the east side of the parish, near Craig of Boyn, have been said to consist entirely of iron stone. The soil in general is deep and fertile, but rather wet than dry, which renders the harvest late in a rainy harvest. No part of the parish is subject to inundations, except the haughs and flat grounds, near the rivulets, where mischief is sometimes done, both to corns and houses. In summer 1772, some houses and a bridge were swept away, both at Fordice and Glaffaugh. The same happened in November 1781.

*Climate and Disempers.*—The air is rather dry than moist, and in general healthy. The ravages of the small-pox are very much abated by the practice of inoculation. The most prevalent distemper is fever, and that for the most part not universal, but confined to particular districts. It is sometimes thought to arise from infection and communication with other parts of the country; at other times from local situations, and circumstances of the people's houses and habits of living in particular districts.

*Population.*

*Population.*—The population of this parish, so far as it has been traced, was as great formerly as at present. This may appear a little problematical, considering the great number of people collected together and living in Portfoy; but formerly there were many mofses, now exhausted, and the sides of these mofses were crowded with cottagers, who laboured a few acres of ground, had a little coarse flax of their own growth, and kept a small flock of sheep, which afforded them clothes. These people multiplied and afforded soldiers, servants, and tradesmen. The great check given to this rank of people was first the mofses being exhausted, and then some heritors limited by their leases the number of subtenants, in order to save their mofses. The return of the population of this parish to Dr Webster was 3212. In the year 1782, the police of the county required an account of the number, young and old, in the parish, in order to ascertain the quantity of meal necessary to be imported. A tolerably exact numeration was made, and then young and old, amounted to about 3425. The population since that period has rather increased than diminished.

The average of births according to the register of baptisms in 1683,—4,—5, is 104; in 1783,—4,—5, 55. It is believed, however, that there are as many, or nearly as many births and baptisms in the parish now as formerly, and that the difference of these two averages arises in a great measure from the inaccuracy of the baptism registers, owing to the negligence of the people, in registering their children's names. During last century, there was only one minister, and the schoolmaster was attentive to his own interest, in obliging the people to register their children. There are now several who baptize at Portfoy, a minister of the establishment,—a Seceder,—a Nonjuror who preaches every fort-



night,—and a Roman Catholic priest, who frequently says mass there. The register of baptisms commences in 1663, and from the beginning, the average of baptisms continues much the same as the first mentioned average, to the end of the century, when the seven years famine which then happened, reduces the number in 1699, to 70. From that time the number rises gradually in the register to 1717, when a Nonjuror settling at Portfoy, and afterwards near it, the people became negligent in registering, and have generally continued so, to the great loss of many, in proving their kindred with relations who had entered the seafaring line, or settled abroad.

There has only very lately been a register of burials; and the average for 1784,—5,—6, is 47. But, as there is a burial place at Portfoy, this average is not very accurate.

There is no register of marriages before 1722. By the average for 1729,—30,—31, about 22 men settled in this parish married wives either within or without the parish,—and eight women married from this parish into other parishes. In 1784,—5,—6, 24 men settled in this parish, married women of this or other parishes, and three women were married from this into other parishes. Without attending to this circumstance, marriages might be stated twice; because, when the man and woman belong to different parishes, the publication of the banns and registration of the contract take place in both.

There are five fishing boats, six men to a boat, and a few yawls besides, for the boys. This rank is still diminishing by pressing for the Navy service, and young people going to the merchant service; likewise by accidents of shipwreck.—There is one student at the University.—A few belonging to  
this

this parish were born in England.—Great numbers are born to the west of Spey. A great part of the servants male and female come from other parishes, in quest of more liberty, and better wages; particularly from the more northerly parts of the island.—No nobility have resided in this parish since the end of last century, when the family of Findlater sold Durn. Resident families are Birkenbog, Glassaugh, and Durn; only Sir George Abercrombie of Birkenbog, has pulled down the old family seat, and has not yet rebuilt it.—There are six heritors.—There is a minister of the established church at Fordice, and a preacher at Portfoy, presented by the present Lord Findlater's grandfather with L. 20 yearly; likewise a Relief one, occasionally a Nonjuror Episcopalian minister, and a Popish priest.—There is one notary, and one messenger.—One surgeon at Portfoy, and one apothecary.—The great body of the people are Presbyterians of the established church.—There are a few Seceders.—A considerable number of Episcopalians.—A few Papists.

The population of the parish is not very materially different from what it was 25 years ago. The decrease of subtenants by throwing many small tacks into one, is balanced by tenanting the grass-rooms, and the increase of people at Portfoy. The tenants alongst the coast paid large victual rents; and therefore, found it convenient to have grass farms in the upper part of the parish, for subsisting their cattle in summer. In these farms the folding grounds were only sown. The introduction of grass-feeds, and partial conversion of victual rent, have rendered this policy unnecessary; and it is discontinued.

None have died for want since the 1700.—None have left the parish for want of employment, except a few day-labourers,  
who

who removed to the contiguous parish of Cullen, for more constant employment in Lord Findlater's works; and a considerable number of lint-dressers dispersed into different parts upon the failure of the thread manufactory at Portfof, a few years ago.

*Cultivation and Produce, &c.*—Horse ploughing has in some farms superseded the use of oxen; sheep have greatly decreased by winter herding, and the wearing out of the commons by tillage and much seal. A great deal of oats and barley, and also a considerable quantity of wheat, are raised in this parish, especially since the erection of flour-mills. Almost every farmer has fields of turnip and potatoes; the last are sometimes sold for exportation. The culture of field cabbage and coleworts is likewise coming into practice. The parish does surely more than supply itself with provisions, though there is, no doubt, a considerable importation of meal and flesh at Portfof, from other parishes; yet that must be more than balanced by exportation. Almost all the farmers raise flax for their own use, and some of them for sale; while others let their lands for a crop to the flax-raisers at Portfof. The sowing of grass-seeds has become very general. The rage of ploughing and raising corn had long ago destroyed the natural best pastures of the parish, except a few on the sides of burns and rising grounds, which could not be safely touched by the plough. There are, however, still remaining in some parts of the parish, what they call outfields, which may be called pasture, as they do not undergo the culture of the plough, except for two or three crops in a dozen or twenty years. The use of lime has much diminished the quantity of out-field. Wheat is generally sown in the end of harvest, pease, beans, oats, and barley, are sown from the beginning of  
March

March to the end of May, according to seasons and situations. Harvest begins in August, and in early years terminates in September or beginning of October. Common or waste ground is every year diminishing, being converted into tillage by the contiguous tenants, or planted by the heritors. There is one natural wood of alder, and several plantations of fir, ash, elm, and other trees; but fewer than might be expected from the residence and opulence of the heritors. The land-rent of the parish may amount to nearly L. 4000 yearly. The valuation of this parish is between the 8th and 9th part of that of the whole county. The rent of fishing boats about L. 4 yearly each; but from this is to be deduced the price of a boat furnished once in seven years by the heritors. About 20s. is the rent of the best lands. From 10s. to 12s. for those of inferior value. The small allotments to the inhabitants of villages go higher, perhaps above 40s. the acre. The number of farms is diminishing every year. From 80 to 100 acres is the largest. However, a considerable number of small farms still remain, for furnishing tradesmen and servants to the country. Farms are beginning to be enclosed. There is a white peat (under the name of *greasy clods*) which may be called a bitumen, and some years ago was universally used for giving light to spinners in winter; and is still used by the poorest people for that purpose.

*Language.*—No language is spoken in this parish, except the Scottish or Anglo-Saxon. All the old farms seem to have their names from the Gaelic or Erse. *Glassaugh*, Gray or Green-Haugh. *Kilbillock*, Burial-Hillock. *Aird* of Portfooy, Height of Portfooy. *Durn*, Round, from its contiguous round hill. *Auchmore*, Large Field. *Hindrought*, Bridge-end, &c. The old Mains of Findlater, which was very extensive, is now divided into many farms, which have all  
English.

English names. Some farms in the upper part of the parish, which were laid waste, in the bad years, or famine, at the end of the last century, have had new and fanciful names given them, such as York, Windfor, &c.

*Stipend.*—The stipend (in which are  $21\frac{1}{2}$  bolls meal, reckoned at 10s. *per* boll) amounts to L. 71 : 10. The glebe, according to the value of contiguous lands, L. 7 : 10. Grass money L. 2. In whole L. 81. The glebe having been perfectly inclosed by the present incumbent, it may be worth something more to his successor. There is likewise L. 5 of communion-element money; but that has not been uniformly paid. The Earl of Findlater is Patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor receiving alms is 97. There are three different managements for the poor at Fordice, Portfoj, and Sandend. The produce of the collections may be about L. 31 annually. Besides this, there is the interest of L. 130 of settled money, which has chiefly risen from saving on the collections, with a few small benefactions from particular persons. There is the rent of a loft in the church at Fordice, and of two mort-clothes. There are likewise penalties on delinquents; and three of our heritors dying within the last ten years, about L. 30 accrued to the poor, either by their own bequeathments, or that of their families. Some of the heritors likewise, give every year a quantity of meal to the poor of their respective estates.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—When the incumbent settled here, 43 years ago, beef, mutton, pork, and lamb, sold from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2d. *per* pound. Chickens at 2d. the pair; hens from 5d. to 6d. the pair. Butter from 5s. to 6s. the stone, Amsterdam weight; cheese at 2s. 6d. *per* stone. At  
present

present beef sells from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 4 d. the pound Amsterdam weight; mutton from 2 d. to 4 d. according to the season; veal and lamb from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 6 d.; pork from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d.; pigs from 2 s. 6 d. to 6 s. Ducks 1 s. 6 d. the pair; hens 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 6 d. the pair; chickens sell at 2 d. the piece; pigeons at 2 d. the pair; turkeys at 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. each; geese 2 s. 6 d. each. Wheat at an average may be 17 s. 6 d. the boll; something better than Linlithgow measure. The heritors convert barley rent at 14 s. Oats may be reckoned from 8 s. to 12 s. the boll; pease and beans equal to one boll oat-meal. Farmers men-servants get from L. 2 : 10 to L. 6 : 6 annually. Maid-servants from L. 2 to L. 2 : 10 annually. Day-labourers from 8 d. to 1 s. *per* day, without meat, with meat 6 d. a day. Mowing and harvest-work is the dearest, and perhaps a little more than the above; for a good harvest-man sometimes gets 1 s. and victuals, *per* day. Thirty or forty years ago, men-servants got from L. 1 : 13 : 6 to L. 4 yearly; women-servants from 16 s. to 20 s.; day-labourers from 5 d. to 6 d. without meat, with meat, about 4 d. Master-masons now receive about 2 s. *per* day; master-carpenters 1 s. 4 d. or 1 s. 6 d.; journeymen-masons from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 6 d.; journeymen-wrights from 10 d. to 1 s.; taylors get 6 d. and victuals; house servant-maids from L. 2 to L. 3 : 3 yearly; men from L. 6 to L. 19 yearly. With the industry of his wife, a day-labourer may bring up his family. As soon as they are able to work, the children are set to spinning, or hired out to herd. When old, if their children be not both dutiful and successful, they need help from the poor's-funds. Their food is meal of oats, barley, pease, and beans, with potatoes, milk, greens, and some fish, which some years ago, when cheap, was a great help to their living; but of late are rising above their purchase. They seldom can afford any flesh meat now, except at Christmas; but

but formerly could afford a little through the winter. They are generally affectionate to their children, and part with more to them, than a prudent concern for old age permits.

*Antiquities.*—There is a triple fosse and rampart on the sides and top of the hill of Durn, which seem to have quite surrounded it. The highest, which includes the large plain on the top of the hill, seems to have been strong with a stone rampart or wall, especially at the entry or most accessible part, where it joins the hill of Fordice. It commands an extensive view of the adjacent country; and probably was used as a retreat for the people, their families, and cattle, on invasions of the Danes from the sea, or of the wild Highlanders. Hard by it, on the side of the hill of Fordice, there is a farm called *Badhuntoul*. According to Mr Pennant, in his *Hebrides*, *Badhun* signifies a place of refuge, and some say *Toul* signifies a burn, others a hollow; in either way it seems to justify the supposition, with respect to the intrenchments on the hill of Durn. Of predatory invasions from the Highlanders, there still remain some traditions in the parish. There is a tribe of Gregors amongst the country people, said to be the descendants of boys taken in a pursuit of the thieves. Kirktown and the Castle of Deskford in the old bounds of this parish, are supposed to have been a Roman station. Flint arrow-heads of our ancestors, called by the country people *elf arrow-heads*, have been found in this parish. There are the remains of some Druidical temples, likewise burrows or tumuli. Three of the last have been opened within these few years. One very large between Glassaugh and the sea, immediately above the bay of Sandend. It consisted of a large circular accumulation of stones, fourteen feet high, and sixty feet broad, and then covered with earth or turf. Upon breaking in at the top, there were  
found

found a stone coffin of flag or flat stones, and in it the bones of a chieftain lying in their natural order; and a deer's horn, a symbol of the chief's being a hunter. The stones, of which fort there were few in the neighbourhood, by the shells of the pholades, or muscles included in many of them, seem principally to have been brought from the sea. The quantity, distance, and difficulty of access, seem to have required an army, or large district of country to transport them. This burrow is now the site of a wind-mill. There had been another comparatively very small burrow, at about a hundred paces distance from the largest. It had been constructed by casting up a trench round it, which still remains; but the earth of the tumulus has been long ago carried off. Another burrow was likewise broken up at Kilhillock in Findlater some years ago. It was entirely a cairn of stones; and in removing them for the purpose of inclosing, an urn was found, and likewise a stone coffin covering a skeleton. The tenant was greatly surprised, and, that he might not suffer for violating burial ground, he carefully interred the bones, and the pieces of the urn, at a marked place in the inclosure. Another tumulus was likewise broken up in the contiguous farm of Brankamentum, through the curiosity of Mr Duncan of Broom, where there was found an urn containing ashes; it was very hard, and the clay well baked. In the 10th century, the Danes landed at the mouth of the burn of Cullen; King Indulfus came up, beat them, and obliged them to re-embark; but was slain at the end of the engagement, in a corner of a wood, where he fell in with an unbroken party of the Danes. It is a matter of uncertainty whether the battle was fought in this parish, or in that of Rathven on the west of Cullen, where remains the King's Cairn, in the



midst of Lord Findlater's plantations, a little to the west of Cullen-House, at which place, according to some, Indulfus fell.

*Eminent Men.*—It is probable that Archbishop Sharp was a native of this parish. His father was proprietor of Ordinhoves, the family estate in this parish, and afterwards removed to Banff, where, as is generally supposed from that circumstance merely, the Archbishop was born. The father managed the business of the family of Findlater, and the incumbent has heard the late Earl of Findlater's father say, that the best written papers in their charter chest, were done by him. The late General Abercrombie of Glassaugh, was a native of this parish, and educated in it. Mr George Smith another native of this place, after serving as clerk in Holland, Paris, and Aleppo, found his way over land to the East Indies, was not heard of by his friends for several years, and died February last, on his way to Britain. He had become master of a very considerable fortune; and, if any of his five sisters, or their progeny, fail to claim in five years, their shares come under the administration of the magistrates of Banff.—L. 1000 to be employed for an hospital or infirmary at Banff or Fordice,—L. 25 yearly in augmentation of the minister of Fordice's stipend,—L. 40 yearly, to endow a schoolmaster at Fordice, to teach the French and Dutch languages, with arithmetic, mathematics, and book-keeping,—and L. 25 yearly, to each of his burfars at this school. Walter Ogilvie of Redhyth, a native of this parish, last century, endowed twelve burfars at the school of Fordice, and eight at King's College Aberdeen. The presentation was in the gift of Ogilvie of Boyn, but sold by the late Inchmartin to the family of Findlater,

Findlater. Trial is appointed to be made of the proficiency of the burfars, the 4th year of their attendance, and, if they be found not qualified for a literary education, or not inclined to follow it, they get the 5th year to prepare them fo far for fome trade.

*General Character of the People, &c.*—There is nothing in the height of the people which may diftinguifh them from their neighbours in the country. Their fize cannot be called dwarfish, but lower, probably, than it would otherwise be, owing to the boys being early put to hard work, and the girls confined to fpinning. Very few of the people reach the height of fix feet. Here it may not be improper to obferve, that Sir John Gordon of Park, about a century ago, introduced a breed of tall men into his eftate in Ordiquhill parifh, collected from different parts of Scotland; but that their descendants of the third generation have generally come down to the fize of the country. More lately, when the King of Pruffia was collecting his tall men, the incumbent has not heard that he obtained any from this corner; but he got fome from the contiguous parifh of Rathven.

The people are in general difpofed to induftry. Since the failure of thread-bleaching at Portfof, there is no manufacture of confequence carried on within the parifh. But moft of the inhabitants raife as much flax, and weave as much linen cloth, as ferve their families. Perhaps not 1000 yards of the cloth manufactured in it, are fold out of the parifh at prefent. The manufacture of linen feems to have exifted in this parifh 300 years ago, for amongst other privileges granted to the weekly market at Fordice, by charter from the Crown, that of felling *Linteam latum et arctum*, is given in 1490. The people are rather inclined to the fea than the land

land service. However, many do not enter voluntarily, but by draughts made from the fishing boats, and pressing from the merchant service. The people are in general economical and frugal; but luxury in dress and living are creeping in. Only one estate in this parish has been sold for many years, that of Durn, which fetched, it is believed, about 30 years purchase; but much more had been offered for it a few years before. A part of Sir William Gordon of Park's unentailed estate in this parish, sold not long after 1746, for 40 years purchase. The better sort of people are much disposed to give charitable assistance to the shipwrecked; but perhaps the old feudal savage custom of distressing the shipwrecked, and embezzling their property, would appear, if not restrained by law, and by the humanity of the better sort. The people enjoy the comforts and advantages of society in a tolerable degree, and seem contented. Their state might be still bettered by long leases, commutation of victual rent, abolition of services, &c. and all these things are coming in apace. There is one woman in prison for theft.

*School.*—The number of scholars at the parochial school, is, at an average, between 50 and 60. The master's emoluments from the kirk-session, keeping the registers, salary from the parish, and thirteen burfars, amount to L. 26. Besides this, he has school-fees from his other scholars, from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. quarterly, according to what they are taught. Something likewise is made by teaching book-keeping.

There is a school by subscription at Portsoy, the fixed salary of the schoolmaster is L. 15; and, as he is allowed to take in some more scholars than those subscribed for, about

L.

L. 5 more is made of it. The number of scholars amounts to 30.

There is likewise a charity schoolmaster at Portfoy, for teaching the poor. His fixed salary from the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge is L. 8,—from the Countess Dowager of Findlater L. 5,—and the value of L. 2 in land from Lord Findlater as a cow's grass,—L. 2 as clerk and treasurer for the poor's funds at Portfoy, in all L. 17. And about seven pound more may be made by teaching those who are able to pay for reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and navigation.

There is another school for boys at Portfoy, where from 20 to 30 are taught; and through the rest of the parish there are four schools for girls, where reading, sewing, and knitting of stockings are taught.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The remarkable meteor which travelled over so great a space a few years ago, was seen here, as also in the neighbourhood, about the same hour.—Likewise the remarkable noise like cannon shot, heard all over the north country in summer 1745, was heard in this parish.

The fuel generally used in the parish is peat or turf; a good cart load of the first costs 1 s. 3 d. of turf 8 d. Considerable quantities of English and Scots coal are imported at Portfoy, and even bought by the tenants in the lower parts of the parish, at a distance from the mosses. Some of the poorer villagers pull heath and cut furze.

There is one coach and two four wheeled chaises belonging

ing to private persons. There is a fishing village at Sandend. A fishing and trading one at Portfloy, both on the sea side. The Kirktown of Fordice, half a mile above Sandend, which was erected into a borough of barony, by Elphinston Bishop of Aberdeen, in 1499, afterwards by another Bishop of Aberdeen feued out to Ogilvie of Durn, is now the property of Lord Findlater. There is a small village at New-mills of Boyne, about two miles from the sea.

The bridges are few, and not all in repair; they are mostly constructed and kept up by county assessments. The great road between Cullen and Banff is in excellent order, but the other roads are greatly neglected since General Abercrombie's death. The statute labour is generally exacted; but by the lateness of the harvest, the exaction of the three last days being sometimes hindered, these days are frequently commuted for a day extraordinary in summer.

In the years 1782,—83, the parish fell short of its ordinary produce of corn and potatoes, and, without importation, could scarcely have supplied itself with seed and provisions. The heritors sold their farms in the country, and encouraged importation; Government gave supplies, and the kirk-session encroached upon their funds. The incumbent had the curiosity to read over the session's records, for the last ten years of the last century, in which period happened the great famine of seven years, called the *Ill Years*. An antient elder of this parish said, that if the same precautions had been taken at that time, which he had seen taken more lately in times of scarcity, the famine would not have done so much hurt, nor would so many have perished. From the records, it did not appear, that any public measures were pursued for the supply  
of

of the poor, nor any thing uncommon done by the session, except towards the end. The common distribution of the collections of the church, amounted only to about 1 s. 2 d. or 1 s. 4 d. weekly. The thing most remarkable was, that for several years before the famine, adultery and fornication had been extremely frequent, to which the famine put an entire and speedy stop.—Neither do these crimes seem to have abounded so much in the parish, since that time. Soon after the Reformation, Popery in its outward form seems to have left the parish entirely, but the superstition as to wells, spells, charms, remained much longer; and above all, a disregard to the decent religious observation of Sunday. The east and west side of the parish continued their competition at the foot-ball after divine worship, and a public market was held in the church-yard. Bishop Elphinston, when he got his village of Fordice erected into a borough of barony in 1499, and obtained the privilege of a weekly market day, thought it decent to leave out *Sabbathi*, and perhaps thought of abolishing the practice, which probably existed before his time. But in the renewal of the charter in 1592, to Menzies of Durn, whose predecessor had feued it from the Bishop of Aberdeen, *die Sabbathi* is expressly inserted. This practice was only got gradually suppressed in the beginning of this century or end of the last. Some people, whom the incumbent has seen, remembered the sale of oxen-yokes, snuff, &c. upon the Sunday. The last parcel of snuff brought into the church-yard for sale on Sunday, was tossed out of the bag by Mr Gellie the minister, who paid the value. The annual market called Hallow-fair, by Mr Menzies's charter, was to be held *ad Festum Omnium Sanctorum ad All-Hallowes per spatium octo dierum*. By Bishop Elphinston's charter, *in Festo Sancti Tulleritani et per octavas ejusdem*; of which faint, none of the Popish clergy of this country, with whom

whom the incumbent has conferred, can give him any account; though it is plain he was once a saint of their church, and had a festival dedicated to him. He seems to have been the patron saint of the parish, and a well is still called by his name.

There are in this parish thirteen ale-houses and three inns. The number of ale-houses is greatly diminished, whereby the morals of the people with respect to sobriety and decency are greatly mended. The ale houses in this village, now reduced to one, were very numerous, and the Sunday's drinking very great, originating from the Sunday's market; in so much that the minister was obliged to compound the matter, to allow a certain time after public worship, and then to cause ring what was called the *Drunken Bell*; after which he visited the ale-houses, and dismissed any who remained in them. This practice, however, ceased before the incumbent's time, or that of his predecessor, though both have been obliged to make a step through the village, after dinner, and break up drinking companies.

More cottages have fallen in the last ten years than have been rebuilt; but on the whole, the number fallen in and not rebuilt, is abundantly compensated by new fees taken, and new houses built at Portfoyl.

The employing cottagers in agriculture is much discontinued in this parish. The farmers think themselves better served by hired servants who lodge with them, and have no interruption by the neighbourhood of their families. Forty years ago, most large farms had their cottar-man, i. e. a cottager living near them, who held the plough, bound the corn in harvest, and built the ricks. This seemingly useful  
member

member of a farm is discontinued, because ploughing is better and more generally understood than formerly, and the difficulty is not great, of finding a good ploughman to hire at any term; however, some of the farmers wish for cottagers on their farms, whom they can employ incidentally, or, what would be still more useful, to have villages scattered up and down the country, where day-labourers could be hired.



## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF MONYMUSK.

*(County of Aberdeen.)**By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER DUFF.**Name.*

**M**ONYMUSK appears to be a compound of two Gaelic words, *monaugh* high or hilly, and *moufick*, which signifies low and marshy ground; the nature and situation of the country renders this conjecture more than probable, as the parish consists, partly of farms lying along the sides of hills, which bound it on the west and north, and of low lands or haughs, which occupy a large space on both sides of the river Don.

*Situation and Extent.*—This parish, which lies in the county and synod of Aberdeen, and in the presbytery of Garioch, is seven miles long, and from four to five broad, its figure is very irregular. It is bounded on the east and south by the parishes of Kemnay and Cluny, on the west by the parish of Tough, and on the north west and north by the parishes of Keig, Oyne, and Chapel-Garioch. It is eighteen miles distant from Aberdeen, the nearest sea-port; the communication to which is easy, by two roads, both of which are well made and kept in good repair.

*Soil.*—The soil is in general good, and is distinguished into infield and outfield, the proportion of which is as two of the latter to one of the former; excepting in the farms which lie on the banks of the river, which almost all consist of infield and well cultivated lands. The mould is generally of a blackish colour, rather light, having little or no mixture of clay in it. The haugh grounds have a small mixture of sand, which gives them a lighter colour than the soil more distant from the river. There is a large quantity of rich clay in most of the lands that go by the name of outfield ground, and such of them as have been limed, and properly cultivated, become as rich as the best infield ground in the parish.

*Air.*—There is nothing very particular in the air of this parish, to distinguish it in that respect from the circumjacent country. A transient observer might perhaps pronounce the situation rather unfavourable to health. A large proportion of the lands lying low, and on the banks of the river, are of course visited with frequent fogs; and the extensive plantations which cover a considerable part of the grounds, and nearly surround the whole parish, might be supposed to prevent the free current of the winds, and detain the stagnated air so long as to affect the health of the people; but these seeming disadvantages are more than counterbalanced, by the country being open on the east and south west, which affords a free circulation of air; and the frequent west, and north-west winds following the course of the river, which, in the upper part of the parish, runs along a deep glen bounded by high hills, sweep away whatever noxious vapours might have been collecting for a few days in the flat parts of the country. The air in fact is esteemed good, and many persons in consumptive disorders take their residence here, for the benefit

nefit of it. A great extent of the high and cross roads through the parish, is skirted on both sides with belts of planting, which render them pleasant in summer, and warm in winter.

*Distempers.*—It cannot be said that this part of the country is liable to distempers peculiar to itself. The rheumatism is the most frequent. The people are in general healthy and laborious.

*Minerals.*—There are several mineral springs in the parish, none of them at present of note. Many years ago an iron mine was discovered in a hill, about a mile distant from the church to the north west; the iron stone has been tried and found to be so rich, as to yield thirteen twentieths of iron, and so near the surface of the ground, that it can be taken out at a comparatively small expence. The road to it is at present passable, and with little trouble can be made easy, as the carts from the neighbouring farms draw the fuel from the dyke which incloses the hill, at a hundred yards distance from the opening which has already been made into the mine. The reason of its not being wrought, is the scarcity of fuel in this part of the country.

*River.*—The river Don runs through this parish, and divides it into two unequal parts, leaving two thirds on the south, and one-third on the north of its banks. It is not navigable, nor could it be made so, it being very rapid in many parts, and having a fall within two miles of its mouth, which is thought to be an insuperable bar to any attempt of that nature. It contains a great number of salmon, some pike, and very fine trouts; but though the proprietor here possesses lands extending from five to seven miles along both sides of the  
river,

river, his profit from fishings is very trifling, owing to the number and construction of the cruives and dykes between this place and the sea. The salmon fishing company who farm that part of the river which lies nearest the sea, have built dykes for the security of the cruives, which rise considerably above the surface of the water, and prevent any fish of size from forcing their way up the river, unless when it is extremely swelled with rain, and the Saturday's flap is said to be but little attended to.

*Hills* — Though a considerable part of the parish is bounded by hills, there are none of them very high; some of them are planted, and the plantations along their sides thrive well; but, near the summit, the ground is shallow, with bare flat rocks, and does not yield mould sufficient for nourishing or supporting trees of any large size. The hills which are not planted, are partly green and partly heathy, and afford excellent pasture for sheep. Many young cattle also are found feeding among the flocks of sheep, on the green tops of the hills, and in a thriving state.

*Antiquities.*—One figured stone has been discovered in the parish; there is little doubt but it had been originally placed in an upright posture, and after it had fallen, it remained in that state time immemorial, in a field near the river, a mile east of the house of Monymusk, until it was lately moved by Mr Grant, to the nearest part of the public road; and, after being painted white, and the figures black, to render them visible and more lively, it is now fixed in its old posture, and presents an object for exercising the talents of the antiquary. The figure of a cross about four feet high, with rude ornaments, is distinct, and below the cross is a double circle, ornamented like the cross; the part of the stone  
which

which appears now above ground, is about seven feet high; and the only conjecture about the use of it, is, that it had been set up to mark the boundary of the priory lands, on that side where it was found.

*Floods.*—All the low grounds which ly along the banks of the river, must in some degree be liable to inundations or land floods, though it is surprizing how little mischief happens from them, considering how large a tract of land lies seemingly exposed to their devastations. The greatest damage occasioned by events of this nature, was in the middle of September 1768, at a time when most of the corns were cut, and in shocks; all the plains along the river suffered extremely, the corns were swept almost clean away, and many farmers were ruined.

*Thunder Storm.*—But a calamity of a different nature, though equally fatal in its effects to the grain, and all the vegetables within its reach, was a thunder storm, which visited a part of this country, the 30th of July last, 1790. The morning on which it happened was calm and warm, the sky serene, and the sun shone bright. About 10 o'clock A. M. the air was suddenly overcast, and an uncommonly loud peal of thunder, instantly followed by hail of a prodigious size, began to excite some apprehensions for the crop, at that time only silling. It continued to thunder from ten o'clock to four in the afternoon, with very short intervals, pouring down immense quantities of hail, and with such irresistible violence, that it levelled all the corn with the ground, and pierced and tore to pieces all the turnip, potatoes, &c. It was so far happy for this parish, that two or three farms only, in the east quarter of it, were exposed to its violence. The hail lay above a foot deep in many places, and notwithstanding the

the season of the year, was not quite dissolved in two days. The frost was so intense the night following the storm, that the pools in several parts were covered with ice nearly an inch thick. The destruction of the grain, has been attributed by many people, to that circumstance.

*Birds.*—The birds which are known in this parish, are of the same kinds with those which are common in the north of Scotland; they resort in great numbers to this place, because the many woods and plantations here afford them better shelter, than they could find in countries naked and destitute of wood.

*Sheep.*—The number of sheep is greatly diminished of late. About 50 years ago, 4000 sheep could have been reckoned upon the pastures of this parish; one third part of that number is not to be found at this time. The cause of the decrease is to be accounted for, from the great number of parks and plantations, which have circumscribed the pasture, by the large extent of barren ground and old sheep walks which they occupy, and render it extremely troublesome for the farmer to keep flocks in their neighbourhood. There are several farms still, at a considerable distance from all planting and inclosures, where the contiguous hills afford excellent pasture for sheep, as their sides and summits are covered with grass, and the heathy parts of them have a large proportion of grass intermixed.

*Deer.*—Of late years great numbers of deer and roes resort to this place, for the good pasture and secure shelter, which the extensive woods afford. They do not, as in times past, only visit the low country, when deep snows and severe winters deny them subsistence and shelter in the forests of  
Glenaven,

Glenaven, and Glentannar, and then return to their residence in those bleak and desolate regions, when the season permits. But they now take their residence always here, and in a short time all the inclosures will be well stocked with these beautiful animals, without any trouble or expence to the proprietor.

*Population.*—For thirty years back the state of the parish, in regard to population, has undergone very little alteration.

There are in this parish 243 families, containing,

Males	539
Females	588
<hr/>	
Total Souls	1127

Consequently about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to a family.

Number of souls under 10 years of age	-	216
From 10 to 20 years of age	- -	254
From 20 to 50 years of age	- -	447
From 50 to 70 years of age	- -	171
Above 70 years of age	- -	39
<hr/>		1127

Annual average of births	- -	37
————— of deaths	- -	19
————— of marriages	- -	5

Number of house carpenters	- -	9
———— of plough and cart-wrights	- -	3
———— of masons	- -	4
———— of smiths	- -	5

There

There are of large farms, (one of which pays L. 125 Sterling of rent,) - - - - -	35
Smaller farms which pay rent to the heritor, besides the above large farms, - - - - -	61
Inhabitants who have houses with gardens only, - - - - -	62
Besides, there are families who are called sub-tenants, and have small crofts and houses from the farmers, to whom they pay their rents, - - - - -	85

*Heritors.*—The whole parish is the property of one heritor, Sir Archibald Grant, grandson of Sir Francis Grant, who was knighted by Queen Anne, and appointed one of the Senators of the College of Justice, by the title of Lord Cullen. That gentleman sold the estate of Cullen in Buchan, and purchased the whole lands of Monymusk from the ancestors of the present Sir William Forbes of Pitfligo.

*Clergymen.*—The parish is the charge of one clergyman. There are no Seceders in it. The inhabitants are all of the established church, except twenty-eight Episcopal families, and two persons who are Roman Catholics.

*Emigrations.*—There are no emigrations from this part of the country, except what may be occasioned by the casual removal of tenants or servants, who are replaced by a greater or lesser number as circumstances occur.

*Productions.*—The produce is wheat, rye, oats, barley, and pease; the quantity of wheat is much less considerable of late years, than in the time of the late Sir Archibald Grant. It is said that a wheat crop exhausts and impoverishes the soil more than any other grain.



*Improvements and Agriculture.*—Agriculture, and, indeed, improvements of almost every kind, were carried to a very advanced state by the late Sir Archibald Grant. As he could find no persons in this country qualified to superintend his improvements, he was careful to draw to this corner, by suitable rewards, men of knowledge in farming, from such parts of the kingdom as had advanced farthest in agriculture; and by employing such, either as overseers, or by giving them advantageous leases with suitable accommodations, a part of the estate was brought into good order, its value increased, and the country people convinced, by the striking example of advantage before their eyes, of the necessity of draining, cleaning, straightening, and green-cropping their lands, to save much labour, and ensure better returns. But, as long rooted prejudices cannot be universally eradicated, it was judged necessary to bind down the tenants in their leases, to a proper method of managing their fields, to build annually a certain quantity of stone dykes, to lay on a quantity of lime proportioned to the extent of their farms, to cultivate a suitable proportion of turnips, potatoes, artificial grasses, &c. This scheme had the desired effect; and the mode which many at first were obliged reluctantly to adopt, is become so agreeable and profitable, that they would renounce their leases, rather than relinquish a plan of management, they now find to be so productive.

		Acres.	Roods.	Falls.
Amount of acres of infield	-	1285	0	35
outfield	-	2600	2	20
pasture	-	731	2	11
moor ground	-	2776	0	0
mofs	-	56	2	0
wood	-	1881	2	10
Total		9337	1	36

Flax.

*Flax*.—The people have been in the practice, for some years past, of cultivating flax in small quantities.

*Grain sent out of the Parish*.—This parish sends considerable quantities of oats, oat-meal, and barley, to the Aberdeen market, but how much cannot be known; the quantity produced within the parish is considerably greater, than what is consumed by the inhabitants.

*Time of Sowing and Reaping*.—Wheat is sown in the month of October, pease, oats, and rye as early in March as the weather will permit. The bear or barley is sown in the month of May, and is generally reaped betwixt the middle of August and the 10th of September. The oats, wheat, rye, &c. are reaped in the course of the month of September, or betwixt the beginning of September and the middle of October. There is generally a rich crop of hay produced from the fields which have been carefully prepared, and it is generally cut down in the beginning of July; the second crop is well advanced about the end of August, but it is seldom used otherwise than for pasture.

*Number of Horses, Cattle, and Sheep*—A good many cattle and sheep are fattened upon turnip, &c. for the Aberdeen market, and draw very good prices to the farmer. The number of horses in the parish, is

	-	182
cattle	-	1029
sheep	-	1482

*Wood*—Besides the number of acres within the parish, occupied by woods and plantations, mentioned above, there are two large inclosures, which have never been surveyed; one of them called the Millstone-hill, is from eight to ten miles

miles in circumference ; the other, which is called the hill of Pittfichie, and likewise is inclosed and planted, measures from five to six miles in circumference, and both together will amount to several thousand acres. The whole was begun and accomplished by the late Sir Archibald Grant, who had the pleasure of seeing the trees arrive at maturity, and of deriving annually a considerable revenue from the sale of wood. The fir trees, in particular, have been observed to thrive remarkably here, and although it was the year 1720, before a single fir was planted, some of them had advanced so rapidly, that besides a great number of trees, which had been disposed of for many years back, sufficient work was found for a saw-mill, which was erected about twenty-four years ago, for cutting the largest trees into planks, and supplying the country around with wood of different sizes for carpenter work. Paradise wood contains a great number of fine full grown oaks ; and, although the family of Monymusk possess that wood, and another opposite to it, which is not in this parish, where the oaks are fully as numerous, Sir Archibald Grant has not hitherto sold any of them. In the same wood are fine birch trees, ash, alders, and hazel wood ; the last of which produces frequently great quantities of nuts.

N U M.

N U M B E R VI.

PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER-WESTER,

(County of Fife.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES FORRESTER.

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Name, &c.

**A**NSTRUTHER-WESTER is situated on the sea-coast, in the east part of the county and synod of Fife, and presbytery of St Andrews. The name is derived from its situation, *Strutber* being a Celtic word which signifies a place lying in a valley, as Anstruther does.

Anstruther-Wester became a borough of barony in 1554, and a royal borough in 1583. The magistrates are three bailies, a treasurer, and any number of countellors, from six to eleven.

*Extent, Boundary, Soil, &c.*—The parish is of a very irregular form. There is no map of it; but, from the best information, it contains about 540 acres of arable land, and about seven or eight acres of common, on which the burghesses have the privileges of pasturage and of casting turf. It is bounded on the south by the sea, for about half a mile; on the east by Easter-Anstruther; on the north by Carnbie and Kilrennie; and on the west by Pittenweem. Near the sea, the soil is either a black loam, or a light sand mixed with shells.

shells, both of which, though shallow, are very fertile. In the higher grounds there is some light soil, but the greatest part of it is a deep stubborn clay, that neither agrees with a wet nor a dry season, but yields considerable crops in favourable weather. About the town the ground is flat, but it rises gently from the coast. From the vicinity of the sea, and from the easterly fogs, which come from the German ocean, the air is moist; yet the parish cannot be said to be unhealthy. Agues, which from the above mentioned circumstances might be supposed to be prevalent, are totally unknown; and no epidemical diseases, except the small-pox, have appeared within the last twenty years. The practice of inoculation is increasing, and has been attended with success.

*Rivers, Fisheries and Produce of the Coast, &c.*—A small river divides the two parishes, in which, it is said, there was once a considerable salmon fishery, whence the arms of the town, bearing three salmon, is said to be derived. Cod, ling, turbot, hollybut, skate, haddocks, herrings, flounders, and lobsters, are caught here and sent to Cupar, Edinburgh, Stirling, and Glasgow. Lobsters are the only fish sent to London, for which, it is supposed, that above L. 1000 is annually brought into this and the neighbouring towns. Great quantities of sea weeds are thrown on shore after storms, and are used as manure. Once in two years, the sea weeds, growing on the rocks, are cut and burnt into kelp; ten ton of which is thought a good produce for the two years. The first mention of kelp in the records is in the year 1694, when an Englishman offered the town-council L. 4 for the privilege of cutting and burning it for one year, which one of the bailies protested against, as being prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants, and his own family; but at length they

they accepted the offer, on condition that the kelp should be burnt at the west end of the town, and only when the wind blew from the east.

The harbour does not admit ships of burden; but a little to the westward is a creek, called *Westhaven*, which, at no great expence, might be made an excellent harbour. Nature seems to have fitted it for that purpose, as boats can come into it almost at low water. It is singularly useful in the fishing season. -

*Migratory Birds, &c.*—The woodcock, fieldfare, and curlew, visit the coast regularly in the winter, and the Bohemian jay is sometimes seen in the neighbourhood; as are also wild geese, when the higher grounds are covered with snow. The swallow, cuckoo, water-wagtail, and plover, make their appearance in summer. The early arrival of the woodcock and Bohemian jay, indicates the severity of the winter on the continent, while the cuckoo's early visit is a sure mark that fine weather may be soon expected.

*Agriculture.*—The rotation most approved by the best farmers on the strong clay soil of the parish, is, 1st fallow, 2d wheat, 3d beans, 4th barley, 5th oats, with grass, 6th hay; on the light soil, 1st turnips, potatoes, or flax, 2d wheat or barley, 3d oats or drilled-beans, 4th barley with clover, 5th hay; part of the outfield is pasture for the young cattle. This plan is pursued with advantage, on a farm of 148 acres, of which about 50 are outfield. The largest farm in the parish is 148 acres, the smallest 70. Formerly every farmer in the parish had cottagers besides his hired servants, and the present farmers have not more servants than their predecessors; hence the cottagers were supernumeraries. The parish,

rish, besides supporting itself, exports a considerable quantity of wheat, barley, and beans; but the light and soft grounds being unfavourable for oats, a quantity of oatmeal is annually imported. Pease and beans are sown in February; oats in March; barley in May, and wheat in October. The earliest harvest begins in the first week of August, and the latest in September.

*Cattle.*—The breed of cattle has, of late, been much improved, by crossing with the Lancashire, Holderness, and Dutch kinds; by housing them in winter, and by feeding them on turnip. The farmers find, by experience, that there is not a more profitable application of turnips, than giving them liberally to young cattle; and the fame which the Fife breed of cattle has acquired, is probably owing to this method of rearing them. A young ox of 20 months old, sold lately for 7 guineas. It was much stouter, and fitter for work, than a three year old one fed in the common way, with straw in the winter.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—In 1764, the wages of a day-labourer were 6 d. in winter, and 7 d. in summer. They are now 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in summer. Men in harvest, 9 d. *per* day, and their victuals, women 7 d. They are now more constantly employed than at the former period. When they are frugal and industrious, they live very comfortably, and their children are well fed and educated. Thrice the quantity of butcher meat and wheat bread are used now, that were 20 years ago in this parish. In 1695, the wages of a man servant was L. 20 Scots; a maid servant, from L. 5 to L. 8 Scots, for the year. In the year 1768, the wages of a man were from L. 4 to L. 5 Sterling *per annum*; of a woman, from 32 s. to 40 s. *per annum*. The present

ſent wages of men are from L. 6 to L. 7 Sterling *per annum*; and of women, from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling.

*Prices of Proviſions.*—Proviſions have riſen one third in the courſe of 20 years. Mutton, lamb, veal, and beef, are from 3 d. to 4 d. *per pound*; a hen, 1 s.; ducks, 8 d.; geefe, 3 s.; eggs, 3 d. a dozen. The only kind of proviſions that have not riſen are pork, which is 4 d. *per pound*, and rabbits 6 d. a-piece, owing to the common people having an averſion to pork and rabbits.

*Church.*—The pariſh church appears to be a very antient building, from the remains of a large choir, and the gothic ſtructure of the ſteeple. It was new-roofed in the year 1761. The manſe was built in 1703, and repaired in 1761. Sir John Anſtruther of Anſtruther, Bart. is patron of the pariſh. The preſent incumbent was ordained in 1768, is married, and has a ſon and two daughters. The ſtipend, valuing the vic-tual at 12 s. *per boll*, is about L. 90 *per annum*, excluſive of the manſe and glebe.

*School.*—The ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 8 : 6 : 8 *per annum*. The heritors pay the rent of his dwelling houſe and ſchool, and the ſeſſion pays him 10 merks a year for teaching poor children. The dues are, for reading Engliſh, 14 d. a quarter; writing, 1 s. 6 d.; Latin, 2 s. 6 d.; and navigation, L. 1 : 1 : 0. As the ſchoolmaſter is eſteemed the beſt teacher of navigation on the coaſt, his chief attention is directed to that branch. All the young people in the pariſh, without a ſingle exception, are taught to read Engliſh, and the principles of the Chriſtian religion.



*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 1185 Scots. The rent of land has risen greatly within these 20 years, viz. from 7 s. and 10 s. *per acre*, to 21 s. and 30 s.

*Poor.*—The collections at the church, the interest of the poor's funds, and the savings in years of plenty, make an annual income of L. 25 or L. 30, which is sufficient for the maintenance of the poor, of which there are at present five on the list. Besides the maintenance of these, occasional supplies of money are given to widows, orphans, or persons who, from sickness or accident, are unable to support themselves.

<i>Population.</i> —Total inhabitants,	-	-	370
Males,	-	-	200
Females,	-	-	170
Inhabitants in the burgh,	-	-	324
————— in the country,	-	-	46
Families in the burgh,	-	-	80
————— in the country,	-	-	6
Average of births in the parish,	-	-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
————— deaths,	-	-	8
Mariners,	-	-	36
Carpenters and wrights,	-	-	9
Weavers, with journeymen and apprentices,	-	-	15
Shoemakers,	-	-	4
Tailors,	-	-	3
Baker,	-	-	1
Brewers,	-	-	2
Dyer,	-	-	1
Miller,	-	-	1
Smith,	-	-	1
Officers of the customs,	-	-	2
————— of the excise,	-	-	1
			Farmers,

Farmers,	-	-	-	-	4
Mason,	-	-	-	-	1
Day-labourers,	-	-	-	-	4
Land-labourers,	-	-	-	-	5
Gardener,	-	-	-	-	1
Milliner,	-	-	-	-	1
Mantuumakers,	-	-	-	-	2
Shopkeepers,	-	-	-	-	7
Ale-fellers, the brewers included,	-	-	-	-	3
Widowers and widows,	-	-	-	-	20

All the inhabitants are of the Established Church, except one man and his wife, who attend the Relief Congregation at Pittenweem; and they are all natives of Scotland, except one English woman.

The population is rather increasing at present, owing to the revival of the coal and salt works at Pittenweem, and the consequent increase of shipping.

Four new houses have been built within these last 20 years. One of them is uninhabited, owing to the high rent of L. 10 which is demanded for it.

Sir John Anstruther is proprietor of a third part of the parish; Sir Robert Anstruther has one farm, and the remaining part is divided among 15 small proprietors.

*Antiquities.*—At the west end of the town, there is a large mound, called the *Chesterhill*, in the middle of which is a fine well. Two or three years ago, in digging, on the side of this mound, a foundation for a house, two skeletons were found in the most perfect preservation, at a small distance from

from each other. They were inclosed in a kind of coffin, consisting of a large stone at each end and side.

*Isle of May.*—South-east from Anstruther-Weſter, and fix miles diſtant from it, in the mouth of the Frith of Forth, ſtands the Iſland of May; which, after the deſolation of the Abbacy of Pittenweem, was ſuppoſed to belong to the pariſh of Anſtruther-Weſter, the mother church, and in this light it was annually viſited by the miniſter of Anſtruther-Weſter, while it was inhabited by 14 or 15 families.

It is computed to be one mile long, and three quarters of a mile broad; it has a well of fine water, and a ſmall lake, and affords excellent paſture for ſheep. It is frequented by a great variety of ſea fowl, ſuch as kittiewakes, ſcarts, dunters, gulls, ſea-pyets, marrots, &c.

On the iſland is a light-houſe, erected upon a tower 45 feet high; it was built in the reign of King Charles I. and a duty is exacted, of 2d. *per* ton, upon all ſhips which paſs the iſland. The architect, who planned and built the tower, periſhed in his return to his houſe, in a ſtorm, which ſome old women, then ſuppoſed to be witches, were burnt for raiſing. There was a priory on this iſland, for ſome monks of the order of St Auguſtine; it belonged firſt to the abbacy of St Andrews, and afterwards to Pittenweem. There was a chapel dedicated to St Adrian, who was murdered by the Danes, in one of their incurſions, and buried here in the 870. There is a ſtone coffin which has ſtood expoſed to the injuries of the weather, time immemorial, in the church-yard. Tradition ſays that it once contained the reliques of St Adrian.

A very intelligent farmer, who has dealt in ſheep above thirty

thirty years, and has had them from all the different corners of Scotland, says, that he knows no place so well adapted for meliorating wool, as the Island of May; he adds, that the fleeces of the coarsest woolled sheep, that ever came from the worst pasture in Scotland, when put on the Island of May, in the course of one season, become as fine as fatten; their flesh also has a superior flavour; and that rabbits bred on this island have a finer fur than those which are reared on the main-land.

While employed in drawing up this account, a very melancholy accident happened, which ought to be recorded, as a warning to future times. The keeper of the light-house, his wife, and five children, were suffocated. One child, an infant, is still alive, who was found sucking at the breast of its dead mother. Two men, who were assistants to the keeper, were senseless, but got out alive. This truly mournful event was owing to the cinders having been allowed to accumulate, for more than ten years. The cinders reached up to the window of the apartment where these unfortunate people slept. They were set on fire by live coals falling from the light-house, and the wind blowing the smoke into the windows, and the door below being shut, the consequences were inevitable. These persons were the only inhabitants, and all of them lodged in the light-house. The families, who formerly resided there, lodged in houses detached from it. The old plan is to be again adopted; and houses are preparing for lodging the keeper, and a boat's crew, which will be of advantage to all the coast, as they will be ready to give intelligence when the herrings come into the Frith. The revenue arising from the light-house, was formerly let at L. 360 *per annum*; it was let last year at L. 970.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—What the state of the fisheries once was, and how much they have declined, will appear from the following facts, which are either taken from the records, or related on undoubted authority. The minister drew the teinds (i. e. tythes) of fish, as part of his stipend; the town generally farmed them at the rate of ten, twelve, or sometimes fifteen pounds a year. For these last twenty years they have never let for more than 13 s., and have been sometimes so low as 5 s. The late Mr Nairne, minister of Anstruther-Easter, drew L. 55 *per annum* for the teinds of the herring fishery alone; but his son the present minister let them to the town for L. 22 : 4 : 5 Sterling.

The town of Anstruther, and many others on this coast, suffered much in the civil wars, in the reign of Charles I. both by sea and land. They were zealous covenanters, and there are few old inhabitants of the parish, who do not talk of some relations, that went to the battle of Kilsyth, in the year 1645. and who were never afterwards heard of. In this disaster, and in temporary failures of their fishing, Anstruther shared the fate of its neighbours, about the year 1670, by an inundation of the sea, which destroyed or chocked up the harbour, washed away the bulwarks, and rendered many of the houses unsafe to dwell in. An inundation of a similar kind happened about the end of last century; when about a third of the town seems to have been destroyed. A long street, called the fore street, was totally destroyed; scarce a vestige of it now remains. The rock on which the town house once stood, is covered by the sea every spring tide, and every tide the sea washes the street, where the principal houses of the borough were situated.

The old people date the decay of the towns on this coast

to

to the Union with England. It is evident, that that event did undoubtedly give a great shock to the trade of these towns. Their staple commodities were malt, herrings, and cod. Before the Union, there were 24 ships belonging to Easter and Wester Anstruther, and 30 boats employed in the fishery. In 1764, there were only two ships, each 40 tons burden, and three fishing boats belonging to Anstruther-Easter, and one of 20 tons, and two fishing boats to Anstruther-Wester. At present the number of ships belonging to Easter and Wester Anstruther, is 20, their tonnage 1172, men employed 94, of which six in the foreign, 13 in the coasting, and one in the fishery trade; eight of these belong to Anstruther-Wester, whose tonnage is 532, and they employ 36 men. At present there is not a single person in the parish, who can properly come under the denomination of a fisherman; yet in the herring season there are four boats, which are manned by the tradesmen of the place, and some mariners, and fitted out for fishing. Ever since the battle of Kilsyth, the people here have a strong aversion to a military life; in the course of twenty-one years, there is only a single instance of a person enlisting, and it was into the train of artillery. There has not been a suspicion of murder for these 50 years. A single instance of suicide is remembered about the 1744. No person has been tried before a criminal court since the 1732, and he petitioned for banishment. This is the only instance even of banishment.

Agriculture is much improved; the cattle employed are of a better breed, and in finer order, and the tenants enjoy more of the comforts of society, and are in a more affluent state than their predecessors. This change is probably owing to the following causes: Formerly the rent was all paid in victual, which the tenants were obliged to drive six Scots miles,

miles, at any time between Christmas and Candlemas; they were obliged to lead the proprietors coals during the summer; besides a stated number of other carriages, such as stone, lime, and timber; if required, they paid a certain number of hens and chickens, and they were allowed to sublet or let off part of their farms to inferior tenants. In many places the proprietor drew the teind on the field. No tenant, however favoured, was allowed to lead any part of his corn, till the whole was ready; and in some places they were obliged to make the barley into malt, and to pay their rent in the grain thus manufactured. The great prices of cattle and grain, and the market of Glasgow, of late opened to this county, by the canal, which takes off vast quantities of wheat, barley, and beans, have given a spur to industry, which, joined to the improved mode of culture, have meliorated the face of the country, and added to the wealth of the farmers. It is well known, that this country was visited with a great famine in the year 1699. It had been preceded by some years of late and rather scanty crops, and it was attended with a great mortality. From an account published in the beginning of this century, and from tradition, it is probable, that in some parishes nearly one third of the inhabitants died. The only manufactures exported, are Osna-burgs and green linen. There are three ale-houses in the parish, which do not seem to have any bad effect on the morals of the people. The peculiar disadvantages of the parish are, the encroachments of the sea, and the harbour not admitting ships of burden. The people in general are sober and industrious. They enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are contented with their situation.

N U M.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF GAIRLOCH.

(County of Ross.)

By the Rev. Mr DANIEL McINTOSH.

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**T**HIS parish had its name originally from a very small loch, near the church and the house of Flowerdale, and so close by the shore, that the sea at high tides covers it. The etymology of it is abundantly clear, and signifies in the Gaelic language a short contracted loch.

The parish of Gairloch is situated in the county of Ross, in the presbytery of Lochcarron, and synod of Glenelg. Its length is no less than 32 miles English, and its breadth about eighteen.

*Soil.*—This country resembles many other parts of the Highlands of Scotland. The vallies are surrounded with hills, that afford good pasture to different kinds of cattle. As the parish abounds in hills and mossy ground, the arable parts of it are consequently but of a small extent. When the season is favourable, the crops are by no means bad, yet they scarcely serve the inhabitants above seven or eight months. The potatoes the farmers plant, and the fish they catch, contribute much to their support. This country,

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and all the West coast, are supplied in the summer with meal, by vessels that come from different ports at a distance; such as Caithness, Murray, Peterhead, Banff, Aberdeen, Greenock, &c.; and, at an average, sell the boll, consisting of eight stones, at 16s. and when provisions are high, at 18s. and upwards.

*Rivers and Antiquities.*—There are many rivers in this parish, but no bridges nor passage but by horses; and therefore, when these rivers overflow their banks, which often happens in the winter and spring seasons, and sometimes even in summer, travellers are detained, and are exposed to delays, and additional expences. There are two large rivers near the east end of this parish, which meet and run into one at *Kenlocheaw*, which in the Earse language imports the Head of the Loch-River. These two rivers empty themselves into Loch-Mari. This loch again is 12 computed miles in length, and more in some parts than a mile in breadth. There are 24 small islands in it, which are beautified with fir trees, and a variety of other kinds of wood; in one of these islands there is an antient burying-place, called *Iseand-Mari*, where the people on the north side of the loch still continue to bury their dead. There is a well in it of a salubrious quality, the water of which hath been found, for ages past, very serviceable to many diseased persons. The remains of a Druidical temple is likewise to be seen in this small island.

*Fish.*—Gairloch has been for many ages famous for the cod-fishing. Sir Hector M'Kenzie of Gairloch, the present proprietor, sends to market annually, upon an average, betwixt 30,000 and 40,000 cod, exclusive of the number with which the country people serve themselves. Gairloch hath  
also

also from time immemorial been remarkable for the herring-fishing. The coast of this parish abounds in very safe harbours for vessels of all dimensions.

*Agriculture.*—Oats and barley are sown in this country. Some of the gentlemen sow a small quantity of pease, which when the harvest is warm and dry, yield profitable returns; our time of sowing oats, black and white, is commonly from the middle of March to the end of April; within which period we also plant potatoes; we sow barley from the beginning of May to the 10th of June; our latest barley is seldom the worst part of the crop, when the summer proves warm and showery. Our harvest commences about the end of August, and the crop is gathered in about the 10th of October. Our crop frequently suffers much from shaking winds, attended with heavy cold rain, about the autumnal equinox.

*Diseases.*—No peculiar local distemper of any kind is prevalent in this parish. Fevers are frequent; sometimes they are of a favourable kind; at other times they continue long, and carry off great numbers. An infectious and putrid fever, early in winter last, made its way from the north over a long tract of different countries, and proved fatal to many.

*Population.*—There were in this parish in the year 1774, of examinable persons about 2000. And from that period to the present, there is an increase of 200 souls, and upwards. In Dr Webster's report the number was 2050. There are a few people in the parish at the age of 80 and 87. Two died lately who arrived at the age of an 100 years.

*Character of the People.*—They are in general sober, regular, industrious, and pious. They have always been remark-  
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ed and esteemed for their civility, and hospitality to strangers.

*School.*—In the great extent of this parish, as hath been already observed, there is no school but the parochial, by which means the rising generation suffer much, and are wholly neglected, having no access to the benefit of instruction. There are only two catechists, who have their appointments partly in the skirts of this and partly of the two neighbouring parishes.

*Church.*—All the people of every denomination are of the established church; there are no Dissenters, Seceders, nor any other kind of sect whatever in the parish. The church of this parish has stood more than a century, but has for some years past been in a ruinous situation; and was therefore taken down this summer, and a new elegant church is building. There are three places of public worship in the parish, exclusive of the church, viz. Kenlochew, Chapel of Sand, and the croft of Jolly. The church and manse are at the distance of six English miles from each other. The manse is very near the shore on the north of the church, and supposed to be in the centre of the parish. The value of the living, exclusive of the glebe, and including the expence allowed for communion elements, is only L. 58 : 6 : 9½. There are five heritors in the parish; viz. Sir Hector M'Kenzie of Gairloch, Baronet, John M'Kenzie of Gruinord, John M'Kenzie of Letterew, Roderick M'Kenzie of Kernfary, and Colonel M'Kenzie of Coul, who is at present in the East Indies; all the rest reside in the parish.

*Rent.*—The land-rent cannot be ascertained with accuracy. It may probably be about L. 1700 *per annum*.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—The number of the poor in this, as well as in many other Highland parishes, is daily increasing. There are 84 upon the kirk-session roll; besides some other indigent persons, who, though not inrolled, yet are considered as objects of sympathy. They have the annual collections made in the church, with the interest of L. 20 distributed among them. The collections upon an average are about L. 6 : 7 : 0.

*Language.*—The Gaelic is the prevailing language in this, as well as in several other corners on the West coast, where the people have no opportunity of learning English.

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## NUMBER VIII.

## PARISH OF MARNOCH,

*(County of Banff.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES INNES.**Name, Situation, Soil, and Productions.*

**A**BERCHERDER was the old name of this country and parish, which is now called *Marnoch*, the church being dedicated to St Marnoch. This parish lies in the county of Banff, presbytery of Strathbogie, and synod of Moray. It is from nine to ten measured miles in length, and from four to five in breadth. In general it is rather flat, low-lying land, being mostly surrounded with hills upon the west, north, and east, which are covered with heath. The river Doveron, which is not navigable, runs from five to six miles along the south side of the parish. The soil near the banks of the river, is a rich loam, and produces good crops. Toward the upper part of the country, it is wet, stoney, and stiff. The crop consists of barley, oats, pease, potatoes, and turnips. A very large quantity is annually exported from Banff, Portfof, or M'Duff. The best arable and meadow ground rents *per acre* from 15 s. to 20 s.; the rent of inferior from 6 s. 8 d. to 2 s. 6 d. The parish is fully provided with good peats. Considerable numbers of cattle are reared yearly and fold, and likewise a large quantity of butter and cheefe. There are several extensive plantations of various kinds of wood,

wood, viz. common fir, spruce, larix, and pine, beech, oak, elm, ash, birch, and alder, most of them in a very thriving condition, and some of them well advanced in size. There being no measurement of the parish, the extent of the farms cannot be precisely ascertained. There are farms that pay rent from L. 40 to L. 70 Sterling, and many lesser ones from L. 10 to L. 8 Sterling, and a very great number of small crofts from L. 5 and L. 6 down to L. 1 of rent.

*Diseases.*—The air is wholesome, and the people in general healthy. Except a few tradesmen, they are not employed in a sedentary life; being either country gentlemen, farmers, or crofters, their business occasions them to be much in the open air. No local distempers take place in this parish, consumptions and fevers are the most prevalent.

*Rent, &c.*—The rent of the parish is L. 2300 Sterling yearly. The only language spoken in it is English.

*Church.*—The church is very old, and in a very ruinous condition. James Donaldson, Esq; of Kinnairdie, is the patron. About twenty years ago, the church was repaired, and galleries were erected sufficient to accommodate 300 people. A new and much larger church is to be built next year, which clearly shows the increase of population here, occasioned partly by a good many extensive farms being parcelled out and let in crofts, which also made a considerable increase of rent to the heritors.

The living was augmented in 1789; and is now L. 45 in money, 90 bolls of meal, and 22 bolls of bear. There are ten heritors in this parish, four of whom reside in it, whose

whose farms are mostly inclosed; but the rest of the country, in general, is not.

*Poor.*—There are seven upon the poor's roll. The sum of L. 40 Sterling is yearly expended for their relief, which arises from the collections of the church, penalties, a small payment for the mort-cloth, and hand-bell, at burials, with the annual rent of L. 100 fetted for their relief.

*Prices of Labour.*—A ploughman's wages are from L. 5 to six guineas a-year, other men servants about L. 5 Sterling. A woman servant from L. 2 to L. 3 a-year.

*Eminent Men.*—Marnoch has produced no man eminent in learning or science, except Alexander Gordon, Esq; late of Achentoule, who entered into the army of Czar Peter the Great, and by his personal valour and good conduct in the war carried on against Charles XII. King of Sweden, was raised to the rank of Major-General, and wrote his history.

*Character of the People.*—The people are industrious. Few of them enlist in the army. They enjoy in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and are contented with their situation. They are decent, active, and humane. It is very remarkable, that during the time of the present incumbent, which is now almost 36 years, none have emigrated, neither has any single person been condemned or even tried for a capital crime.

*Population, &c.*—The births, deaths, and marriages, as entered in the parish register, for the last seven years, stand thus :

Years.

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1784	28	20	13
1785	24	20	15
1786	37	21	8
1787	28	12	7
1788	36	17	8
1789	37	16	14
1790	37	9	7

By an enumeration made this year, the whole population amounts to 1960, 84 of which are Roman Catholics, 60 Episcopals, and eight or ten Seceders. In Dr Webster's report the number was 1894.

The bridges were built, and are held in repair by the county, and the roads by the statute labour. There are about 500 work horses, and about 3000 cattle, in the parish. There are about 500 different families, which, at an average, will make near four persons in each. There are no houses uninhabited, and many more have been lately built than pulled down.

*School.*—The schoolmaster has only 100 merks salary, two guineas as session-clerk, 1s. *per* quarter for teaching English, 1s. 6d. for writing and reading, and 2s. for Latin and arithmetic; 3½ d. for each certificate, 6½ d. for each baptism, and 1s. 7d. for each marriage. At the parochial school there are from 12 to 20 or 30 scholars; at the charity school in Foggicloan from 40 to 60.

There are six alehouses in the parish.



## NUMBER IX.

## PARISH OF ELLON.

*(County of Aberdeen.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES MILN.**Name, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HE etymology of the name *Ellon* is unknown. It is situated in the county and synod of Aberdeen, and is the seat of a presbytery. The parish of Ellon is in length from south to north, about nine measured miles, and in breadth from east to west, five measured miles. The face of the country is uneven; but it cannot be said to be hilly, though there is a good deal of rising ground in it, which goes under the denomination of hills; but they are very inconsiderable. They are generally covered with heath, as are also some of the lower grounds.

*Soil, &c.*—The nature of the soil is very various. Some grounds, especially in the southern parts of the parish, and along the river side, are dry; but in the northern parts, they are generally wet and mossy. There are no lakes in the parish. The small river Ythan runs through the parish from west to east. It has its rise in the eastmost parts of the parish of Forgue, about 15 or 16 computed miles from Ellon, and runs through the parishes of Auchterless, Fyvie,  
Methlick;

Methlick, Tarvis, Ellon, and Logie-Buchan, and at Newburgh enters into the sea.

*Fish.*—There is a valuable salmon fishing on this river at Ellon, which yields of yearly rent about L. 80 Sterling: The greatest part of the salmon are sent to Aberdeen for exportation; and what is sold on the spot, has, for some years past, fetched from 4 d. to 6 d. the pound, Dutch weight. There are also plenty of excellent trout and eels in the river, and a kind of shell fish, in which are found pearls, generally, indeed, of small size; but frequently of considerable value. This small river is navigable, from its mouth at Newburgh, in the parish of Foveran, by large boats, or what are called lighters, at high tides, very near Ellon, and at ordinary tides, within half a mile of it.

*Population.*—There is reason to believe, that the ancient state of the population of the parish was materially different from its amount at this time. The present population amounts to about 1830, of which number there are 857 males, and 973 females. In Dr Webster's report the number is 2523. There are in it under the age of 12 or 14 years, 400.—Under the age of 20 or 24,—460.—Of about 40 years of age, 520.—And above 40 years, about 450. The average of births in the parish, for the five last years, is 24 males, and 18 females. The average of marriages, in the same time, is 22. The average of burials in the same time, is 16 males, 18 females. There are no towns in the parish. Ellon is the only village, in which there at present reside, young and old, 190 persons. The number of farmers may be reckoned to be about 60; but many of their farms are very small. Upon the largest farms are commonly employed, four men servants, two women servants, and two and some-  
times

times three boys. Upon the common and ordinary farms, one man servant, one woman servant, and one or two boys. The number of handicraftsmen, such as smiths, wrights, weavers, taylor, shoemakers, masons, &c. may be between 60 and 70.—The number of apprentices, about 20. The number of clergymen residing in the parish are two; the one of the Presbyterian, the other of the Episcopalian communion. The number of the established church is about 1673.—The number of Episcopalians about 130.—Of Seceders about 27.—There are no Roman Catholics in the parish. The number of inhabited houses may be about 440.

*Agriculture.*—The parish produces plants and trees of various kinds; but oats and bear are its principal produce. For some years past, turnip, rye-grass, clover, and potatoes, have been raised in greater quantities than formerly. There are some small plantations of fir trees; and there are also ash, elm, alder, and some other barren trees; but not in any great numbers. The number of acres cannot be ascertained. The parish does more than supply itself with provisions. Small spots of ground are here and there employed in raising flax; but many more in raising fown grass.

*Church.*—The ministers stipend, by decret in the year 1721, is 1000 merks, one chalder of meal, one chalder of bear, and 100 merks for communion elements. The glebe is scarcely legal; but in its present cultivated state, is worth L. 9 or L. 10 Sterling, yearly. The patron of the parish is the Earl of Aberdeen. The number of heritors or possessors of landed property in the parish, is six, who all reside in the parish, except Robert Fullarton Udny of Dudwick, Esquire.

*School.*

*School.*—The salary and perquisites of the schoolmaster, amount to about L. 13 Sterling yearly, with a dwelling-house and garden, and 100 merks from the proprietor of the estate of Watertown, with fees from the scholars, who are not at all numerous.

*Poor.*—The number of the poor in the parish, at present receiving supply from the poor's funds, is 40. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief is about L. 43 Sterling, arising from the weekly collections, the annual rent of a small sum of money, and the rent of a little croft of land; besides 100 merks mortified to the poor in the estate of Ellon.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The principal disadvantage of the southern parts of the parish, is the scarcity of fuel. And a general disadvantage throughout the whole, is short leases, and no encouragement to the tenants to inclose their grounds.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 8950:6:8 Scots. The fuel commonly made use of is peat; which is very expensive, especially in the south parts of the parish, which lie at a great distance from mosses. Some people of late have begun to use coals, both Scots and English, which would be by far the cheaper fuel, were it not burdened with a most unreasonable tax. They cost at Newburgh from 4 s. to 4 s. 6 d. *per* boll; besides carriage by land, for the most part four or five computed miles. The ploughs are many; almost every person who rents any land from an heritor having one. The manufacture most generally carried on, is the knitting of stockings, in which all the females are commonly employed, with some old men and boys. Of late some are employed in spinning linen yarn, and easily earn more than by the stockings. There was a manufactory

manufactory of woollen cloth, a few years ago, set up, which is not as yet carried on to great extent. The roads are not in a very good state. They have been made originally by statute labour, and by it are repaired; sometimes it is commuted, and it is the general wish, that it were all commuted on moderate terms. There are pretty good bridges in the most frequented roads; and a bridge over the Ythan at Ellon, is very soon to be built. The money requisite for it is already almost raised by a voluntary subscription. The rent of some land in this parish, is from 30 s. to 40 s. *per* acre; in general, good land is valued at 13 s. or 15 s. *per* acre, and a great deal at 10 s. some at 5 s. and some much lower. There is but little ground inclosed, except some about the heritor's houses, and by a few of the principal farmers; all are convinced of the advantages of inclosures, and would generally set about inclosing, if they had long enough leases. There are five alehouses in the parish, and one inn in the town of Ellon.

N U M-

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF LOUDOUN.

(County of Ayr.)

By the Rev. Dr GEORGE LAWRIE.



*Name, Extent, &c.*

THE parish of Loudoun is situated in that part of the shire of Ayr called *Cunningham*, a Danish word signifying a *royal feat*. Its name Loudoun is, probably, derived from a hill in the extremity of the parish, called Loudon, from the old word *low*, or fire, and *don* a hill. Its extent from east to west is nine English miles; its breadth towards Eaglesham is about seven miles; but at the west extremity it is not above three miles broad. There are four villages in the parish, first Newmilns an antient borough of barony. Their charter of erection the inhabitants obtained from James IV. It contains about 1000 inhabitants. The other three villages owe their origin and increase to the family of Loudoun. Derville, or Derval, contains about 400 inhabitants.

*Population.*—The number of souls in the spring 1791,

was	-	-	-	-	2308
June 1765	-	-	-	-	1452
					—
Increase between these periods, is	-	-	-	-	856
In Dr Webster's report the number is	-	-	-	-	1494

The

The proportion, at present, of males to females, is nearly equal, owing to the emigration of young weavers to Glasgow and Paisley, and farmers widows resorting to the villages with their daughters, where they are employed in assisting the weavers in winding yarn, clipping, &c.

Weavers in Newmilns, males	-	-	241
Ditto	females	-	25
Derval, all males	-	-	58
In the other parts of the parish	-	-	20
			<hr/>
Weavers in the whole parish	-	-	344

Some girls begin to weave so early as the age of twelve, and some females have taught their husbands after marriage.

Births last two years	} 1789	Males 27	} 52
		Females 25	
	} 1790	Males 24	} 56
		Females 32	

*Antiquities.*—The greatest curiosity in this parish, is the foundation of a Druidical temple, on the top of the highest hill in the parish except Loudon hill. The foundation is composed of large broad whin stones. The Archdruid's *sanctum sanctorum* is ten feet diameter, and more entire than the rest. There are many tumuli or cairns of stones in this and Galston parish; two of them have been lately dug up, in which burnt human bones were found; and an urn with human bones that had been burnt, was also found. A stone coffin was likewise found, four feet ten inches long, and about 19 inches broad. It was full of human bones; the top was free stone, and the sides whin stone. The urn was about six inches diameter at the mouth, and had no inscription.

tion. The field adjoining is vulgarly called *Anchors-Field*; but in the old charters, its real name is *Acorns-Field*; where, probably, was a grove of oaks, held in veneration by the Druids.

The custom still remains amongst the herds and young people to kindle fires in the high grounds, in honour of Beltan. *Beltan*, which in Gaelic signifies *Baal*, or *Bel's-fire*, was antiently the time of this solemnity. It is now kept on St Peter's day.

As the Danes were undoubtedly in possession of great part of Cunningham, there are two ruins, still called castles, that resemble Danish forts; the one in the village of Auldton, and the other near Derval, which is more entire, and surrounded by a deep ditch, and a place where there appears to have been a draw-bridge, and opposite to it, a gate that led to the castle. The Knights Templars had lands in this parish, as the names and charters plainly indicate; as Temple-Hill, Temple-Derval, neither do they hold of any superior, not even of the Crown. Near Derval is a place called Glenchapel, but there is not the least vestige of a church or chapel. There are likewise the ruins of an antient castle belonging to the family of Loudoun, which was burnt 300 years ago, by the clan Kennedy, who were headed by the Earl of Cassilis. There is a very old castle belonging to the same family, in the village of Newmilns, still entire, but very small. The house of Loudoun is at a little distance in the woods; which was greatly improved by an addition made to it by Chancellor Loudoun, in the year 1622. In this house there is a library room 90 feet in length. The library consists chiefly of Greek and Roman classics, and at present contains about 10,000 volumes. In the inclosures,



near the house, is a Druidical ruin. The late Earl John, in digging his garden, found ten brass cannon quite entire, two feet under the surface; they were about six pounders, of the fwivel kind, with the Campbell's arms, and are still used on birth days; but we have no tradition concerning them.

*Secularies and Heritors.*—There are two Seceding meetings in the parish, one of the sect of Antiburghers, and the other of the old Covenanters. In this last sect there are not above fifty. There are about ten or twelve Burgher Seceders. No family of note has a residence in the parish, except the Countess of Loudoun's, now a minor. Four fifths of the parish is her property. The other heritors, and feuers, are numerous, but they all pay feu to the family of Loudoun, except Captain Nisbet of Carfin, near Hamilton.

*Church.*—The church is new and in good repair. The manse was built in 1768, and is in good order. The stipend is in meal 76 bolls, bear 12 bolls, at an average L.69, in money L. 21, and L. 3 : 16 : 8 for communion-elements; in all L. 93 : 16 : 8. The glebe is 12 acres. The stipend is very ill paid; the bear by more than thirty small feuers, and the meal likewise in small quantities. The money is paid by ten or twelve tenants; and the stipend has not been augmented for 140 years past.

*School.*—The school is one of the best in the west country. It has a slate roof, and a very good accommodation for the schoolmaster above the school-room. The teaching room is 36 feet long by 16 feet within the walls, and 10 feet high. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots; he has seldom less than 60 scholars, and often above 80 or 90. He teaches chiefly English, at 1s. 6d. *per* quarter; with the addition of arithmetic

arithmetic and writing, it is 2 s. 6 d. *per* quarter. He teaches also menfuration and book-keeping; his payments for baptifms, feffion-clerk, and marriages, a few pounds. His whole income is not above L. 30.

*Climate, Situation, and Difeafes.*—This parifh is fituated at the extremity of the fine ftrath upon the river of Irvine. It is bounded by very high hills on the north and fouth. We have much rain, but very little fnow. The narrow ftrath from eaft to weft forms a kind of ventilator, which, undoubtedly, contributes greatly to the health of the inhabitants. Except fmall-pox and meales, I never knew an epidemic, or what deferved that name. I never faw an ague, and fcarcely ever an infectious fever; a putrid fever never; a purple fever carried off feveral people about 20 years ago, from improper management, by immediately bleeding, which was found to be very fatal by thofe of the Faculty who firft tried it. Some years ago, nine children died of a difeafe called the *clofing*, or *croup*. The difeafe that is moft frequent is the confumption. Scrophula or white fwelling is frequent from poor living, and fedentary life, and bad air in weaver's fhop, where they never have a fire. There are a few remarkable instances of longevity. Lady Loudoun died at the age of 100 in 1779, and enjoyed all her faculties to the laft. Several people die above 90, and many above 80. Inoculation is gradually coming into ufe; and is always fucceffful. \*

*Agriculture.*—The time of fowing oats, is from the end of March to the end of April; and immediately when the oats are fown, the bear is begun to be fown, which is finished betwixt the middle and end of May. We fow very little peafe, and no beans, or wheat. Every perfon, whether in town or country, plants a few potatoes. Some few farmers fow rye-grafs,

grafs, and a small proportion of red or white clover for hay, or cut grafs. The late John Earl of Loudoun, succeeded his father in the year 1731, and deserves the name of the father of agriculture in this part of the shire. He had both a great taste, and great quickness of parts. He prudently began with making roads through the parish, as early as the year 1733; and an excellent bridge was, by his influence, built over Irvine water; and the road from thence, and from his house to Newmilns, was the first made road in the shire of Ayr, which was done by the statute work. He remembered when there was neither cart nor waggon in the parish, but his father's, Earl Hugh, and his factor's. Now there are above 250 in the parish, besides waggons for leading grain, peats, &c. Formerly they carried home their grain in fledges or cars, and their coals on small horses. At the same period Earl John began to plant and inclose; he is said to have planted above one million of trees. The trees are mostly ash, elm, oak, and many of them are of a great size. One crop of hoop-willows from a small inclosure of three roods, fold for L. 27. The weeding and thinning the plantations of elm, and ash, &c. yield from two to three hundred pounds annually. Many ash and elm trees fell at one, two, and sometimes three guineas. They were all planted from the year 1733, progressively, to the year 1775. The number of farms planted and inclosed, are about fifty, inclosed and subdivided into small farms, from 20 to 30 acres each; in all about 6000 acres. Add to this about 1570 acres; the whole of which is inclosed, and amounts to 7570 acres, including 95 acres of natural wood, and 250 acres of planted ground. About 1000 acres in sheep farms are not yet inclosed.

*Lime and Coal.*—There are, in different parts of the inclosures,

fures, all within a mile or half a mile of the mansion-house, five or six lime quarries, some of them nine feet thick, and very near the surface, and not interrupted by water. The whole ground round the mansion house is full of coal: two seams, one a little below the other, have been worked to great advantage, (especially of late, as the demand has increased by the lime-works, and the increase of the number and riches of the inhabitants,) yielding annually about L. 200. of profit. But, a few years ago, the pits were so rapidly filled with water, that the tutors of the Countess were obliged to cause erect a fire engine, which cost near L. 1000; but it answered the end, and the coal is of immense benefit to the parish, and to the farmers for burning lime. There are five drawkilns, which, when going, would produce 740 bolls of lime in 24 hours. The lime is sold to the country, at from 5 d. to 6 d. *per* boll, and to the tenants upon the estate of Loudoun, at 4½ d. *per* boll, of five Winchester bushels, with one year's credit to the industrious tenant.

*Sheep.*—There are only four sheep farms in the parish, containing about 60 score. Nine farms keep sheep, and are partly arable. In these the number is about 50 score; and in the other farms, not belonging to the estate of Loudoun, about 32 score. The sheep are all black faced, and have coarse wool, which sells at seven or eight shillings *per* stone iron weight.

*Fuel, Soil, &c.*—There are nearly 10,000 acres in the parish, and three fourths of the land are arable. There are extensive mosses. The inhabitants of Newmilns and Dervall, &c. raise and sell peats at 10 d. and 1 s. *per* small waggon. But the ready access to coal has diminished the demand for peats. The soil, in general, is a rich deep loam, and much improved

improved by lime; and a small part is light and gravelly. The rent of the arable land, about thirty years ago, was from 5s. to 10s. it is now from 10s. to L. 1 : 4 : 0 *per acre*; near the villages an acre gives two, and some acres three pounds.

*Prices of Horses, Labour, and Servants Wages.*—Working horses, twenty years ago, sold from L. 10 to L. 16, and now from L. 16 to L. 25. The wages of men servants are now L. 7 and L. 8 annually. Some labourers, that have houses in the villages, or near farmers houses, are occasionally employed: Their wages in winter are 1s. or 8d. and their victuals, in summer 1s. 2d. Masons of late receive 1s. 8d. *per day*, and house-carpenters 1s. 6d. besides their victuals. Women servants receive from L. 1 : 5 to L. 1 : 15 *per half year*. There are about 100 ploughs in the parish, mostly of the old Scots kind, with improvements. Milk cows sell, near the time of calving, from five to seven or eight guineas.

*Produce and Prices of Grain.*—The parish produces more provisions than serve the inhabitants. The tenants transport meal, butter, cheese, and veal, to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Paisley, &c. The average price of meal is 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. *per peck*, for twenty years past; bear 19s. *per boll* of eight bushels, for the same period. Butter from 10s. to 12s. *per stone*,—skimmed milk cheese, when perfectly new, gives 3s. 4d. and in winter 4s. *per stone* *tron weight*; sweet milk cheese is from 6s. to 8s. *per stone*. Butcher meat of all kinds never sells high in our little village; whenever it is high, every thing is carried to the great towns. Lamb, when early, is sold from 10s. to 20s.; veal brings 8d. *per pound*, &c. It is a profitable branch to the farmer to fatten his early calves; when two or three months old, they bring from L. 2 to L. 4 each.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—There are no sums of money mortgaged for the poor. The heritors, minister, and session, have a joint meeting annually, and appoint the pensions for the poor, generally from 1 s. to 2 s. weekly. In the interval, betwixt the annual meeting, the session, from time to time, takes in new annuitants. The conduct of the poor is examined at each annual meeting. The schoolmaster is allowed from the funds, wages for poor scholars. The whole expence annually amounts to L. 50. The funds chiefly arise from the weekly collections, the mort-cloth money, and the seat-rents of the church. The trustees of Lady Loudoun allow generally L. 10 annually to the poor's funds.

NUM.

## NUMBER XI.

## PARISH OF EYEMOUTH.

*(County of Berwick.)**By the Rev. Mr GEORGE TOD.**Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.*

THIS parish is of small extent, not exceeding 300 acres English measure. It was part of the priory of Coldingham; and before the Reformation, it is said, that the prior of Coldingham had a chapel of ease here, and that it was erected into a parish, no sooner than in the reign of King James VI. This parish is about a mile square, including the farm of Highlaws, but its marches with those of Coldingham, are indented, and very irregular. About one half of the lands are let in two farms, viz. Linthill, and Bearrigg. The rest are possessed by the inhabitants of Eyemouth, in small parks and acre-dale. The feuers, small heritors, who are also mechanics, possess their own lands. Eyemouth is a borough of barony. Mr Home of Wedderburn, our present representative in Parliament, is the superior, and is also proprietor of more than nine tenths of the land in the parish. The yearly rent is from 25 s. to 40 s. *per* acre English. There is not one foot of bad or waste ground. The lands were all open twenty years ago; but they are now almost all inclosed, and the rents are near double of what they were then. The soil, in general, is good, and produces every sort of grain, of

a good quality; as well as sown grafs, turnips, and potatoes. The climate is dry, and perhaps as little rain falls here, as in any other part of Scotland.

*Antiquities.*—Here are the remains of a regular fortification upon a small promontory stretching out to the sea, which is said to have been erected by the Earl of Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somersset, when going to invade Scotland, while he held the regency, in the minority of Edward VI. It was demolished by treaty in Queen Mary's reign, soon after the battle of Pinkie. Though all the rocks along the coast are of the common hard whinstone, yet the promontory, upon which this fortification has been built, consists of what is called *pudding stone*. It is remarkably hard, and will cut like marble, and even stands the fire. The two piers were built of it, which stand both weather and water without the least appearance of waste.

*Harbour and Trade.*—At the beginning of this century, Eyemouth was a mere fishing town; but, after the Union, it gradually increased; and, owing to its vicinity to England, it became remarkable for smuggling; but that pernicious trade being much quashed, the gentlemen of this county, amongst their first improvements, erected a pier on the west side of the harbour, about the year 1750, that cost about L. 2000, which was raised by subscription; and, about the year 1770, another pier was built upon the east side of the harbour, which cost above L. 2500; which last pier was planned and executed by Mr Smeaton.

“The harbour of Eyemouth,” Mr Smeaton remarks, “lies at the corner of a bay, in which ships can work in and out at all times of tide, or lie at an anchor secure from all winds,



except the northerly and north easterly. From this circumstance, its situation seems very advantageous : But, as the mouth of the river or harbour lies open to the northerly winds, ships cannot lie in safety therein, without going up beyond the elbow of the present quay, where the water being shallower by several feet, and the breadth much contracted, the harbour is not only defective in point of capacity, but in safety also ; for, at a full sea, (the mouth being wide), the sea tumbles in with so much impetuosity, that great seas find their way round the elbow, and make the vessels, even there, lie not so quiet as is to be wished. In order, therefore, not only to enlarge the harbour, but very greatly to increase the safety of vessels lying therein, it is proposed to build a north pier to defend the harbour's mouth ; and, to this end, nature has furnished a ledge of rocks, not only capable of making the most excellent of all foundations for such a pier, but in as advantageous a direction as could be wished ; upon which a pier is proposed to be built according to the plans accompanying this Report : For, according to the direction therein specified, the harbour will be defended from all such seas as annoy the bay ; and the only points from whence the harbour could be affected by seas coming in through the mouth, is land locked by the points of the bay ; so that the harbour will, in its whole extent, be perfectly safe in all winds. It is also to be noted, that the same circumstances which concur to make the harbour safe in all winds, afford the means of vessels getting in and out in all winds ; and this proceeds from the entry into the harbour lying nearly at a right angle with the direction into and out of the bay. It also is a great advantage that there is a good flow of tide, which at spring tides is said to be twenty feet ; and there is at the lowest ebb several feet of water, at low water, between the proposed pier heads ; so that there will be seldom less at neap tides than

sixteen

fixteen or seventeen feet of water in the harbour ; which is capable of receiving vessels from three to four hundred tons, according as they are more flat, or more sharp built, and which afterwards can, upon a greater flow of tide, be got into a more advantageous birth. Another advantage to the executing the proposed design arises from a great quantity of rough rocks that lie at the north westerly point of the bay, very proper for building the outsides of the body of the pier, the insides of which may be done with rough stones, won or blasted from the rocks, neighbouring to that upon which the pier is proposed to be built. By this means, the pier may be executed at a trifle of expence, in proportion to the extent and utility of the design ; for the rocks, that are represented within the intended pier, will be removed and made smooth, so as to procure an addition of harbour-room at little or no charge, as they will be used within the pier. When this is done, there will be an addition of harbour-room in the space between the elbow before mentioned and the pier-heads, capable of holding thirty ships of middling size, with sufficient passage ; and which, in time of war, will be very useful on this coast, not only for the refuge of coasters from the enemy, but, in bad weather, for privateers, and the smaller sized vessels acting offensively.”

Previous to the erection of the first pier, there was very little fair trade carried on ; but, ever since it was built, much corn and meal have been brought into the county, and shipped here, for Leith and other markets, to the extent of 20,000 bolls annually, and, in some years, more than double that quantity. For several years past, there has not been a single smuggler residing in this parish. The former dealers in that illicit trade are now all dead, or removed to distant parts. Not one of them died rich, and the far greatest part of them  
became

became bankrupt. For twenty years and upwards, we have had at least two wholesale merchants, who import wood, iron, flax, tar, and other foreign goods. There is one good inn, and too many alehouses.

*Manufactures.*—We have no manufactory here; nor is there any in the whole county, except two paper-mills, one near Dunfe, and the other near Ayton.

*Fishing.*—There are only six fishing crews in this place, who take abundance of fishes, the greater part of which are carried to Edinburgh. But, in place of six, there is room for sixty boats, as our coast abounds with fishes of all kinds, and of a good quality. We have also a herring fishery; and, in some years, millions are caught; and, after serving the country demand, the rest are partly salted, and made into what are called *white herrings*, and partly manufactured into red herrings, and both are sent to London, and foreign parts, where they generally bring a good profit. Formerly they caught the herrings at what they called the *Ground Drove*, which lasts only a few days; but now they also fish for them by a *Float Drove*, which lasts for some months; so that they now get ten times the number they got formerly, and the herrings are of a far better quality, because they never come to the ground till they are about to spawn.

*Fuel.*—There is no other fuel than coal. If we were not almost prohibited from supplying ourselves with Scottish coals, with one of the most unreasonable duties that ever was imposed, viz. 3 s. 4 d. a ton, no other coals would be used. We complain of another grievance. This port is a branch of the Customhouse of Dunbar, and our merchants are obliged to go there, which is a distance of 20 miles, to report e-  
very

very cargo, and get sufferances to load or unload, and thereafter to go back again for cockets and clearances, which is attended with much dangerous delay, and no small expence.

*Diseases.*—The air here is reckoned healthy. We are not afflicted with any infectious or epidemical diseases, except the small-pox, the bad effects of which have of late been prevented by inoculation. The only complaints that prove mortal in this place, are different kinds of fevers and consumptions; and these are mostly confined to the poorest class of people, and ascribed to their scanty diet.

*Population.*—At present, there are about 1000 souls in the parish. In Dr Webster's Report, the number is 792.

Births in the parish,		Deaths,	
in 1788	20	in 1788	17
in 1789	35	in 1789	10
in 1790	19	in 1790	7

*Church.*—The stipend is partly victual and money, and arises partly from teinds of fishes, which being so variable, cannot well be estimated. The glebe consists of about ten acres of good land, and may be estimated at fifteen guineas yearly. The manse and church are in bad repair. There are no Papists nor Episcopalians in the parish, and only ten or twelve Seceders.

*Prices of labour.*—The wages of wrights and masons are from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 8 d. a day; of labourers, from 10 d. to 1 s.; labouring servants within the house from L. 6 to L. 7. *per annum*; a maid-servant receives about 30 s. the half-year.

*Miscellaneous observations.*—There is great plenty of sea-ware thrown in here, the coarsest part of which is applied for manuring the lands, and the finest part is manufactured into kelp. There are very few law-pleas or disputes in this parish, because we have only *one writer*.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XII.

## PARISH OF LINTON.

(County of Roxburgh.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW OGILVIE.

*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**L**INTOUN or LINTON, in the presbytery of Kelfo, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale, is nine miles long and three broad. The clergy, it is well known, when they had power, were not inattentive to their own interest: There is not perhaps a more agreeable rural retreat than they have here chosen for their residence. The air, in the opposite extremity of the district, is colder by many degrees, and the ground not above one third of the value.

*Soil.*—The soil varies greatly; 300 acres are bounded on the west by Kail water, and as they rise only a few inches above it, are much exposed to inundations. In 1781, most of this spacious plain was under water. This beautiful strath, with the surrounding hills, forms a large basin. It reaches into two adjacent parishes, and consists of about 12 or 1500 acres. The 300 acres, mentioned above, consist of a deep strong clay. It raises young cattle, when laid down in grass, or great crops of grain, when the season permits the labour of it. The rent is about one guinea *per* acre, and all of it is inclosed. The ground rising out of flood-mark to the . it  
for

for two miles produces more certain crops. It is a dry red sand; one fourth of the arable land is annually allotted to the production of turnips, which, in quality, yield to none in this country.

*Hills.*—There is only one hill which, in the plains of Babylon, would be an Atlas, but is reduced to a hillock, by the adjacent mountains of the Cheviot. The plough has found its way almost to the top of it; but as the use of lime was not known, the increase, it is probable, would be both scanty and precarious.

*Lochs.*—There are two lochs in this parish; the one is much drained, and so choaked with reeds, as greatly to incommode the angler in his attempts upon the large trout it contains. The other covers a space of more than 30 acres, is of an oblong form, accessible at the verge, and exhibits a beautiful sheet of water. It contains no fish but eels; some of them are of the silver kind. A moss of great extent and depth, confines its water to the west; but the peats are of a bad quality. The fuel, therefore, is mostly coal from Northumberland.

*Agriculture*—Is here conducted with great dexterity. Turnip is reckoned a good fallow; near one fourth of the arable land is laid down with this useful root, which has turned winter into summer, not only by keeping the price of meat nearly equal through the year, but also by clothing the fields with a beautiful green in the coldest season; 500 guineas would scarcely purchase what is here raised annually. Stock of every description is thereby greatly advanced. Wool is sold above 13s. per stone; perhaps the white may be reckoned a little higher. The number of sheep is about

3000

3000. Being equi-distant from Edinburgh and Morpeth, the fat beasts are some years divided almost equally between these markets. Some inclose their sheep, in the summer nights, with moveable fences, which are occasionally removed, and the place lately occupied is directly ploughed, to preserve the manure in its strength. Much of the sheep pasture has been ploughed, and laid down with sown grafs and lime. Thirty ploughs, with two horses each, perform the agricultural work of this parish.

*Population.*—It is often mentioned with regret that there is a considerable decrease of his Majesty's subjects in this parish; 40 years ago it consisted of 27 farmers, the patron, and minister; now there are only 12, three of whom, with the patron, do not reside. Of the residing farmers, only three are married. The number of houses is reduced to 55, containing 283 persons above eight years old; and about 100 children besides, so that the number is supposed to be greatly diminished. In Dr Webster's report, however, the population is stated at only 413 souls; the decrease upon the whole, therefore, is not above 16. There have been four marriages, ten births, and six burials, annually, upon an average, for these nine years past. Three young men enlisted into the Train of Artillery last year. More than one third of the people are Seceders. There are no other sectaries in the parish.

*Poor.*—The following authentic extracts from the records of heritors meetings, for the last 47 years, will show the state of the poor. The assessment only of every 5th or 6th year since the commencement in 1744 is here stated, although the charge and number of poor at every meeting is regularly inserted in the records.



## Assessment for the poor of Linton parish.

Number of Paupers.			Assessment.
4	in	1744	L. 8
4	in	1749	12
8	in	1756	13
9	in	1761	15
12	in	1766	18
9	in	1771	28
10	in	1777	29
11	in	1780	29
11	in	1784	42
14	in	1789	44
14	in	1791	46

This assessment, so disproportionate to the present population, is partly owing to two young men of deranged intellects, who are supported at the rate of above L. 9 *per annum*. None of the poor are mendicants, although there are many of this description, chiefly from market towns, as far as Edinburgh.

*Church.*—The glebe is nearly eight Scotch acres, two of which, last season, in wheat, sold for L. 20. The stipend is L. 80, and three chalders of victual. The manse and office houses are all new-covered with blue slate. The patron is John Pringle Esq; of Clifton. More than one half of the parish belongs to him. His house at Park, to the west of the church, is pleasantly situated in the centre of a plantation of 30 acres of trees.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The rent of the parish is L. 2113 Sterling, and the largest farm yields L. 400 *per annum*. In repairing the church lately, there was found a large

large grave containing 50 skulls, all equally decayed, some of them cut with the stroke of violence, belonging (it is supposed) to persons slain in some border fight, of which there were many in this neighbourhood. Over one of the church doors, a man on horseback is cut in stone, killing, with a spear, a fierce animal; it is said to be the last that infested this district, when the woods were cut down. It seems to have been a deed of valour, as the memorial of it, we are told, is preserved on the crest of Lord Sommerville's arms, whose ancestors once possessed a large estate in this parish. It is proper to mention another curiosity in the centre of this district; five or six stones form a circle about the size of a cock-pit, called the *Tryß*: Here the parties that made incursions into Northumberland, used to meet; but when those that came first could not wait for the arrival of their companions, they cut with their swords upon the turf, the initials of their names, the head of the letters pointing to the place whither they were going, that their friends might follow them.

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## NUMBER XIII.

## PARISH OF GLAMMISS.

*(County of Angus.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES LYON.**Name, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HE modern name of this parish is *Glammiss*, but its etymology is unknown. It lies in the presbytery of Forfar, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is about 12 miles in length, and the greatest breadth is 5 miles; but in some places it is hardly one. The greatest part of this parish is flat country, and lies in the heart of Strathmore, which is an extensive plain, situated at the foot of the Grampian mountains, and remarkable for its fertility. Large plantations of trees, together with the fields regularly divided and fenced by hedge rows, make the country round exceedingly beautiful. Part of this parish is rocky and mountainous, and the Sidlie hills run along the south side of it. They are covered with heath, and are not remarkably high.

*Soil.*—The soil is in general good. It has been well cultivated, and produces plentiful crops. About 60 years ago, the people were sunk in sloth and indolence; but a variety of causes have concurred to call forth their vigour, and to rouse

rouse them into action. Improvements have been, and still are, carried on with ardour and success. The discovery of marle has wonderfully contributed to the improvements in agriculture.

*Fuel.*—Amidst the many advantages which the people here enjoy, the want of fuel is a great inconvenience. They generally use peats, of which there are plenty in different mosses; but they are dug at a considerable expence, and will soon be exhausted. Some transport coals from Dundee, the nearest sea-port town, which is twelve miles distant from Glamis. This defect, however, will in a short time be supplied by the extensive woods planted by the late Earl of Strathmore, which are in a very thriving condition, and are a great ornament to the country.

*Diseases.*—The air is rather moist, and neither very healthy, nor very unhealthy. Agues and melancholy habits are not much known here. Fevers and consumptions are the most prevalent distempers, owing, it is supposed, to the moisture occasioned by the hills to the south, and the great quantity of planting. We have no mineral springs of any consequence.

*Rivers and Fishes.*—The river Dean, a deep running water, is supplied from the lake of Forfar. The Kerbet, and the burn of Glamis, run through the parish, and abound with plenty of fine red trout. There is a very considerable lake in the east end of the parish, near Forfar, called the *Loch of Forfar*. It originally contained 140 acres; but 60 of these have been drained, and a great quantity of marle and peat have been dug out, which has proved very advantageous to the Earl of Strathmore, the proprietor. When the lake

was

was drained, a number of curious antiquities were found, and are to be seen in the castle of Glammiss.

*Antiquities.*—Within a few yards of the manse of Glammiss, there is an obelisk, of rude design, erected, as is generally supposed, in memory of the murder of Malcolm II. King of Scotland. On one side of the monument, there are figures of two men, who, by their attitudes, seem to be forming the bloody conspiracy. A lion and a centaur, on the upper part, represent the shocking barbarity of the crime. On the reverse, several sorts of fishes are engraven, as a symbolical representation of the lake, in which, by missing their way, the assassins were drowned. In a neighbouring field, there is a stone on which are delineated a variety of symbolical characters similar to those already mentioned, and intended, as is supposed, to express the same facts. At the distance of one mile from Glammiss, near a place called Cossans, there is an obelisk, not less curious than either of the two preceding monuments. It is vulgarly called *St Orland's Stone*. No probable conjecture has been formed relating to the facts designed to have been perpetuated by it. On one side is a cross rudely flowered and chequered; on the other, four men on horseback appear to be making the utmost despatch. One of the horses is trampling under foot a wild boar; and, on the lower part of the stone, there is the figure of an animal somewhat like a dragon. It has been thought that these symbols represent officers of justice in pursuit of Malcolm's murderers. There is a fortification on the summit of a hill, two miles south-west from Glammiss, known by the name of *Dennon Castle*. It probably was designed for a place of retreat in times of danger. It is encompassed by a wall, supposed to have been 27 feet high, and 30 broad. There are two entries, one to the south-east, and another to the north-west.

west. The whole circumference is about 340 English yards; but, although this wall be much defaced, and almost covered with grass, yet there are evident traces of buildings in the intermediate space. The only other work of antiquity in the parish, is the Castle of Glammiss. This venerable structure, the property of the Earl of Strathmore, and his chief feat in Scotland, is of very antient date. For some time it remained in the hands of the crown; and, in the year 1372, it was granted by Robert II. to J. Lyon, his special favourite, who not long after received his daughter in marriage. Since its original construction, it has been greatly enlarged.

*Quarries.*—Besides other quarries of inferior note in the parish, there is near the village of Glammiss a freestone quarry, the stones of which are very durable, and are excellent for building and for millstones. There are abundance of fine gray slate quarries, in different places, belonging to the Earl of Strathmore and Lord Douglas. About twenty years ago, an attempt was made to find out a lead mine near the village of Glammiss. It was wrought a considerable time, and some ore was found; but the scheme was not persisted in.

*Cattle.*—A considerable number of fine cattle are fed in this parish. One dealer in this article is often possessed of ten thousand pounds worth of cattle at a time, most of which he carries to the English market.

*Population.*—In the year 1783, the number of souls in the parish amounted to about 2040. In Dr Webster's Report, the number is 1780. From the Register, it appears that, in the year 1718, there were 63 baptisms, in the year 1740, 60, and in 1750, 60. In the year 1784, there were

51 baptisms, 36 burials, and 14 marriages. In 1786, 47 baptisms, 38 burials, 17 marriages. From the 1st of October 1789, to the 1st of October 1790, there were 42 baptisms, 37 burials, and 16 marriages. There are a number of villages in this parish. The village of Glammis contains about 500 souls; the Newtown of Glammis about 140; Arnefont 80; Cotterton of Hayston 48; Nether-Handeck 39; Milltown of Glen-Ogilvie 67; and Cottertown of Drumglye 120. The number of farmers in the parish is about 80; some of their farms are extensive, and others but small. The number of weavers and manufacturers is about 70.

*Heritors, &c.*—The parish is divided among four heritors, the Earl of Strathmore, Lord Douglas, William Douglas of Brigtown, and Mr Henderson of Rochilhill. Lord Strathmore's estate contains about 6000 acres. The greatest part of the unarable ground consists of thriving plantations, to the extent of about 1000 acres. The yearly rent may be from L. 2500 to L. 3000 Sterling. The value of land, on this estate, has risen considerably within these fifteen years. One farm, in particular, which was rented at L. 52 twelve years ago, now gives L. 300. The rental of the estate of Lord Douglas in this parish is about L. 500, an advanced rent from L. 200 since the year 1770. The whole of this estate contains about 3000 acres. The estate of Mr Douglas of Brigtown in this parish contains about 70 acres, and the present rental is about L. 50. The estate of Rochilhill contains above 200 acres, and brings about L. 70 yearly rent. The parish supplies itself with provisions, and generally sends a considerable quantity of meal and barley to different parts of the country.

*Church.*—The Earl of Strathmore is patron of the parish.  
The

The stipend is, of money, L. 52 : 15 : 6, with 40 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of barley. The glebe contains rather more than six acres and a half, and is worth 40 s. an acre.

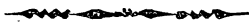
*Wages.*—The expence of a labouring servant is generally about L. 8 or L. 9 a year, with six bolls and a half of meal. Maid-servants wages are about L. 3, besides maintenance.

*Poor.*—The number of poor supplied from the funds of the parish are about twenty, besides others who receive charity occasionally. The kirk session have a number of seats in the church at their disposal, for which they draw about L. 7 annually. The average of weekly collections is 10 s. 6 d. The session have also about L. 200 at interest.



## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF DYCE.

*(County of Aberdeen.)**By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM WILSON.**Situation.*

**D**YCE lies about five miles north-west of Aberdeen. It is bounded by Newhills on the south, Newmachar on the east, Fintray on the north, and Kinellar on the west. There is a hill, which runs quite cross the parish, from south to north, called *Tyre-baggar*, or perhaps, rather *Tyre-beggar*, as formerly the road from Garioch to Aberdeen, went over the middle of it, which must have been very tiresome to travellers. Now the post-road goes along the south end, which is more easy.

*Soil.*—As the parish is hilly, there are many different soils in it. Along the side of the river Don, there is excellent deep mould, which produces fine crops of barley, oats, and pease; and some wheat has been tried of late, which answers very well. Towards the hill, about a mile from the river side, it is a black light mould, and produces but very indifferent crops. The hill is covered with heath; and as there is no other fuel, but what turf can be got on it, it is very much exhausted. There are three plantations of fir trees upon

upon this hill ; two of them belong to Sir William Forbes, Baronet.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture advances here rapidly ; the people see the advantages of lime for their ground, which, in general, answers well ; and is brought from the neighbourhood of Aberdeen. They likewise see the advantage of inclosures, of which there are great numbers in the parish. The nature of the air is dry and healthy. The people are strong, and generally live long.

*Antiquities.*—On the top of one of the hills belonging to Tyre-bagger, there is a Druidical temple. It consists of ten long stones placed in a circular form, the diameter of it is about 24 feet. The highest of the stones, which stand on the south side, are about nine feet above ground. The lowest, which are on the north side, four and a half. There is one stone placed on its edge, betwixt the two southmost stones, which is about six feet high. They are all rough stones, and of great bulk. There are several cairns within the parish, but though they have their names, I can learn no tradition concerning them. There are small cairns too on the tops and sides of the different hills, scattered here and there, which I cannot account for, but by supposing there have been engagements in these places, and that the slain have been buried under these heaps of stones. There is another long stone about 9 feet high, which is called the *Gouch stone*, in memory, as the country people report, of one Gouch a general, who was slain there.

*Church.*—The parish church is said to have been dedicated to St Fergus. The stipend is only L. 56 Sterling. At one of the doors of the church stands a stone cut like a trough,  
which

which has no doubt held the holy water. In the church-yard dyke, there is a stone six feet high, on the one side of which is a crucifix distinctly cut.

*Quarries, &c.*—There are no mineral springs nor grottos in the parish, nor any kind of stone but the common moor-stone, which is very good for building. About 24 years ago, quarrying and dressing stones for paving the streets of London, commenced; and it has continued ever since, almost without intermission.

*Population and Cattle, &c.*—Though the parish is of considerable extent, it is but thinly inhabited. The whole number of inhabitants exceeds not 352, of which there are 181 males and 171 females. Ranked according to their ages, they stand thus; under 10,—72; betwixt 10 and 20,—71; betwixt 20 and 50,—157; betwixt 50 and 70,—45; and betwixt 70 and 100,—7. As to births, marriages, and burials, at an average, there are in the year eight baptisms, four burials, and two marriages. There are 70 dwelling-houses. There are about 24 large, and 46 small farms. There are in the parish between 700 and 750 cattle. The number of sheep does not exceed 600.

*Poor.*—There are only five on the list at present, who get regular supplies, four times a-year. They receive from 25 s. to 30 s. yearly. Poor subtenants with numerous families receive occasional supplies, from 10 s. to 15 s. The fund for supplying our poor arises from the contributions in the church, which amount annually to betwixt L. 8 and L. 9; from the interest of L. 20 lent; and from the rent of a loft and a few pews in the church.

*Manners and Dispositions.*—The people are, on the whole,  
humane,

humane, social, peaceable, and industrious. They all belong to the Presbyterian established religion.

*Bridges and Roads.*—There are no bridges in the parish of any note. The roads are not good; they are made and repaired by the statute labour. There are no turnpikes.

*Rent.*—The rent of ground varies according to the soil. The best infield near the river, is from 15 s. to 20 s. *per acre*. The outfield from 5 s. to 10 s. *per acre*.

*Fuel.*—The fuel made use of for fire is chiefly turf. Some bring coals from Aberdeen; and a few tenants have peats from the mosses in Fintray and Newmachar.

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## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF INCH.

*(County of Wigton.)**By the Rev. Mr PETER FERGUSSON.**Situation, Name, Extent, and Surface.*

THE parish of Inch is situated in the county of Wigton, the presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway. Opposite to the small village of Inch, where the church now stands, is an island, whence, in all probability, the parish derived its name; the word for *Island*, in the Gaelic language, being similar in sound to the name of the parish. This island is situated in the loch of Castle Kennedy, and is about 600 yards in circumference. In this island there was formerly a place of worship, vestiges of which are still remaining; and it communicated with the land by a causeway and draw-bridge. The names of places in this parish, and, indeed, in all the county, are Gaelic; and are in general characteristic of the local situation, or of some peculiar circumstance. The parish of Inch is nine miles long, and in some parts the same in breadth. About one half of the parish consists of flat and low land, forming an extensive plain, which stretches from Lochryan, nearly to the bay of Luce. On the east and north-east of this plain, rises a beautiful range of hills, reaching from one end of the parish to the other. The face of these is partly green pasture, and partly arable land.

land. Their tops, for some miles, are covered with heath, till you descend on the other side to the water of Luce, where there is excellent pasture, and good arable ground. This water divides the parish from Newluce; discharges itself into Luce bay; and abounds with salmon.

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil of Inch is various. Near Stranraer, there is a good loam. The rest of the parish consists chiefly of a light sandy soil. The hills abound in moss. By the influence and example of the late Earl of Stair, the Inch has undergone a total alteration. It is but justice to remark, that this noble and worthy personage, was the great promoter of improvement in this part of the country. As he possessed skill and ability, so he acted on an extensive scale. He procured proper implements of husbandry,—paired and burnt mossy grounds,—divided and inclosed his lands,—drained swamps and marshes,—made excellent roads,—tore up large tracks of barren ground,—and imported lime in great quantities both from England and Ireland. Hence what formerly produced only heath, soon yielded rich crops of corn. The people beheld the beneficial effects of his meliorations. They were roused from indolence and inactivity. Ignorance and idleness soon vanished, and labour and industry occupied their place. As a specimen of the excellent effects of his Lordship's improvements, a farm which, preceding 1790, was let for the sum of L. 7 : 2 : 6, now rents at L. 195; and another, previous to the same date, was rented at L. 48 : 4 : 8, and is now let at L. 245. The same nobleman found his estate in this parish, not only in a great measure barren, but also naked. He therefore clothed and adorned it with large plantations of trees. During the space of twenty years, he planted annually, at an average, at least 20,000 trees, chiefly Scots firs,  
with

with some larix, ash, beech, &c. The valued rent of Inch is L. 5954 Scots. There are farms from L. 10 and under, to L. 300 rent. The best arable land lets at a guinea the acre. According to its quality, it rents from 5s. 10s. and 15s. to 20s. The quantity of grain annually fold, may be stated at 1000 Galloway bolls, or 2000, Linlithgow measure. The crops consist chiefly of oats. Both Poland and Blanter corn are sown, of which the former is by far the most productive. Bear in some places answers well, and considerable crops are raised; also some wheat, and potatoes in abundance. Few attempt to raise flax; it is, however, not unproductive in some places of the parish. Clover and ryegrass are sown by the farmers in general, and with great advantage. Some have been successful in raising turnip.

*Cattle and Sheep.*—The Galloway breed of black cattle are universally known and admired in both kingdoms. They are finely shaped, and have no horns. Attention to the size and shape of the bull is of consequence. It is calculated that there are 2500 head of black cattle in the parish of Inch, and about 5000 sheep, mostly of the Scots breed. The wool sells from 10s. to 12s. the stone.

*Population.*—The whole inhabitants of this parish amount to 1450 souls, of which number 701 are males, and 749 females. In Dr Webster's report the number was 1513. The number of children baptised in 1790, was 32, of which 17 were males, and 15 females. The number of Seceders, young and old, may be stated at 240. The annual marriages are eight at an average.

*Lakes, &c.*—This parish is remarkable for its fresh water lakes. They are 15 in number; some of a larger, and some of

of a less extent. They abound in pike, perch, carp, tench, roach, white and red trout; and are frequented by a variety of water fowl, such as wild ducks, teals, widgeons, coots, and cormorants. Swans emigrate from Ireland, particularly in severe winters, and continue on these lakes till spring. The two lakes of Castle-Kennedy are very fine pieces of water, in each of which there is an island. The lakes are nearly parallel; the one a mile, and the other a mile and a half in length, and both in some parts half a mile broad.

*Castle.*—Castle-Kennedy is a large square building; and was burnt by accident in 1715, nor has it ever since been rebuilt. The walls of the ruin still standing are 70 feet in height.

*Church.*—The manse is called *Soul seat, Sedes animarum*, and is almost surrounded by a loch nearly similar in form to a horse shoe. The King is Patron of this parish. The living is 48 bolls of meal, 16 of bear, Linlithgow measure, and L. 45 in money, with a manse and glebe.

*Villages and Antiquities.*—The Cairn is the only considerable village in the parish, and contains 130 souls. It is situated on the side of Lochryan, a piece of water, and has an excellent harbour from three to eight fathoms deep at low water. Here many vessels from the West Indies, bound for Clyde, take refuge from the storm, and ride in perfect safety. The Cairn is well situated for foreign trade, and excellently adapted for ship-building. Below the village, towards Ayrshire, there is a bold rocky shore, where there are several caves, extending 80 and 100 yards under ground. The cairns of Cairnarran exhibit an appearance truly singular. In the extent of a Scots mile, there are nine of them, of



which fix are very near one another, within less than an English mile. Two circumstances render them very remarkable; the vast quantity of stones piled together, and the distance whence these stones must have been carried; as many of them are situated in mossy ground, where not a single stone can be found. Where any of them has been entirely demolished, urns have been found containing ashes and burnt bones. There are several moats in this parish. A beautiful one still remains entire on the side of Lochryan, in a farm called Innermeffan, and commands a full view of the loch. It appears to be wholly formed of earth. At the bottom it measures 336 feet round; from the foundation to the top 60 feet; and the diameter at the top is 78 feet. It is a round figure, and plain at the top.

*Mineral Springs.*—In the parish of Inch there are several mineral springs. A sulphur spring has been lately discovered, which is of considerable strength, and said to be useful in stomachic and scorbutic complaints. There is also, in the neighbourhood of the Cairns already mentioned, a chalybeate spring, which pours forth a great quantity of water.

*Fuel.*—The Inch is exceedingly well supplied with peat. In the moors every tenant has abundance on his own farm. In the lower parts of the parish there are a great many swamps, and every swamp is a moss. There are also some appearances of coal. A few years ago, Lord Stair employed men, supposed to be competent judges, to explore the ground, but they were unsuccessful in their researches.

*Poor.*—There are eighteen persons on the poor's list, who are supported chiefly by the weekly collection, and an annual gratuity given by the Earl of Stair. This parish is both  
able

able and willing to provide for its own poor; but the people are greatly oppressed by inundations of poor vagrants from Ireland. The great road from Portpatrick to Dumfries, passes through this parish, and is constantly swarming with Irish beggars. They turn aside into the country, and, either by entreaties or by threats, extort alms from the inhabitants. They often go in crowds together, accompanied generally with a number of young children. They may be divided into two classes. The first are those whose only object is to beg their bread. The second are those called *troggers*, who carry on a species of traffic, unknown, I am persuaded, in most places. They bring linen from Ireland, which they barter for the old woollen clothes of Scotland, and these they prefer to gold or silver. Bending under burdens of these clothes, they return to their own kingdom.

*Character of the Inhabitants.*—They are in general sober, intelligent, social, and hospitable. Their knowledge of agriculture, for these last twenty years, is much enlarged, and their habits of life much improved.

*Diseases, &c.*—The parish is situated between Lochryan and the bay of Luce, and enjoys a mild and healthy climate. Epidemical distempers are seldom known here; rheumatisms, however, are frequent. But, upon the whole, the inhabitants enjoy much health, and live to a good old age. There are about 30 persons in the parish above 80 years of age, two 95, and one who says he is 105.

*Heritors.*—There are seven heritors in the parish, of whom the Earl of Stair is the only residing one.

## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF DUNSCORE.

*(County of Dumfries.)**By the Rev. Mr JOSEPH KIRKPATRICK.**Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

THIS parish is situated in the county, presbytery, and synod of Dumfries. From the river Nith, which intersects it in one place in the lower end, it extends across the country to the river Urr, which runs along the upper end. The river Cairn runs through it near the middle; and, a little below, receives the name of *Cluden River*. The parish is very narrow at the middle; and, turning wider at both ends, nearly resembles a sand-glass. It is about 12 miles long. In some parts it is 4, in some 3, in some 2 miles broad; and, in one part, only a few yards, being nearly intersected by the parishes of Glencairn and Holywood. It is partly muir, and partly dale. It is very flat along the river Nith; but, in general, it is hilly, and, in the upper end, rocky and mountainous. The tops of the hills are generally covered with heath. A pretty high hill, called Halliday-hill, lying in the lower end of the parish, is mostly covered with green pasture. Of late, much progress has been made in improving the lower hills by lime and tillage; but the high multures, to which a great part of the parish is subjected,

jected, are a very great discouragement to improvements in agriculture.

*Soil*.—Some parts of the soil are deep and fertile; but much more of it is light and shallow, lying upon a tilly bed. The sides of the hills, facing the north, seem to be generally of a more deep and strong soil, than those of a southern exposure.

*Diseases*.—Fever and rheumatism seem to be the most prevailing diseases, and are often occasioned by the people exposing themselves to variable weather; or, when warmed with their labour, by suffering themselves to cool suddenly, by keeping on wet clothes, and by living poorly, and in damp houses.

*Population* —The number of souls, at present in the parish, is about 913. In Dr Webster's Report, the number is 651.

Abstract of the baptisms for the last ten years, exclusive of the children of the Secession.

Years.	Baptisms.	Males.	Females.
1781	28	11	17
1782	17	11	6
1783	26	13	13
1784	22	11	11
1785	19	11	8
1786	17	6	11
1787	19	11	8
1788	20	16	4
1789	30	18	12
1790	26	15	11

Years.

Years.	Burials.
1782	30 owing to a malignant fever.
1783	11
1784	14
1785	15
1786	6
1787	11
1788	12
1789	15
1790	20

Young children, for whom the mortcloth is not used, are not included in the above. The yearly average of burials is about 17. There are 76 farmers, including such proprietors as either farm the whole or a part of their estates; 2 shepherds; 6 blacksmiths; 7 joiners; 11 masons; 7 shoemakers; 19 weavers; 6 taylors; 5 millers; and 1 clock and watchmaker. Of late, the number of inhabitants is considerably increased, which may be owing to the farms being made smaller, and the improvement of the land by lime from Clofeburn and Barjarg. James Grierton, Esq; of Dalgoner has also, of late years, granted a number of feus, which have greatly augmented the number of inhabitants upon his estate. The inhabited houses are 224; five persons in each house may be nearly the average.

*Cattle and Sheep.*—The number of black cattle is nearly 1300; the number of sheep 3480; and the number of horses 218. The black cattle, in general, are of the Galloway breed; but Mr Robert Burns, a gentleman well known by his poetical productions, who rents a farm in this parish, is of opinion, that the west country cows give a larger quantity of milk.

*Agriculture*

*Agriculture and produce.*—This parish, besides supplying itself with provisions, exports oats, meal, and barley. Hemp and flax are not much cultivated, though more has been raised of late than formerly; and, in the course of the ensuing season, a flax-mill is to be erected on the river Cairn. Oats are sown in March and April, and reaped in September and October. Barley is sown in the beginning of May. There are about 72 ploughs in the parish, and chiefly of the Scottish kind.

*Church.*—The money and victual stipend that should be paid annually is L. 48 : 12 : 2½. The glebe was valued, 25 years ago, at L. 6 : 1 : 9 Sterling; but it has been much improved of late, and would now let for L. 20 Sterling. In 1649, the church was removed from the lower end of the parish to near the middle of it, where it now stands.

*School.*—There is no legal salary for a schoolmaster in this parish. A Mr Grierson of Edinburgh, a good many years ago, left L. 300 for the use of a school in this parish. The heritors were nominated trustees for managing it; and, about 30 years ago, they divided the annual rent of said L. 300 amongst three schoolmasters, in the following proportions. To the schoolmaster in the upper end of the parish, they allotted L. 6 : 10 : 0; to one in the middle of the parish, L. 2; to one in the lower end of the parish, L. 6 : 10 : 0. Between 20 and 30 scholars attend the school at the upper end of the parish; between 30 and 40 attend the school in the middle of the parish; about 37 attend the school in the lower end of the parish. 1 s. and 2 d. a quarter is the fee to the schoolmaster for each scholar learning to read English, and 1 s. 6 d. for learning arithmetic. The encouragement

agement being so inconsiderable, the parish cannot be supposed to have well qualified teachers.

*Heritors.*—There are 43 heritors in this parish, 26 of whom reside in it.

*Poor.*—In the year 1738, the names of ten persons were in the poor's list; in 1756, eleven. About four years ago, twenty persons got supply from the poor's funds; but, at present, there are only ten in the poor's roll. The funds for the poor are about L. 23 Sterling; of which L. 15 arise from the collections in the church, and the rest from the interest of legacies.

*Fuel.*—Peats are generally used; and, except in a part of the lower end of the parish, most of the proprietors have moss in their own estates. Those who have them to purchase pay for the liberty of casting them.

*Antiquities.*—The church being removed to the middle of the parish in the year 1649, the vestiges of the old one still remain. Upon the top of a hill called *Meiklewood-muir* are the walls of a house which are still named the *Preaching walls*. There are also vestiges of a chapel and burying place in the upper end of the parish; the farm still retains the name of *Chapel*. The burying place is not tilled. Upon one corner of it grew a large yew-tree, which was consumed in the heart. Three men have stood in it at once; but it was overturned by the wind this season.

## NUMBER XVIII.

## PARISH OF LUGGAN,

*(In Badenoch, County of Inverness.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES GRANT.**Name, Situation, and Boundaries.*

THE name is derived from the Gaelic, and is expressive of its natural situation, *Lug* signifying a *hollow* or *low* place. Though this parish is one of the highest in Scotland with regard to its elevation above the sea, there are in it many glens and narrow valleys. It lies in the southern extremity of Inverness-shire, presbytery of Abertarph, and snyder of Glenelg, extending, from north-east to south-west, upwards of 20 miles. The breadth of the inhabited part is about 3 miles; but, taking its boundaries south and north, it will measure more than 20 miles. It is bounded on the north by *Monu-lic*, or *Grey Mountain*, a prodigious ridge of inaccessible rocks.

*Rivers, Lakes, and Woods.*—The river Spey takes its rise from a very small lake of the same name in the western parts of the parish, and is formed by currents falling down from the mountains. It runs through the middle of the parish; its course is from west to east, inclining a little to the north. In its progress, besides many rivulets, it receives the river



Mafie about the middle of the parish, and the river Truime' at the eastern extremity. Both these rivers fall into it from the south, and have their rise in the Grampians. Loch-laggan, which, with its environs, forms a district by itself, lies on the south-west extremity of the parish. It is very deep, with a bold rocky shore; and it is surrounded with woody mountains. On the south side is the *Coill More*, or *Great Wood*, the most considerable remain of the great Caledonian Forest. This wood, which extends five miles along the loch side, is the scene of many traditions. At the east end of the lake, the river Pattack, which is formed by a lake of the same name, falls into Loch-laggan; which runs from east to west, and discharges itself by the Spean river into Loch-lochy, near Fort William. The rivers Mafie and Pattack run almost parallel to one another. They are about two miles distant. The former goes by the Spey into the German Ocean; the latter into the Western Sea. There are some other smaller lochs, as *Loch n'Righ*, or the *King's Loch*, remarkable for large black trout, very fat and high flavoured. Loch laggan abounds with char, and various kinds of trout. In the Spey, there are some salmon, with plenty of fine trout and pike, of a large size.

*Air, Soil, and Climate.*—The air is moist, and generally very cold; yet, so purified by storms, and kept in motion by rapid currents, that it is, upon the whole, clear and healthy. Along the banks of the river is a very rich and deep soil; which, were it not for the disadvantages of inundations, frosts, and mildews, would produce as rich crops as any in the kingdom. The lands that lie in slopes and declivities, without the water-mark, are, though stoney, of a good quality, and produce surer crops than the rich meadows, being earlier ripened, by the reflection of the sun from the adjacent

cent

cent rocks. The lands on Loch-laggan side, though higher, and lying in a still wetter climate than that of the valley in the center of the parish, yield a surer crop, being less liable to frosts and mildews, owing to their lying on a stratum of lime. The climate here is very variable; every two or three miles makes a sensible difference; and it rains on the one side of the river, when it is dry on the other. It is the highest and most inland parish in Scotland.

*Produce.*—The vegetable produce is oats and barley, rye, and potatoes. The ground on the river side, if allowed to remain out of culture 3 years, yields excellent crops of black and white oats, without any manure. When prepared for barley, it requires a very great quantity of compost manure. The number of black cattle in the parish may probably be computed at about 1600. The ground is laboured by horses, generally of the country breed, of a middling size, and very hardy. In former times, it was usual to send many of them to market; but now the parish hardly raises a sufficient number for labouring the ground, owing to the introduction of sheep, and consequently the advanced value of hill-grass. The average quantity of meal made in the parish, in ordinary good years, is 2450 bolls; but the crop of 1782 did not exceed 850 bolls. The sheep-farms in this parish are not above four or five. These sheep-farms at present support about 12,000. The other farms, on which there are a mixture of black cattle, sheep, and horses, will not support above 2000 sheep. In whole, there are about 20,000 sheep in the parish. People in general judge it more profitable to reduce their number of black cattle, and, as much as possible, to increase their sheep. The best and largest wedders fell from 12 to 15 or 16 s.; and an ordinary wedder, of the smallest kind, which the general run of tenantry rear, sells  
from

from 7 to 9 s. Six years ago, these latter would not have brought above 5 s. or 4 s. 6 d. Wool fells, unwashed, from 7 s. 6 d. to 8 s. a stone; smeared, or tarry wool, about 5 s. 3 d. or 5 s. 6 d. a stone. A Highland stot that, about 20 or 30 years ago, would not have brought above 20 pounds Scots, will now fell from L. 3 to L. 4 Sterling. Milk cows, that, within these 12 years, would have been sold at L. 3 : 3 : 0, or L. 3 : 10 : 0, will now bring from L. 4 to L. 6. Horses that sold, 10 or 12 years ago, at L. 2 : 10 : 0, or L. 3 : 10 : 0, will now bring in the country L. 5 or L. 6. The vegetable produce of the land is not sufficient to support its inhabitants.

*Improvements.*—Farmers have at last found out the advantage of inclosures, and the comfort of good habitations; for which the proprietors are disposed to make a reasonable allowance. At the end of a lease, the tenant is allowed melioration-money, for dykes, dwelling-houses, and offices, to their full extent.

*Rent of the Parish, and Proprietors.*—There are only two proprietors, His Grace the Duke of Gordon, and Colonel M'Pherson of Cluny. The Duke of Gordon's valued rent is L. 1202 : 0 : 9 Scots; Colonel M'Pherson's L. 599 Scots.

*Population.*—In the return made by Dr Webster, in the year 1753, of the population of Luggan, the number was 1521 souls, and, at the close of last year, the number was 1512.

Abstract of births and marriages from the year 1780 to 1790, inclusively.

Years,

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	
1780	39	9	
1781	32	8	
1782	57	9	
1783	34	17	
1784	47	9	
1785	40	9	27 burials,
1786	35	1	
1787	41	7	
1788	36	12	
1789	35	9	
1790	38	11	
	434	101	

The yearly average of baptisms and marriages, from the above abstract, will be about 40 baptisms and 9 marriages. But, as there are 250 Catholics in the parish, which is a 6th of the whole, the average may be laid proportionally higher.

*Quality of Farmers.*—The parish is let to three descriptions of people. Gentlemen farmers, consisting of half-pay officers and graziers, chiefly those who are professedly shepherds; and the lower class of people, who pay from L. 3 to L. 6, yearly rent, which are the more numerous class. The gentlemen pay from L. 30 to L. 100 Sterling. Sheep-farms pay from L. 60 to L. 190, yearly rents. Farms in general seem to be on the rise, from the numerous and advanced offers that are made for every farm which is out of lease, as the same kind of sheep-farms only seem capable of bearing any considerable advance of rent. The value of such ground as is calculated for rearing sheep does not seem yet to be fully understood; but people in general entertain a high idea of its

its value. A farm which, about 12 years ago, paid only L. 30 rent to the Commissioners of the Annexed Estates, has been since let by the holder of it to an Airshire shepherd at L. 190, and it is still thought a good bargain. The Duke of Gordon has not as yet shewn any great disposition to let his lands to shepherds; that nobleman is attached to his people, and fond of nourishing and rearing them.

*Church, Stipend, Patron, &c.*—In the year 1785, there was a commodious church built, in the centre of the parish, at a very considerable expence. The glebe at present lets at near L. 12 Sterling. The Duke of Gordon is patron of the parish. The minister lives near the church, upon a commodious farm; and the heritors allow him L. 20 Sterling, in lieu of a manse, till one is built. The money stipend is L. 70 Sterling.

*Schools.*—In the middle of the parish stands the parochial school, and schoolmaster's house, under one roof, both sufficiently commodious. The heritors allow the schoolmaster 1500 merks of salary. The number of scholars attending this school are from 50 to 80, and sometimes more. In the western parts of the parish are two Society schools; one upon the Duke of Gordon's estate, and the other upon the estate of Cluny.

*Servants and Labourers.*—Our business is managed and carried on chiefly by house-servants. There are a few who may have one, sometimes two, of their servants without the family; but this never happens unless the servant is a married man, with a family. He receives from his master a hut to live in; grass for a cow; ground to sow a boll or two of corn; and a small spot for planting 3 or 4 pecks of potatoes; with

with two pecks of meal a week. Sometimes, if he is better than the ordinary run of servants, he will, in addition to the above, receive L. 1 Sterling in the year.

We generally get our labourers, that is to say, dykers and ditchers, from the north; and a few can be had in the parish. They will earn from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. a day. There is one mason, with two apprentices, in the parish; five or six weavers; no shoemakers regularly bred. The common people make their own shoes. There are three or four brogue-makers, three house-carpenters, seven taylors, and one blacksmith.

*Ruins.*—At the east end of Loch-laggan stand the remains of an old church dedicated to St Kenneth. The greatest part of the walls of that venerable edifice are still standing. It is surrounded by a consecrated burying ground, which is still more used than any other. In the middle of the *Coill More*, a great wood on the south side of the loch, is a place called *Arst Merigie*, or the height on which a standard was wont to be erected. Here is a place held sacred by the most remote antiquity, and said to be the burial-place of seven kings of the antient Caledonians. It should appear, from popular tradition, that those kings, or eminent warriors, lived about the period when the Scots were driven by the Picts beyond the Tay, and had their seat of government at Dunkeld. It likewise appears, that of old this was a famous place for hunting; and indeed it continued to abound in deer and roes till very lately, that the introduction of sheep, with which these animals never mingle, has driven them away. It is said that the kings came always, with their retinue and hounds, to hunt, for the most part of the summer, on the banks of this loch, and in the neighbourhood.

This

This is rendered the more probable, from the vicinity of the parallel roads in Glenroy, already made known to the public, which were evidently calculated for the purposes of hunting, and must have been made by some persons of more power and consequence, than any usually residing in this country. In the middle of the loch are two islands, one of them much less than the other. On the larger, are the side-walls still remaining of a very antient building, made of common round stones, but cemented with mortar. This is said to be the place where the kings retired from hunting, and feasted on their game. In the neighbouring island, which is called *Ellan n' Cone*, or, *The Island of Dogs*, and said to be the place where their hounds were confined, is also a wall standing of a similar building. In the middle of the parish, there is a rock, which is upwards of 100 yards perpendicular, and very difficult of access; yet, on the very summit, there are considerable remains of a fortification. The wall is built, outside and inside, with large flags, or broad stones, without mortar. It is upwards of three yards in thickness. The area will measure 500 feet in length, and 250 in breadth.

N U M.

N U M B E R XIX.

UNITED PARISHES OF BONKLE AND PRESTON.

(County of Berwick.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT DOUGLAS.

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*Name, Situation, Extent.*

THE parishes of Bonkle and Preston, were originally two separate parishes, but are now united. *Bonkle* is supposed to be derived from *bona cella*. It lies in the county of Berwick, presbytery of Dunfe, and synod of Kelso. It is nearly a square of six miles, and contains 8,900 acres.

*Soil.*—In the high lands towards the Lammermoor hills, the soil is thin, dry, heathy, and poor; but it has of late been much improved by lime. The rest of the parish, and particularly on the banks of the Whittater, consists of a fine fertile loam.

*Air and Diseases.*—As in most parts of the east of Scotland, the air is very healthy. Formerly the people were very subject to agues in the spring; but since improvements have commenced, and been carried to a very considerable state of perfection, this disease has almost totally disappeared. This effect is attributed to the bogs and swamps being drained, and to the improvement of the surface.



*Quarries*.—There is whin stone in different parts, and good free stone quarries upon the banks of Whittater, both very fit for building houses, and inclosing ground.

*Minerals*.—A copper mine was discovered in Lord Douglas's estate, at a small farm called Hoardweel. It was wrought about twelve years ago, by an English company, and had a very promising appearance, the ore being very rich; but, although the vein continued, it ceased to bear metal, and was abandoned. It is thought the trials made to recover it were not sufficient.

*Land-Floods*.—The river Whittater runs with great rapidity, and at some places rises 15 feet perpendicular above its ordinary channel, overflowing the haughs and carrying off great part of the soil. Attempts have been made by several heritors to make barricadoes, but few of them have been successful. A very great flood happened in October 1775, which carried down every bridge, excepting the bridge at Preston, in this parish. They have since been rebuilt at very considerable expence.

*Cattle and Sheep*.—The cattle bred in this and the neighbouring parishes, particularly in the district between this and Tweed, are considerable in point of number, and as large as any bred in Scotland. But people of skill are of opinion, that they are not so good as our land can rear, nor of a kind that fatten speedily. Some public spirited gentlemen and farmers, have of late purchased, at very high prices, some fine bulls and cows, from the best places, and best breeders in England. They have not yet, however, become general. The bulls are let out to the country at two guineas. Sheep is the great staple of the low parts of this parish, and of this county

county in general. They are the English breed introduced by Mr Bakewell, and since carried on by the Messrs Culleys, and other eminent breeders, both in Northumberland, and this county. The criterion of their goodness and sort, is getting sooner and more easily fat, than any other animal, bearing a valuable fleece, and enriching the land upon which they are fed. There are two different ages at which they are sold; the first when they are about 18 months old, after the first fleece is taken off, when they are called *dunmotts*, at which time they usually sell from 24s. to 34s. The second time is after their second fleece is taken off, when they are called *wedders of the first head*, and are 28 months old, when they sell from 32s. to 38s. each. The fleece weighs from seven to eight pounds each, and sells from 4s. 6d. to 5s. The ewes are kept for breeders, and are sold, after having three lambs, from 24s. to 34s. These sheep are bought by dealers, and driven to Morpeth market, where they are again sold, and killed at Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland, for the use of the coaleries and shipping; and many are driven to Yorkshire, and farther south. The wool is sold to agents from Leeds, and other manufacturing towns in Yorkshire; some is shipped at Berwick for Aberdeenshire, and a small quantity sent to Edinburgh and Stirling. The best pastures are appropriated for feeding sheep in summer, and they are mostly fed for five months in winter, upon turnip, of which very large quantities are raised. An acre of good pasture, value a guinea, will fatten three; and the average expence of turnip is 3d. *per* week, each sheep, when fed to the highest extent, which for the winter five months is 5s. each. It is computed that two ewes rear three lambs. High prices are paid for the hire of rams of good breeds, viz. from 10 to 30 guineas is common *per* season. Some have paid double or more for the season of the best bred rams.

Each

Each ram will impregnate from five to six score of ewes. It is a certain fact, that no animal follows the properties of the male so much as sheep; and therefore, the breeder is seldom disappointed. The highest breed also bear the finest wool, though not always the greatest quantity. Our farmers pay as much attention to the breed of their sheep, as is paid to the highest breed of galloping horses in England; and I believe they bring much greater profit.

*Agriculture.*—As soon as the crop is off the ground, and sometimes before the flocks are removed, they begin to plough. They sow pease as early as the season will permit; after that oats, and then barley; and lastly turnip, which commonly begins in the last week of May, and finishes by the first of July. They begin to reap in the last week of August, and generally finish in the first week of October.

*Marle and Lime.*—There is a great quantity of clay marle along the banks of the Whittater. It was formerly used as a manure to great advantage, and possessed at an average, two-fifths of calcareous matter; but its operations are very slow, though lasting. The obligations in the tenants leases, in regard to the rotation of crops, and the obligation of having so great a quantity in grass, at least for the last 10 years of a 21 year's lease, have induced the farmers to prefer lime as a quick manure, though they are obliged to drive it 15 miles. Marle for raising crops of corn will last six times longer than lime.

*Poor.*—The poor in this parish, as well as every other in this county, are maintained by an assessment laid on by the heritors themselves, according to their several valued rents, one half of which is paid by the heritors, and the other

other half by the tenants. There are no legacies, and the collections are inconsiderable. There are no begging poor allowed in this county. Two constables are appointed with salaries, whose business is to go through the county, to attend fairs, markets, and public meetings, and take up all gypsies, tinkers, beggars, and disorderly persons, who cannot give a proper account of themselves. They are carried before the nearest justice of peace, who commits them to the county jail for some days; they are then conducted to the extremity of the county, nearest their own respective parishes; and besides the salary, the constables have 9d. *per* mile, for carrying them to jail, which expence is paid out of the rogue money. By this institution the county is kept free from beggars; and very few petty thefts are committed, as people of that description have connections together, and know they can scarcely escape.

*Fuel.*—Before the introduction of improvements, the farmers, &c. burned turf, which were principally taken from the Lammermoor hills. But, since improvements commenced, and the people knew the value of their labour, nothing but coal is used. It is all brought from Northumberland, at a distance of 15 miles, through very bad roads; and consequently driven in summer, when the Tweed is fordable.

*Ploughs.*—There are about 50 ploughs in the parish. They are all chain ploughs, and are drawn by two horses, without a driver.

*Roads.*—The roads and bridges in this parish are better than in most parts of this county, owing to its not being a great thoroughfare, to the vicinity of materials, and to the attention to having the statute labour properly applied. The roads

roads, in the greatest and best parts of the county, are bad beyond expression, and are a reproach to this rich and thriving district.

*Farms, &c*—The farms in this parish are from L. 200 to L. 600 a year. There are but few small farms. The whole parish under the Lammermoor hills, as well as the whole low parts of the county, are inclosed, principally with hedge and ditch.

*Population.*—There has never been any record kept of the population of this parish. Since the practice of letting large farms, this parish has decreased considerably in point of numbers of the people. From an exact state of the population, taken November 1790, it stands thus :

Number of families	-	131
of persons	-	622
of males	-	280
of females	-	342
below 10 years	-	160
from 10 to 20	-	146
from 20 to 50	-	231
from 50 to 70	-	74
from 70 to 100	-	11
Seceders of all denominations	-	130
In Dr Webster's report the number of souls is		691½

*Stipend.*—The minister's stipend is 35 bolls of meal, 17 bolls 2 firlots of barley, and L. 485 : 15 Scots; the glebe would rent at L. 20 Sterling; so that the value of the stipend may amount to L. 90 Sterling, yearly.

*School.*

*School.*—The schoolmaster's salary, school-fees, and his emoluments as precentor and session-clerk, amount to L. 12 : 16. The heritors employ him for collecting the poor's money, and the statute road money; and for these he has L. 3 : 15. In this parish there are no Roman Catholics or Episcopalian; no lawyers, writers, physicians, surgeons, or apothecaries.

NUM-

## NUMBER XX.

UNITED PARISHES OF LOCHGOIL-HEAD  
AND KILMORICH.

(County of Argyle.)

By the Rev. Mr DUGAL M'DOUGAL.



## Name.

**T**HE old name of this parish was *Kil nam brathairn-Kill*, which, in the Gaelic language, signifies, *a spot of ground upon which a church or chapel was built*. The ground within the chapel, and adjacent, was employed as a burying-place, and usually dedicated to the memory of some favourite saint. *Kil* is supposed to be derived from the Latin *cella*; *brathair* means *a brother*; and *Kilnam brathairan*, the *house and sacred ground of the brethren*; from which it appears, that Lochgoil-head was once the residence of some religious order or fraternity; but no tradition exists with regard to the nature of the establishment. During the last 200 years, the parish has been generally known by the name of *Lochgoil-head*, from *Lochgoil*, an arm of the sea; at the head of which the church is situated.

*History*.—The parish of Lochgoil-head, of old, was very extensive, and comprehended not only Kilmorich, but also the greatest part of Kilmaglass, now called Strachur. In the times of Popery, and of Prelacy, Lochgoil-head was an archdeanery; and, not only the revenues of Lochgoil-head itself, which

which were then very considerable, but part of the tithes of several other parishes, contributed to support the dignity of the arch-dean. The reformation of religion in Scotland, however necessary and beneficial in general, was productive of one evil, which could not readily be supposed to result from such a revolution. At that aera, at least two thirds of the places formerly established for public worship were suppressed. Under the church of Rome, the people, every where, had easy access to the places where they were to perform their devotions, and to receive religious instruction. But, after the Reformation, owing to the scarcity of the Protestant preachers, and to the avarice of the Reformers, (particularly the laymen who conducted that revolution), so few places of worship were permitted, and these consequently so distant from one another, and so divided by mountains, rivers, and arms of the sea, as to render it extremely difficult, and sometimes impossible, for the ministers to perform the duties of their office, or for the people to attend on their instructions. This was particularly the case in the province of Argyle. In order to remedy these inconveniencies, an act of parliament passed, *anno* 1649, empowering certain persons to disjoin the old, and to erect new, parishes in that province. In consequence of these powers, the commissioners dismembered the old parish of Lochgoil-head, and formed it into three separate and independent cures. One of these in the present parish of Strachur; Kilmorich was another; and the mother church made the third, which, from its situation, retained the old name.

*Situation and Extent.*—This parish is situated in the county and synod of Argyle, and in the presbytery of Dumoon. It is about 30 miles long, and from 6 to 20 miles broad. This is exclusive of a district belonging to it of 5 miles in length, which is annexed; *quoad farra*, to the parish of Inveraray.



*Figure and Surface.*—Of the figure of this parish it is impossible to give any adequate description, as it is intersected by three arms of the sea, divided by mountains, and indented by creeks and promontories. The east part of it is situated on the westward of Loch-long, an arm of the sea, which strikes off from the Frith of Clyde, at first in a north, and afterwards in a north-east direction, and separates the counties of Argyle and Dumbarton. It is about 24 miles in length; but the parish of Lochgoil-head occupies no more than 12 miles of its coast. Lochgoil is a small arm of the sea, which strikes off from Lochlong, in a north-west direction, and intersects the south division of the parish for 6 miles. The north-west part of the parish is divided in the same manner by Lochfine. Upon the west side of Loch-long, and upon both sides of Lochgoil, the coast is bold and steep, and the hills high and craggy. The shore, upon both sides of Loch fine, as far as this parish extends, is more flat and accessible; the land is very high, but not so rocky or steep. The barrenness of the ground along the coasts of Loch-goil and Loch-long is partly concealed; and the tremendous wildness of the scene, agreeably diversified by extensive natural woods, which cover the land near the coast, and rise to a considerable distance from the shore. To a person who is rowed up Loch-goil in a calm summer day, and who is not accustomed to see the strong features of nature, which prevail in this country, the appearance of the objects around him, must be uncommonly striking. The surface of the country in general is very unequal; some of the mountains, which form the western extremity of the Grampian hills, are situated in this parish. Particularly, *Bein una*, so called from the richness of its grass; *Bein-an-locham*, from the fresh water lake which washes its base; *Bein luibhain*, abounding in herbs; *Bein thiolaire*, remarkable for its springs  
and

and water-creffes; and *Bein Donich*, called after a faint of that name. These, and some other hills in this parish, rise to a great height. Their altitude has never been exactly ascertained; but, if we may judge from their appearance, and from the experience of those who frequently ascend them, none of them is much lower, and some of them are rather higher, than *Bein-lommen*, the height of which is well known. Some of these mountains are interspersed with huge rocks, caverns, and frightful precipices; in others, scarce a rock is to be seen. Till of late, they were covered with black heath; but, since they have been chiefly pastured with sheep, they begin to exhibit the pleasing appearance of verdure; and some of them are already green to the very tops. The low lands and valleys form a delightful variety in the surface of this parish. After surveying extensive wilds, and barren rocks, which present nothing but desolation and solitude, the eye is greatly refreshed, by the appearance of small cultivated spots of plain ground, upon the coast, and in the valleys, which bring back the pleasing ideas of shelter, of industry, and of population.

*Soil, and Climate.*—The soil in the hills is, for the most part, thin, dry, and firm to the tread of cattle. The high glens are generally wet and spongy, and, in some places, abound with deep moss. The land, upon the coast, is light, sharp, and sandy; and some of the low valleys are rich and fertile. The face of the heavens is generally louring and cloudy; a serene sky is seldom to be seen. The tops of the mountains are most frequently covered with clouds, and, during winter, with snow. The rain is heavy, and frequent. The winds, prevented from a free circulation, rush through the glens with irresistible violence; and, at the bottom of  
high

high hills, and in narrow valleys, the transitions of heat and cold are sudden and excessive.

*Diseases.*—Notwithstanding the moist and changeable nature of the climate, the people, in general, enjoy good health, and very few diseases are known among them. The constant, but moderate exercise, which is necessary for shepherds, and the sea-air enjoyed by fishers, are favourable to health. To these circumstances it may be added, that the people are not crowded together in towns or villages, every family having a complete, and, in general, a comfortable habitation for itself. The disease, of which the people chiefly complain, is the rheumatism, owing to the moisture of the climate, and to their manner of living, which exposes them daily to the changes of the weather. Extraordinary instances of longevity cannot be boasted of. There are, however, at present, in the parish, 16 persons above 80, and 4 of these above 90 years of age. There is one man, in particular, who is 93; and who not only enjoys health, and the exercise of his mental faculties, but also strength sufficient to dress his little garden and potatoe ground.

*Mines and Minerals.*—The rocks and stones in this country are chiefly moor-stone, and spar. These two substances are sometimes found separate, but are most frequently conjoined in the same mass. Spar is found in a great variety of forms; in some, it is transparent and pure; in others, it is of a marble hue; and it sinks, in some, to a mere earthy appearance. There is also some granite; but this substance is not found in any great quantities. There are several quarries of lime stone; but, owing to the badness of the roads, and the difficulty of communication between the different parts of the parish, they are of no service, except to the  
people

people who live in the immediate neighbourhood. In general, it is found cheaper to bring lime-stone from Ireland; but the quantity of lime used in this country is very inconsiderable. There is a lead mine near the head of Loch-fine, but it has never been wrought. Some years ago, a company, who were concerned in lead-mines in other parts of Argyle-shire, sent persons to open up and examine the place, in this parish, where the lead was supposed to exist. These persons found, that there was a lead mine, and carried away some of the ore; which, upon trial, was found to contain a greater proportion of silver than any lead ore in the west of Scotland. The company were upon terms with the proprietor for a lease of the mines, but no bargain was concluded.

*Caves.*—Among the rocks in this parish, there are a great number of natural caves, vaults, and grottos, of different forms and dimensions. One of these caves is situated a little below a very high and tremendous rock, from which a great number of smaller rocks seem to have been torn, either by lightning, or by some convulsion of the earth; probably by the former, as lightning produced a similar effect, a few years ago, in another part of the country. Among these smaller rocks is the cave already mentioned. The entry to it is in the form of an arch, about 4 feet high, and 3 broad. The cave itself is very spacious, of a circular figure, but not perfectly regular. It is more than 70 feet in circumference, and about 10 feet in height. All around the cave there are smaller vaults, resembling cellars; and, from one part of it, a narrow passage leads to a small apartment, not unlike a sleeping chamber. The cave is covered above by a great number of large rocks, which appear to have been thrown upon one another without any order or regularity; within, it is perfectly dry, but rather dark, having no light but what

it

it receives through the passage already mentioned. This cave is remarkable for having been the sanctuary of one of the lairds of Ardkinglafs; who, according to the tradition of the country, having been defeated and oppressed by some powerful neighbour, was obliged to conceal himself, and a few followers, in this cave for a whole year; during which time his vassals and tenants found means to supply him with provisions so secretly, that his retreat was not discovered by the enemy. It is called, from this incident, *Uamb mbei Sain Reoich* \*. But the most remarkable of all the numerous caves in this country, is one which is called *Uamb na plundarain*. In the face of a steep hill there is a small area between two rocks. At the bottom of this area is a small opening, the mouth of which is covered, and concealed from the eye by thick heath and ferns. This narrow and troublesome passage, through which a person of an ordinary size is with great difficulty able to creep, is about 6 feet long, and leads to a small subterraneous apartment, about 10 feet long, 6 broad, and 8 high. Four feet above the bottom of this cave, is a small opening, between two rocks, which must be ascended by a ladder; and which leads to a second apartment, about 15 feet long, 12 feet high, and of an irregular breadth. To this place it will be necessary to bring a candle, or lanthorn, as it is perfectly dark. From this there is a narrow and rugged passage to a third apartment, which is also dark. This place is about 24 feet in length, 15 in breadth, and as many in height. The rocks all around are covered with petrified water. The bottom, which is also rock, is perfectly dry. Two large rocks meeting cover it above, exactly like the roof of a house. Beyond this, there is  
another

\* *Hai Sain Reoich*, the son of Swarthy John; the patronymic name of the family of Ardkinglafs.

another dark cave, nearly of the same dimensions with the first. These, and a great many other subterraneous apartments, in this parish, were, in former times, often the residence of a banditti, who committed depredations on the neighbourhood. They were also of great service in preserving the persons, and the property, of the inhabitants, during the deadly feuds, and predatory wars, which prevailed of old in this country. A few years before the Revolution, the powerful families of Argyle and Athol were attached to opposite parties in the state; in consequence of this, and prompted to revenge by the memory of former injuries, the vassals of the latter made an irruption into Argyle-shire. Upon that occasion, the inhabitants of this parish retreated, with their wives, their children, and the most valuable part of their portable effects, to their caves, their strong-holds, and hiding places, from whence they surpris'd the enemy in several successful sallies, but could not prevent them from burning many houses, nor from carrying away and destroying much cattle.

*Antiquities.*—There are three castles in this parish. The castle of Dunduramh \* is a large and strong tower, of an irregular figure, with small turrets above the angles in the wall; but, as it is built in a low situation, it could only be a defence against the cursory attacks of hostile neighbours, or of thieves and robbers, who fought for plunder, and, when repulsed, fled away. Above the gate of the castle is the following inscription :

1596.

\* *Donduramh, the Fort of the two Oars.* This castle was built close to the sea; and, as the access to it by land was in these times very bad, the most frequent communication would probably be by boats.

1596.

}. MAN. BEHOLD. THE. END. OF. ALL. BENOUGHT.  
 WISER. THAN. THE. HIESTES. I. TRUST. IN GOD.

The castle of Ardkinglafs \* is composed of three separate towers, each of them fronting an area within. The space, between the towers, is defended by a strong wall, about 15 feet high. In the course of this wall is the great gate, which is defended by small round turrets in flank, with apertures, through which those who assailed the gate might be annoyed with arrows, or with small fire-arms. The gate is also defended by a small tower, immediately above it, called the *gate-tower*. Around the area, and within the walls, are smaller buildings, for lodging servants, for holding arms, and for storehouses and cellars. This castle, is also built in a low situation, and could not stand out against a regular investment. The time in which this castle was built is not known; but there is certain evidence of its having been repaired in the year 1586. The old residence of the family of Ardkinglafs, of which the ruins can now scarcely be traced, was at a small distance from the present castle, but in a more commanding situation. The place of greatest antiquity, and strength,

\* *Ardkinglafs*, probably *Aird achoinghlais*, the residence of the gray dog. The great extent of plain ground around Ardkinglafs permitted the proprietors to indulge in the pleasures of the chace, the favourite amusement of the times. *Aird* generally means the *residence* of a great family; it seems to express the same meaning which the word *place* conveys in some parts of the low country of Scotland. *Ard* signifies *high*. In former times, powerful families usually built in high situations, particularly on promontories, for defence; and the name is still continued, though the circumstance which first gave rise to it has ceased to exist.

strength, in this district, is the castle of Carrick\*. This castle is built upon a rock, which was formerly surrounded by the sea, by means of a deep ditch. The entry to the castle from the land, was by a draw-bridge, which was defended by a strong wall, and two small towers. The castle itself, is of an oblong figure, but not perfectly regular, as the architects in laying the foundation, kept in some places by the very edge of the rock; it is 66 feet long, and 38 broad, over walls, the side wall is 64 feet high, and 7 feet thick. Between the castle and the sea, there is a part of the rock unoccupied, which was surrounded by a high and strong wall, built round the edge of the rock, within this space 100 men might conveniently stand, for the defence of the castle, if it was attacked by sea. Before the invention of gunpowder, the castle of Carrick could only be taken by surprise; it was scarcely possible to storm it, nor could it be taken by blockade, as it had always a free communication with the sea, for a vessel of any burden will swim along the side of the rock. The time in which this castle was built, does not seem to be ascertained: It can be traced up as far as the end of the 15th century, but it is probably much older. The tradition of the country is, that it was built by the Danes. It was a King's house, and the Duke of Argyle is heritable keeper of it. It was burnt by the Atholmen. Nothing now remains but the walls; and these are not entire.

*Woods.*—In all the moorlands in this country, even in those on the tops of the hills, trunks of trees of various kinds are found, and there is no doubt that this country was once much covered with timber. Old people still remember several extensive woods, where there is not now the vestige of

\* Carrraig, a Rock.



a tree. The great object, for a long time, was to clear the ground, and to prepare it for pasture and tillage; but this system was carried too far: Timber has become so scarce, and so valuable, that in a considerable part of such a country as this, the woods yield a greater profit than any thing else which the lands can produce. The natural woods, therefore, are now regularly cut, and preserved with care; and there is a great number of trees planted yearly in different places. The natural woods consist of ash, alder, hazel, and birch, but mostly oak; and there are several plantations, (particularly a very extensive one at the family place of Ard-kinglass) of Scots and silver fir, larix, plain, beech, elm, and lime. The natural and planted timber in this parish, yields the proprietors of the land about L. 500 Sterling yearly; if the woods were cut down, the ground which they occupy, even though perfectly cleared, would not pay the half of that rent.

*Agriculture.*—As this parish was never measured, it is impossible to ascertain the number of arable acres in it with any exactness. It is believed, however, that the proportion of arable land to the rest of the parish, is as one to fifty. There was more grain raised in this country formerly than at present: The inhabitants of old were in use to delve, or dig the ground, a great way up the face of very steep hills, and the ridges can be traced at this day; at present, there is very little ground in tillage, but what is ploughed; and such is the inattention of the people to agriculture, and so tenacious are they of old customs, that they continue to use the strong heavy Scots plough, which requires two men and four horses, though the ground, in general, is neither strong nor stoney. Some of the tacksmen are beginning to use the light English plough, by which they save the expence of a  
man

man and two horses. This country, however, is in every respect ill adapted for tillage; there is very little land capable of being ploughed, little sun-shine to ripen, or dry weather to preserve the crops. The present sowing of this very extensive parish, is only 230 bolls of oats, and 25 bolls of bear. The small quantity of grain that is sown, does not yield good returns; oats generally yield three seeds and a half, and bear from four to five seeds; nor will the ground produce even these scanty crops, without constant manure. Oats are sown from the 6th to the 26th of April, and bear the second and third weeks of May. The harvest begins in September, and the crops are seldom completely safe before the end of October; in wet seasons the harvest is still later. Potatoes are much cultivated, and they produce plentifully; there are about 150 bolls planted annually. The hay harvest, however, is the most important, and occupies the attention, and the labour of the people, more or less, from the end of July to the end of October.

*Fish.*—There are in this parish two small water lakes, which afford abundance of trout, of a small size, but of a most delicious taste and flavour; these trouts are killed with the rod, and take the hook readiest in the months of May and June. In the rivers Goil, Fine, and Long, there are burn trouts of different sizes, and near the coast, sea trout and salmon. Loch-fine, Loch-long, and Loch-goil, abound in great variety of excellent fish; at all seasons of the year, there are haddocks, whittings, and codlings; they are killed either with the hand line, or with the long line. The haddocks in Loch-goil are more numerous, and of a larger size, than in those parts of Loch-fine, and Loch-long, which belong to this parish. In consequence of the ready access from Loch-goil, and Loch-long, to Greenock, Port-Glasgow, Glasgow, and Paisley, considerable

able sums of money might be made of this fishing, and many hands might be employed, with great benefit to the country, and advantage to the inhabitants; especially in the winter and spring seasons, when fresh fish of every kind, must bring a great price in these populous towns. It must be confessed, that this field of industry has been much neglected; and it was not till of late, after some people from Nairn began to fish in these lochs, that the inhabitants of the country were sensible of the plenty, which Providence has placed within their reach. They are now beginning, and only beginning, to bestow more attention on this kind of fishing, but not such as its importance deserves. In the end of spring, and in summer, there are several salmon fisheries, on the coasts of the three lochs so often mentioned; but the quantity of salmon killed is very inconsiderable. A few shoals of mackerel, usually come in to Loch-goil, and Loch-long, in the months of June and July. What fish is killed is sent to Glasgow, Greenock, &c. Before the middle of May the salmon gives from 10d. to 8d. the pound, and after that 6d. Mackerel, being a fish which is only got occasionally, never fails to bring a great price; a mackerel generally brings from 1½ d. to 2d. But the fish which is of the greatest general good; in this country, and in every country where it is found in abundance, is herring. There is frequently a good herring fishing, in some one of the three lochs connected with this parish. The Loch-sine herrings are well known; and the herrings killed in the two other lochs, are nearly of the same size and quality. The herrings generally make their appearance in the months of June and July, and sometimes remain till December or January; and as the lochs in this country are seldom more than a mile broad, and have no swell of sea, nor rapid currents, the boats can go out in the stormiest seasons. The alacrity with which the people prepare for this, seems

seems to compensate for their indifference to every other fishing. The two last seasons there was a great herring fishing in Loch-goil, and Loch-long, especially in the former; but scarce any in Loch-fine. The last year in particular, there were upwards of 120 boats, and at least 500 men in both these lochs more than four months; and there is good reason to believe, that L. 5000 Sterling were received for herring, exclusive of what the fishers used for their own subsistence, and of the great quantity which was consumed fresh in the country. It is computed that L. 1200 Sterling of this money was drawn by the inhabitants of this parish. Such a fishing is not frequent in Loch-goil; but, as has been already observed, there are often great numbers of herrings caught in some one or other of the neighbouring lochs; though there are some seasons, in which this fish entirely disappears. Loch-long, and Loch-goil, from their situation, have one advantage over Loch-fine. The herring that is killed in the two former lochs, may be brought to Greenock, or Glasgow, in a very short time, without any land carriage; whereas the herring that is killed any where near the head of Loch-fine, in order to be sold fresh, must be carried by horses in creels, from Loch-fine, to the head of Loch-goil, at the distance of eight or ten miles; thus not only an additional expence is incurred, but the fish is much damaged by frequent handling, especially in the warm season of the year. The herring that was killed early last season, sold at 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. the hundred; after the fishing became general, 1 s. the hundred was the usual price. Besides the varieties of fish already mentioned, there are several other kinds found in these lochs. Flounders and skate are in great abundance; mullets also are sometimes to be found; the sun or sail-fish occasionally visits us; this sluggish fish sometimes swims into the salmon nets, and suffers itself to be drawn towards the shore,  
without

without any resistance, till it gets so near the land, that for want of a sufficient body of water, it cannot exert its strength, in disintangling itself from the net, the fishers in the mean time, take advantage of its situation, and attack it with sticks and stones, till they have it secure. Some of these fish are very large; many of them have been taken ashore at Lochgoil-head, in the manner now described; there was one in particular, a few years ago, which measured 28 feet in length, and from which 150 gallons of oil was extracted. Small whales, and porpoises, make their appearance in summer, and buckers at all times of the year. Of amphibious animals, there are none but the seal and the otter, nor are these very numerous. A few years ago, a creature of a very uncommon appearance, was taken ashore in a salmon net at Loch-long side in this parish; it was of the species called the sword-fish. The body of the fish was about nine feet long, and somewhat rounded; from its nose issued a horn, or hard bony substance, about three feet long, shaped like a two-edged sword, and tapering beautifully towards the point, which with the edges were exceeding sharp. The year after this fish was taken ashore, another of the same kind was caught in the same place, and in the same manner. With regard to shell-fish; there are a few oysters to be got upon the stones and rocks, and great abundance of muscles, cockles, wilks, or periwinkles, and some spout-fish. There is also some sea-ware, but not in great abundance, owing to the ruggedness of the shore; the sea-ware in this country is of an inferior quality, from the great quantity of fresh water in the lochs. About 20 tons of kelp may be made yearly. The sea-ware is also used for manure; but generally with a mixture of dung.

*Birds.*—The migratory birds which visit this country, are the

the swallow, cuckoo, fieldfare, doterel, green and gray plover, and woodcock. With regard to native birds, the eagles of this country are of a prodigious size, and remarkable for their strength and ferocity. They make great havock among the lambs in the end of spring, when, in addition to the cravings of their own hunger, they are impelled to rapine, by the cries of their young. There are several instances well vouched, of an eagle's carrying a lamb, whole and entire in the air, more than a mile, and bringing it to her nest. Two years ago, one of these birds carried a kid away from its dam, upwards of a mile, and after lighting with it upon the ground, on being scared away, by people who were coming that way, it was found, not only that the kid was alive, but that it had received no material injury; the kid was five weeks old. The hawk is next to the eagle in ferocity; but it does no injury to cattle. The raven is not so harmless; kites, crows, and rooks, are in great abundance; and the harsh and melancholy note of the owl, sometimes disturbs the silence of the night. This country has all the small birds which are common in the west of Scotland. Birds of game are not so numerous as they were before the introduction of sheep; these animals break their eggs, crop the tender part of the herbage, and of the heath, upon which they feed while young; birds of prey, however, do more injury to game, than even the sheep; and gentlemen of landed property, by their anxiety to preserve the game, seem to defeat their own purpose. They have in effect disarmed the country people; the consequence is, that birds of prey of all kinds, are becoming more numerous, and these birds do a great deal more injury to the game, than poachers could possibly do in such a country as this. The tarmagan is sometimes seen in the mountains. Grouse, heathfowl, partridges, quails, and snipes, are to be found in their different seasons.

seasons. The aquatic birds are, the duck, teal, widgeon, cormorant, heron, and sea-gull.

*Wild Beasts.*—The red deer, once a native of this country, is not now to be seen; but the roes have not yet altogether forsaken their old haunts. Hares are in great abundance. Foxes were formerly very numerous; but since the land has been chiefly stocked with sheep, the destruction of these animals has become an object of great attention. For this purpose, two, three, or more parishes, according to their extent, join in supporting a fox-hunter, and a pack of dogs. The fox-hunter receives a fixed salary; he is continually perambulating the country, and lives upon his employers; every tackfman and tenant being obliged to entertain him and his dogs, a specified number of nights in the year, according to the extent of land which he possesses. In consequence of this establishment, a fox is seldom seen. Wild cats are more numerous than foxes, and are also very destructive to lambs; they lodge in the crevices of rocks, and in deep and narrow holes, in the face of dreadful precipices, where it is exceedingly difficult to get near them. Martins are not so frequent as they have been, but there are still a few of them in the country; and also polecats and weasels.

*Black Cattle and Horses.*—There are 180 horses in the parish, and 2120 head of black cattle. The horses are partly reared in the parish, and partly brought from the westward. They are, in general, neither handsome, nor large; but they are hardy, active, laborious, and easily fed. The black cattle are small, but, like those of Argyleshire in general, they are very handsome, well haired, well limbed, and weigh well for their bulk. The stots, or bullocks, are brought annually to Crieff, or Falkirk, and sold in these places,

places, to people from England. They are generally sold when three or four years old, and after being fattened a few years in England, it is said, that they are reckoned superior to English beef. The cows are fattened in the parish, and in the neighbourhood, and sold to the butchers of Glasgow, Paisley, Greenock, and Dumbarton.

*Sheep.*—This district is much better adapted for sheep, than black cattle. Among the high rocks, concealed deep pits, and hanging precipices, black cattle could not pasture with any safety; and, in former times, a very considerable number of them were lost every season; but sheep can travel through these places with great ease and security. The circumstance which principally renders this county improper for black cattle, is the want of provender in winter. A great number might be grazed in summer and harvest, but there are no low lands from which to raise the tenth part of the provender necessary for feeding them to advantage in winter and spring; the provender, indeed, is rather scarce for the small number of black cattle in the parish at present, though there is double the quantity of hay made now, than was made 30 years ago. Accordingly, when this county was chiefly stocked with black cattle, there was not a season in which a great number of them did not perish for want; and in bad seasons, it was very common for a tenant to lose a third, and sometimes the half of his stock. But there is now provender prepared for the sheep, and, except in exceeding bad years, when the snow comes on late in the spring, and lies long upon the ground, there is never any considerable loss. John Campbell of Lagwine, from Ayrshire, was the first person who stocked a farm with sheep in this parish, 35 years ago. Some of his countrymen settled soon after, in the neighbouring parishes. The country people regarded the



few strangers who came to settle among them with an evil eye; and this rendered them more averse to follow their example. But a short time reconciled them to their system, and convinced them of the superior advantage of sheep to black cattle. From that time, therefore, the number of sheep has been encreasing, and that of black cattle decreasing. It is believed, that there are at present about 26,500 sheep in this parish. The few strangers who came to settle here, brought with them the breed of sheep which they had in their own country, and the sheep which have been introduced since, from time to time, were chiefly brought from the Linton market. It is said that there are principally two kinds of sheep at that market. The long tailed white faced sheep, are a mongrel breed, a mixture of the Scots and the heavy English breeds; these have never been found to thrive in this country. The other is the black faced short tailed kind; these answer here well, and improve greatly the first few years. The proprietors of sheep in this district are very attentive to change the breed of their rams. Without this precaution, a sheep stock is found to degenerate very soon. They are also convinced that it would be of advantage to change their hogs, i. e. one year old sheep; and some of them are resolved to make the experiment. They seldom keep a ram above three, never above four years old. With regard to the ewes, it is found very unprofitable to keep them longer than six years; they commonly begin to degenerate at four. Indeed, the younger the breeding sheep are, it is the better for the flock, both with regard to carcase and wool. The rams are removed from the ewes the first day after the 10th of October, and kept separate from a month to six weeks, consequently the ewes lamb between the 1st and 20th of April. The sheep in this country run wild through the mountains, but they must be gathered at least four times in the year.

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The first gathering is early in the month of May, in order to mark and cut the ram-lambs; the second in the month of June or July, to clip the wool; the third in August, to wean the lambs from the ewes, and the fourth in October, to separate the rams from the ewes. The sheep that are sold, are bought upon the spot by the butchers of Glasgow, and the other neighbouring towns; and the tacksmen wish to manage matters so, that the butchers may take them away, at the two last gatherings. In this, however, they are not always successful; on the contrary, they are frequently obliged to have other gatherings, merely for the butcher. They generally sell off about a third of their lambs, and always the worst. Their wedders they seldom keep more than three years, though they are not in their prime till four or five; but it is found more profitable to sell them when three years old, than to keep them longer. The year old sheep and the rams are smeared; smearing preserves them from the scab, and from vermin; it keeps them warm in winter, by occasioning a continual perspiration, which prevents the snow from lying upon them, in so much, that a smeared sheep may easily be known in snowy weather by its not being covered over with snow, like the rest of the flock. The great quantity of snow which lies upon a sheep, especially if it freezes upon the animal, must be a very heavy load, and must greatly obstruct it in travelling, and in working for its meat, i. e. removing the snow with its feet, in order to get at the herbage: The smeared sheep are free from this inconveniency; besides, smearing, when there is a proper quantity of butter or oil made use of, is found to improve the quality of the wool.

The sheep which have been brought here from the low country, are subject to a disease, called the *braxy*, which appears

pears to be an inflammation of the bowels; it carries them off in a few hours; but if the carcase is found within a day after the animal dies, and entire, it sells for half-price. This diseased meat is partly eat by servants, partly by cottagers, and a considerable quantity of it is salted and sent to market. No antidote has yet been discovered against this disease. It usually begins in the end of harvest, and it chiefly attacks that year's lambs, and always the fattest of them. It is believed, that the tacksmen of this country lose a fourth of their young sheep by this disorder; it is not so destructive in the low parts of Scotland; the lambs there, it is said, are pastured separately from the rest of the flock, and kept poor in flesh; but the high steep hills, and thick fogs in this country, render it impossible to pasture sheep in separate hirlles, as they do in the south. It does not appear that the sheep which have been introduced within these last 40 years, are of a better kind, than the few sheep which were in the country before that period. It must be confessed, that the present kind are larger, but there was no attention paid to the improvement of the old breed: The breed of rams was never changed, they had access to the ewes at all times of the year; the ewes often brought forth in the months of February and March, and a great number of the lambs perished in the storm; the few who survived wanting suitable nourishment, were stunted in their growth, and the refuse of the lambs were never sold off. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, the old sheep were not much inferior in bulk to the present kind, and their flesh was equally fat, delicious, and well-flavoured.

*Wool.*—Whatever be the case, with regard to the carcase, the wool of the present breed of sheep is much inferior to that which grew upon the old Highland kind. The present  
sheep,

sheep, indeed, yield a larger quantity, but it is coarse, strong, and shaggy; the sheep which were in the country formerly, had thick short wool, remarkably fine in the pile. At present about seven fleeces go to the stone; there are upwards of 3000 stones fold annually in this parish. The greatest part of which, for some years past, has been sold to the proprietors of a very extensive woollen manufactory, between Glasgow and Dumbarton, and conveyed there by water at the expence of the purchasers. The price of the white wool is 7s. and 6s. 6d. when there is a fourth part of it laid; it is usual to give a stone to the score. Though all the wool in this parish brings the same price, it is not all nearly of the same value; the buyers are sensible of this, and when they get well acquainted with the wool of the different farms, it is hoped they will make a distinction, as nothing tends more to discourage the improvement of wool, than giving the same price for the good and the bad.

*Population.*—From a survey of the parish, which was finished the 24th day of March 1791, it appears, that the number of inhabitants at that time was 1012; of whom there were

under 15 years of age	-	431
above 15 unmarried	-	220
married	-	276
widowers and widows	-	85
		<hr/>
		1012

In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1505.

Table

Table of baptisms and marriages\*.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1750	49	13
1751	50	14
1752	47	14
1753	45	11
	—	—
Yearly average	48	14

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.
1787	25	7
1788	28	8
1789	26	5
1790	23	9
	—	—
Yearly average	26	8

The great decrease in the population of the country is owing to the introduction of sheep. Since the farms have been chiefly stocked with sheep, one man often rents as much land as 10, 12, or 14 tenants formerly possessed.

*Utility of the Present System.*—It is frequent with people who wish well to their country, to inveigh against the practice of turning several small farms into one extensive grazing, and dispossessing the former tenants. If the strength of a country depends upon the number of its inhabitants, it appears a pernicious measure to drive away the people by depriving them of their possessions. This complaint is very just, with regard to some places in Scotland; for it must be greatly

\* There never was any register of burials kept in the parish.

greatly against the interest of the nation, to turn rich arable land, which is capable at the same time of supporting a number of people, and of producing much grain, into pasture ground. But the complaint does not seem to apply to this country. The strength of a nation cannot surely consist in the number of idle people which it maintains; that the inhabitants of this part of the country were formerly sunk in indolence, and contributed very little to the wealth, or to the support of the state, cannot be denied. The produce of this parish, since sheep have become the principal commodity, is at least double the intrinsic value of what it was formerly; so that half the number of hands produce more than double the quantity of provisions, for the support of our large towns, and the supply of our tradesmen and manufacturers; and the system by which land returns the most valuable produce, and in the greatest abundance, seems to be the most beneficial for the country at large. Still, however, if the people, who are dispossessed of this land, emigrated into other nations, the present system might be justly condemned, as diminishing the strength of the country. But this is far from being the case; of the great number of people who have been deprived of their farms in this parish, for 30 years past, few or none have settled out of the kingdom; they generally went to sea, or to the populous towns upon the Clyde. The greatest part of them betook themselves to a sea-faring life, and there are many vessels belonging to Clyde, and to other places in the West India, American, and coasting trades, and in the fisheries, at present commanded, and partly navigated, by men who were born in this country, and the greatest number of whom would have remained in the same state of indolence and insignificance with their ancestors, if they had not been obliged to go in search of better fortunes. Such of the people as went to towns, and had no  
stock

stock to lay out in trade, found employment, partly as day-labourers, porters, barrowmen, boatmen, &c. but the greatest number of those who left the country for 15 years past, support themselves by working in bleachfields, printfields, cotton-mills, and many other branches of manufactures, in which much previous instruction or preparation is not required. In these places, they have an easy opportunity, which they generally embrace, of training up their children to useful and profitable employments, and of rendering them valuable members of society. So that the former inhabitants of this country have been taken from a situation, in which they contributed nothing to the wealth, and very little to the support of the state, to a situation in which their labour is of the greatest public utility. It is true, indeed, that while they remained in their former situation, the country had always a brave and a hardy race of men, ready to rise in its defence, in times of danger; and though the inhabitants of this parish were never fond of a military life, and few of them ever enlisted in standing regiments, they always showed great alacrity in arming for the defence of their country; and twice formed a company in the fencible regiments, which were raised for that purpose. But it will be acknowledged, that the navy is of greater importance to this country than the army. The present system tends to support the navy, not only by increasing the stock of our manufactures, and thereby promoting commerce, but also by directly increasing the number of our seamen. It has already been observed, that more than the half of the young people who left this country went to sea; when married, their families live in sea-port towns; their sons early follow their father's own profession; on any emergency, they are liable to be pressed into the navy; and during the late unfortunate American

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zican war, a great number of them served on board the King's ships.

Nor has the present system contributed to make the condition of the inhabitants of the country worse than it was before; on the contrary, the change is greatly in their favour. The partiality in favour of former times, and the attachment to the place of their nativity, which is natural to old people, together with the indolence in which they indulged themselves in this country, mislead them in drawing a comparison between their past, and their present situations. But indolence was almost the only comfort which they enjoyed. There was scarcely any variety of wretchedness, with which they were not obliged to struggle, or rather to which they were not obliged to submit. They often felt what it was to want food; the scanty crops which they raised were consumed by their cattle in winter and spring; for a great part of the year they lived wholly on milk, and even that in the end of spring, and beginning of winter, was very scarce. To such extremity were they frequently reduced, that they were obliged to bleed their cattle, in order to subsist for some time upon the blood; and even the inhabitants of the glens and vallies, repaired in crowds to the shore, at the distance of three or four miles, to pick up the scanty provision which the shell fish afforded them. They were miserably ill clothed, and the huts in which they lived, were dirty and mean beyond expression. How different from their present situation? They now enjoy the necessaries, and many of the comforts of life in abundance; even those who are supported by the charity of the parish, feel no real want. Much of the wretchedness which formerly prevailed in this, and in other parishes in the Highlands, was owing to the indolence of the people, and to their want of management; but a

VOL. III.                      A a                      country,



country, which is neither adapted for agriculture, nor for rearing black cattle, can never maintain any great number of people comfortably. A few villages, one perhaps in this parish, might be of service in carrying on the fishing. The herrings, however, in these lochs, are a precarious support; and it may be doubted, whether the other fisheries would maintain a great number of men; perhaps the cottagers already in the country, are sufficiently numerous, to make the most of the white fishing, if they carried on the business with industry and perseverance; at any rate, if they gave it a fair trial, it would be found, whether an accession of people to the country would be eligible. But in order to carry on the fishing with success, it would be expedient that a village should be formed, and that the fishers should live in one place. The most convenient situation for a village in this parish, seems to be near the entry into Loch-goil, this situation being convenient for Loch-goil, Loch-long, and the Frith of Clyde.

*Number of Proprietors, Tacksmen, and Tenants* \*.—There are three proprietors of lands in this parish, they are all persons of rank, family, and fortune, and have estates in other parishes. None of them reside here, except the principal heritor, who has resided in it occasionally, during the two last years. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4392 : 1 : 0 Scots, or L. 366 : 0 : 1 Sterling. The real rent is about L. 2500 Sterling, exclusive of the woods: 40 years ago the rent did not exceed L. 800 Sterling. Of the tacksmen, there are three who pay above  
L. 200,

\* In this country, when a man takes a lease of a whole farm, and pays L. 50 Sterling, or upwards, of yearly rent, he is called a tacksman; when two or more join about a farm, and each of them pays a sum less than L. 50, they are called tenants.

L. 200, five who pay above L. 100, and five who pay above L. 50 Sterling of yearly rent ; the rest, to the number of 35, are small tenants, and pay from L. 10 to L. 40 Sterling a year. The tacksmen are opulent, comfortably lodged, and live with great decency ; the tenants are also easy in their circumstances, and enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society. The land in general is let upon very reasonable terms. This is chiefly owing to the late Sir James Campbell of Ardkinglafs, who did not wish to oppress his people, but took pleasure in seeing them prosperous and happy. The benevolence and moderation of that gentleman will be long and gratefully remembered in this country.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the roll of the parish at present, is 25 ; they are supported by the money collected in the church on Sundays, which, at an average, amounts to near L. 24 Sterling a year. This fund is distributed to the poor, according to their respective circumstances.

*Church.*—There are two churches in this parish, one at Lochgoil-head, where the manse is, and the other at Cairndow, near Kilmorich, upon Loch-fine side. The minister preaches two Sabbaths at Lochgoil-head, and the third Sabbath at Cairndow : Both the churches are old, and in bad order ; the manse was built about 80 years ago, and is now undergoing a thorough repair. The living, including two glebes, one at Lochgoil-head, and the other at Kilmorich, may be valued at L. 130 Sterling. Sir Alexander Campbell of Ardkinglafs, Baronet, is patron, and chief heritor. The family of Ardkinglafs have had the principal property in this parish, for many centuries. There is no Seceder nor Roman Catholic in it.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—There are two schools in this district; a parochial school at Lochgoil-head, and a school at Cairndow, supported by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The parochial schoolmaster teaches Latin, English, Gaelic, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, and church-music; and the Society schoolmaster teaches all these branches of education, except Latin. The number of scholars who attend the parochial school is about 40. The number who attend the Society school is usually about 60. This disparity in the number of the scholars, is owing to the difference of the roads leading to the schools. Some of the tacksmen employ young men to teach their children in their own houses; and the tenants and cottagers, who live at a distance from the established schools, usually join in hiring a teacher at their own expence, at least during the winter season. The salary of the parochial and Society schoolmasters is L. 10 Sterling each; and their other perquisites amount to about L. 10 more. It must be acknowledged, that L. 20 is too little for the decent and comfortable support of a schoolmaster, and too small an allowance for the great trouble and importance of his charge.

*Inns.*—There are two principal houses of entertainment in this parish, one at Lochgoil-head, and the other at Cairndow; they are both necessary for the accommodation of the public, Cairndow being situated upon the line of the great western military road, and the only stage between Arrochar and Inveraray; and Lochgoil-head being a much frequented pass, especially in summer, between the West Highlands and the Low Country. Besides these, there are two or three huts in the parish, where spirits are occasionally sold. These, however, have no bad effects upon the morals of the inhabitants of this country.

*Roads*

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads were formerly made and kept in repair by the statute labour; but that method was found inconvenient, and ineffectual, for making and keeping up good roads. Some years ago, an act of Parliament was obtained for the county of Argyle, converting the statute labour into money, to be paid at the rate of 2s. by every male person above 14 years of age. There is also an assessment upon the land, at the rate of 1s. *per* pound of valued rent, a third of which is payable by the proprietors, and two-thirds by the tenants. The great military road from Dumbarton, to the West and North-west Highlands, goes through 16 miles of the upper end of this parish; but, upon the west coast of Loch-long, and upon both sides of Loch-goil, there is scarce so much as a path; the ruggedness of the country renders travelling extremely difficult, and the many large and rapid waters without bridges, make these parts of the parish often impassable. It is found very difficult to keep up the bridges in many parts of the country; the rivers swell so suddenly, and rush down from the mountains with such rapidity, that the bridges must be built in very advantageous situations, in order to stand any time. There is one bridge in particular, near Lochgoil-head, which has fallen three times, within the last 15 years; it was built at first, and twice rebuilt, at the expence of the inhabitants.

*Character of the People.*—The tacksmen of this parish are in general very respectable, both with regard to information and morals; the tenants are sober and industrious; the cottagers are rather indolent, especially after they are successful in the herring fishing; and too many of them spend their time, from the beginning of January to the beginning of April, without any employment, but preparing their nets for the ensuing season. To this, however, there are many exceptions,

ceptions, and some of the cottagers are sedulous and active in supporting their families: It is much to be wished, that the cottagers would carry on the white fishing, during these months of the year, in which so many of them are at present idle. The people of this parish have long been remarkable for their strict honesty, the regularity of their manners, their humanity, and their courtesy to strangers.

*Language and Drefs.*—The Gaelic language is most generally spoken in this district. The greater number of the people speak English, but not in general with so much ease and fluency as they speak Gaelic. Many of the old people understand no English. The Gaelic that is spoken in this place, owing to the frequent communication with the Low Country, is corrupted with a mixture of English words and phrases, and is not so pure, nor so correct, as that which is spoken in the more remote parts of the Highlands. It is not, however, more than 15 years, since the present minister heard very old people in the parish repeat Gaelic poems, which they ascribed to Ossian, Orran, and other Caledonian bards; among these there were some detached and mutilated pieces of the poems, translated by Mr M'Pherson, and some entire episodes, since published by Dr Smith of Campbeltown. The inhabitants in general, except those who carry on the fishing, continue to wear the Highland drefs, the bonnet, the phillabeg, and tartan hose; even the authority of an act of Parliament, was not sufficient to make them relinquish their ancient garb.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The inhabitants of that part of the parish which is situated upon Loch-fine side, labour under a very great disadvantage with regard to fuel. The peats there are scarce, and at such a distance, on the  
tops

tops of high, steep, and rugged mountains, that they are carried to the houses at a very great expence. At the same time, the great distance from the Low Country, and the croffness of the navigation, render the freight of coal very high; but, as if these natural disadvantages were not sufficiently distressing, the coals are subjected to a very heavy duty. Whatever may have been the original cause of this tax, it is astonishing, that the Legislature of a free and enlightened nation, should have so long continued a duty so oppressive and partial, and which so directly counteracts every attempt that can be made to improve those remote parts of the kingdom.

The want of inclosures is another very great disadvantage, in all parts of the parish. In a country which is not calculated for raising corn, and where provender is very scarce, green crops, particularly sown grasses, and field turnips, would be of the greatest advantage. This advantage the people cannot enjoy without inclosures; and inclosures will not become general, till the proprietors encourage that species of improvement more than they do at present. A tacksmen or tenant has little inducement to make improvements. His lease is short, never exceeding 19 years. The expence of stocking his farm, may in general, be supposed, for a few years, to exhaust his money; and in a country which was formerly possessed by small and poor tenants, and which has been but lately stocked with sheep, the tacksmen are only beginning to have comfortable dwelling-houses; and there are many small inclosures of different kinds still wanting for the sheep; so that a great part of a man's lease will be expired, before he can get himself conveniently set down; and should he continue to make other improvements, particularly

cularly inclosures, he not only throws away his money, without having time to get suitable returns, but these improvements will make the farm more valuable, and consequently heighten his rent, in the event of his getting a new lease; and they often tempt others to offer a greater rent than they would otherwise have done; so that he runs a greater hazard of being dispossessed, in consequence of those very improvements which he has made at his own expence. Whatever money is judiciously laid out upon inclosures, is evidently for the advantage of the proprietor; he reaps the benefit; he ought therefore to contribute to the expence. The tacksmen of this country, are in general, so sensible of the advantage of inclosures, that they would very willingly bear the half of the expence of making them, and keep them in repair entirely at their own charges, or pay the proprietor legal interest for whatever money he lays out for that purpose; or make the inclosures wholly at their own expence, upon condition of being paid the value of them at the end of their lease. The inclosures that seem to suit this place best, are stone dykes and ditches; hedges will not, in general, answer the purpose; the young cattle in this country lie out both summer and winter, and are so lively and wild, that they will run through a hedge without difficulty; and nothing can confine them, but a sufficient stone dyke, or a deep ditch. The parish enjoys a very great advantage, from the easy access to market, in the higher parts of the county, by the military road already mentioned, and in the other parts by water carriage. By these means, the people can send their black cattle, sheep, wool, fish, and every other commodity to Greenock, Glasgow, Dumbarton, and other towns, with great ease; and they also get, I except those who live upon Loch-fine fide, all the articles  
which

which they import, brought to their doors, with expedition, and with very little expence. The consequence of this regular and easy communication, is, that the inhabitants have always a sure and ample supply of the necessaries of life. Even in the year 1782, when more remote and inland countries were in the greatest distress for meal, this parish had a plentiful supply from Clyde.



## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF DIRLETON.

*(County of East-Lothian.)**By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER GLEN.**Situation, Extent, Name, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the presbytery of Haddington, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, where the Frith of Forth opens into the German ocean. It is about six English miles in length, and as many in breadth. The west part along the Frith is barren land for near three miles. Towards the east the soil is better, and consists of a large plain, near three miles in length, and one in breadth, which is covered with fine grass, and seems never to have been ploughed. There are two small islands belonging to the parish. The one called Fidrie is a very beautiful island, on which there are the ruins of a building, probably designed either for a chapel, or a lazaret for the sick. The village of Dirleton is nearly in the middle of the parish, standing on a rocky ground, rising towards the west. The rocks found and shake, as carriages pass along, which circumstance, probably gave rise to the name; the Scottish word *Dir* signifying trembling.

*Diseases.*—Agues and nervous distempers are common here, East-Lothian being much exposed to the easterly winds, which blow in April and May.

*Fish.*

*Fish, &c.*—The sea opposite to this parish abounds with shell-fish, and till of late, afforded abundance of white fish. There are also a good many seals on the coast. Sea-ware is plentiful after a storm, and is found to be an excellent manure. This weed, taken from the rocks and burnt, affords about 12 ton of kelp yearly.

*Agriculture.*—There are at present about 20 farmers in the parish, men remarkable for their industry and knowledge in agriculture. The district is in general cultivated in the following manner :

There are in wheat	- -	500 acres
barley	- -	800
oats	- -	1200
pease and beans		500
turnips	- -	50
fown-grafs	-	1000
links and pasture		3000

The southern part of this parish is particularly rich and fertile. The valued rent of the whole is L. 10,262 Scots : The real rent about L. 6000 Sterling. William Nisbet, Esq; is proprietor of two-thirds, and superior of the whole parish. He is also patron of the church.

*Population.*—There has been no great alteration in the number of inhabitants for these 50 years past. There never was any great trade or manufacture in the parish, and the hands employed in agriculture, are always nearly the same. There are at present about 1200 of all ages, and about 900 above 10 years of age. From the session records, it appears,

pears, that the births of males and females are nearly equal :

Males yearly	-	-	-	-	15
females	-	-	-	-	16
marriages	-	-	-	-	12
deaths	-	-	-	-	24
houses	-	-	-	-	260
average produce from each marriage					4

The common people are rather of a large size, and are remarkable for their sober and industrious manner of living.

*Wages.*—Men servants maintained in the house, receive from L. 6 to L. 7 Sterling yearly; women servants from L. 2 : 10 to L. 3, day-labourers from 10d. to 1s. The young people are much employed in weeding corn and turnips, during the summer season; their wages are from 4d. to 5d. a day.

*Improvements.*—The people here are inclosing their fields, and raising turnips; potatoes (which now constitute a great part of the living of the common people) are much cultivated. Many cattle and work horses are bred. There are but few trees of any age or growth in this part of the country. Mr Nisbet of Dirleton has planted a good many of late, mostly fir, ash, and elm, and is increasing the number every year.

*Schools.*—In the parish there are several small villages, where old and infirm people keep schools for young children. The principal established school is in the village of Dirleton; the salary is 200 merks Scots, about L. 11 Sterling.

ing. Mrs Carmichael, widow of William Carmichael of Skirling, mortified L. 70 Sterling for educating and providing books for poor children. In the different schools, the number of scholars are as under :

In the public established school	-	-	64
In the school of Fenton	-	-	20
Kingston	-	-	20
Gulan	-	-	15

Perquisites, for English, 1 s. 6 d.—for writing, 2 s.—arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The poor are maintained by collections at the church-door, and the interest of a parochial fund, arising from several sums of money, mortified by the family of Dirleton, and by Mrs Carmichael. There are at present about 40 on the poor's roll ; but there is not one beggar in the parish belonging to it. In this part of the country, coal is the common fuel, either brought by sea, or from some coal pits which are now wrought in the county. Near the head-land called Gulan Ness, there was formerly a ferry-boat, for carrying passengers from East-Lothian to Fife ; this being the nearest land to the Fife coast, of any between Dunbar and Leith. The farmers have both servants in their houses, and cottagers, for the purposes of agriculture. The latter are considered to be more steady, and less given to change ; and are generally trusted with some degree of oversight in the farm. The wages of these cottagers, or hinds as they are here called, is nine bolls of oats, two bolls of barley, two bolls of pease, a cow maintained summer and winter ; and, if they sow and stack the grain, one firloft of wheat, and a pair of shoes. All servants, day-labourers, hinds, &c. have their diet in harvest.

N U M.

## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF COULL.

(County of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.



Name of the Parish.

THE name of this parish, (*Coull*), is of Gaelic extraction, as are the names of almost all the places in this country. By a very small variation of sound, it may mean either the *back* or the *corner*, the latter of which is its natural and proper import; as it is situated not so much on the back of any rising ground, as in the corner of a large strath called Cromar, in the east end of which Coull lies. It is in the presbytery of Kincardine-Oniel, county and synod of Aberdeen. The form of the parish is nearly triangular; its longest side may measure about five miles, and the other two about three miles and a half each. The strath or country of which Coull forms a part, is in general flat, but surrounded with hills on every side, which shelter it very much. The soil is of an excellent quality, deep and fertile, equally removed from clay and sand, and is consequently less apt to fail in its produce, either from violent drought on the one hand, or incessant rain on the other. The air is pure, dry, and healthy; and there are no diseases, as far as I have had access to hear, peculiar to the place. To the west of the manse, there is a large bog or marsh, called Bogmore, through

through the midst of which, a small rivulet runs, but so still as to be hardly perceptible, till you come near to Farland, which is about two miles to the west. In consequence of so long a level, the bog often rises to an extraordinary height, forming a sheet of water about a mile square, full of wild geese, and ducks; the last of which continue throughout the year; the former make their appearance about the middle of September, and continue till about the end of April. There are few fish, to be found in this bog except pike. There are no remarkable mountains here; the hills around are bleak and barren, affording pasturage only for sheep.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants is from 460 to 470, men, women, and children, included. There are 205 males, and about 260 females. The number in Dr Webster's report is 751. In this parish there are no instances of extraordinary longevity, which are well authenticated. It would also be extremely difficult to fix the precise number of farmers here, for every man is a farmer in his own way. A man of some wealth and standing in the country, takes immediately from the proprietor 100 or 150 acres of arable land, and becomes accountable to him for the rent of this quantity: he will perhaps retain one third or one half of the best of it in his own hand, and let the remainder to the poor dependents in his neighbourhood. As there is no market for potatoes here, the farmer raises only as many as serves his own family.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—This parish enjoys no peculiar advantages, except a fine pure air, and a warm lively soil. Its disadvantages are: 1. It lies in an inland country, far from market, and has no means of improvement. Aberdeen, the nearest sea-port, is 30 miles east. 2. This disadvantage might

might be surmounted, if proper encouragement were allowed or improvements; the soil would be very grateful with ordinary treatment, but there is scarcely room even for that; few farmers here can say with certainty, that the lands which they possess this year, will be their's the next; they hold their farms from year to year, and it totally depends on the will of the landlord, whether they shall continue or remove. What farmer holding his ground on such a precarious footing, would choose to lay out money in improving his farm? 3. Accordingly, there are few fences in this country; and on that account, though the people here begin to see the advantages of raising turnips, and would also very readily be brought in to improve by sowing grass-seeds, &c. yet it is hardly possible, without fences, to preserve either; for it is the custom here, and in the whole country round, as soon as harvest is over, to set cattle, sheep, and horses at liberty; by which means, grass, turnips, and every thing of the kind, are trampled under foot, or eaten up. 4. Another material disadvantage which this parish, and the whole district round, labours under at present, and if not speedily removed, must in a very few years complete the ruin of many farmers here, is the difficulty of procuring servants, and the enormous height at which their wages are arrived.

*Church and Poor.*—The glebe, &c. will amount to about L. 60 Sterling. The church was rebuilt last summer; the offices are to be rebuilt this year, and the manse repaired. There are three heritors in this parish, Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, and the Earls of Aberdeen and Aboyne. None of them reside in it. Mr Farquharson of Finzean, has also some property, and pays a small proportion of stipend. The poor in this parish are few in number, perhaps nine or ten at an average. The annual amount of the contributions, will

will be little better than L. 4 Sterling of money, and at interest about L. 40 Sterling.

*Antiquities.*— About a mile and a half west of the manor, are to be seen the remains of a Druidical temple. The place is called *Tamnavrie*, which signifies the Hill of Worship; but there is nothing to be seen but a few large stones, some of them standing upright, others fallen down, without any appearance of figures or inscription. The most remarkable fragment of antiquity, in this parish, is the Castle of Coull; it is situated about one-fourth of an English mile south of the manse. Not many years ago, there was scarcely any thing to be seen at all, but a number of little green hills, and the remainder of an old wall, about 30 yards long, and 10 or 12 feet thick; the ruins were buried in the ground, and might have continued hid from mortal view, had not a scarcity of manure induced people to dig about the old wall for rubbish; in doing this, they came upon the remains of four gates and five turrets, of very extraordinary dimensions. These last, as nearly as can be guessed, for it is impossible to measure them exactly, on account of their broken state, will be about 18 or 20 feet diameter; the walls in those places which seem most entire, are 15 feet thick, built with lime and stone throughout; one of the gates, which is not so much demolished as the rest, is closed above with a Gothic arch of free stone; this gate is 9 feet wide, 12 feet high, and 15 feet thick. The whole work, as far as it can now be traced, appears to have been a square, measuring about 50 yards on each side. It is only a very small portion of it that is yet opened up; three sides of it, in a great measure, are still under ground. Among the rubbish dug up, were found several small pieces of silver coin, with this inscription: “*Alexander Rex Scotorum.*”



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The roads in this parish are in tolerable repair, but many of them very ill contrived. The statute labour is exacted in kind. There are no turnpike roads here. From 10 s. to 15 s. is the average rent of arable ground *per* acre, good and bad included. Some of the farms may rent about L. 50 Sterling, and will include 200 acres of hill, arable, and pasture ground. There are in the parish 108 horses, 360 black cattle, and about 1500 sheep.

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## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF BLACKFORD.

*(County of Perth.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN STEVENSON.*

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*Situation, Surface, &c.*

THE parish of Blackford lies in the county of Perth, presbytery of Auchterarder, and the synod of Perth and Stirling. The church stands upon a rising ground, and is nearly in the centre of the parish, which extends three or four miles around it. It was burnt in the year 1738, after dismissing the school in the evening. It was afterwards rebuilt upon the same ground. The most southerly part of the parish is occupied by a ridge of the Ochil hills, which upon the south side, towards the Devon, is somewhat steep, and in some places craggy, affording excellent pasture for sheep. Upon the north side, the declivity is more gentle, and laid out in several farms. The bottom of the country is a dead flat, watered by the Allan. Part of it is arable, and the rest is either deep mofs, or marshy ground, where the plough cannot go. Upon the north of the Allan, the ground rises and forms a group of sandy or gravelly hills, with a vast number of hollows, some of them round, and others extended in length, forming little valleys, through which, for the most part, some small brook runs. These heights may be from 20 to 30 feet perpendicular, and make

a very uncommon appearance. They contain no rock, but when dug into, discover nothing but strata of dead sand or coarse gravel. They are generally covered with a short heath or broom, having little or no soil upon the surface. North from these tumuli, the ground rises to a large moor, called the moor of Tullibardine, the property of the Duke of Athole. It is continued from the Grampian hills in Muthil parish, and descends gradually eastward to the parish of Auchterarder, dividing Strathallan from Strathearn, and the south side of this parish from the north. It is about two miles in breadth, is perfectly flat, and every where covered with heath. From this to the north boundary of the parish, the ground rises and sinks alternately, according to the course of several rivulets which run through it from west to east, till they fall into the Earn.

*Soil and Climate.*—The soil in this parish is not good. In general, it is thin, with a coarse gravelly bottom, and may be divided into wet and dry in the extremes. A great part is soaked in water, which issues from numberless springs, or runs between the upper sward and the gravel below. What is dry is a light sharp mould, mixed with sand, and a vast number of small stones. In some places, the soil is deep, and consists of a cold wet sandy clay, with moss or dead sand below. Some few spots, that have been long cultivated, are tolerably fertile when the season is good; but the far greater part of the ground in tillage has not the smallest pretensions to fertility. But, bad as the soil is, the climate is still more unfavourable. Great part of the parish lies very high above the level of the sea, and with the Ochil hills between it and the sun. The effects of the cold are sensibly felt in retarding and marring the growth of vegetables. Owing to the vicinity of the Ochil hills, we are exposed to continual rain,  
and

and to heavy and deep falls of snow, which, for the most part, lie very long, and render the country impassable.

*Diseases.*—While the climate is so noxious to plants, it cannot be favourable to the bodies of animals: most of the diseases, which take their rise from a cold damp air, prevail here, such as rheums and pulmonary complaints; but the scurvy is the most predominant disease; and is attended with violent symptoms, such as aching pains in the joints and limbs, and hard livid swellings: In some cases tumours are formed, which suppurate and degenerate into scrophulous runnings; in some instances it affects the judgment, and makes the unhappy sufferers put an end to their own existence. Nervous fevers are very frequent; the inflammatory and intermitting fevers are little known; the putrid fever has appeared but once these last 20 years. Formerly the small-pox never appeared in the parish, without proving fatal to one out of three whom they seized. But the country people have been taught to change their way of managing children in that disease; and some are so hardy as to inoculate their children with their own hand, so that very few die of that distemper.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—The rivers of Ruthven, and Allan, both take their rise in the neighbourhood of Gleneagles. St Mungo's well is the source of the first, which, passing the house of Gleneagles, takes its course eastward and falls into the Earn, to the north east of Auchterarder. The latter runs west through Strathallan, passes Dumblane, and falls into the Forth, about a mile above Stirling bridge. Both these rivers abound with the common red trout. The Allan, which rises in the hills of Ochils, from the neighbouring Ochils, is sometimes so swelled, as to lay a great part of the  
flat

flat ground, through which it runs, under water, but very seldom does any considerable damage, as the current is very gentle. There are two or three small lochs near the church, in which there are some perches; but the fish are not in such plenty as to make it worth while to carry them to market.

*Quarries and Stones.*—The stone in this parish is of a very hard quality. There is a large quarry wrought in Abercairney's lands, at the foot of the Ochils, which for many years furnished fine mill-stones to all the mills many miles round; it is still working, though the demand for mill-stones is not now so great as formerly. It also produces stones for building, and takes a tolerably good polish; but, where it is much exposed to the weather, it is apt to waste and fall to pieces. Of this stone very good rollers are made. Besides the quarry stones, there are vast quantities of large stones scattered upon the ground, some of which lie on the surface, and others are buried in the ground, to the great hindrance of the plough. They are generally a hard blue whin, which cannot be broken without the aid of gunpowder; the people begin now to remove them in that way, and build dykes with them.

*Quadrupeds.*—The quadrupeds of a domestic kind are the same here as in every parish in Scotland. Our country breed of horses and cows are generally of a smaller size, than those in the low country. The sheep were formerly small; but since great numbers of young sheep for breeding have been annually imported from the south, the species is greatly improved in size.

*Population.*—In the year 1787, the number of souls amounted to 1360, of which 650 were males, and 710 females;

males ; all of whom reside in the country, as there are no towns or villages in the parish. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1681. Of late, several people have died between 70 and 100, two men past 90, and not a few past 80. One woman of the name of Seton, died a few years ago at Blackford, who, from historical facts which she remembered, was supposed to be four or five years above 100. She retained her faculties perfectly entire to the last. Within the bounds of this parish, there are 90 farmers, each of whom keep a plough, and whose families amount in whole to 432 old and young; and, including servants, male and female, to 559. But, besides these, there are 92 families, whose numbers amount to 359, who live upon small pendicles of land.

*Productions.*—This parish produces most of the vegetables that are common in other parts of Scotland. No wheat is sown, except a little which Mr Haldane sows for the use of his own family. And it is but lately that the tenants have begun to raise peate, as they are apt to be destroyed by our early hoar frosts, while they are green; and if the harvest is rainy, it is difficult to save them. Barley is more or less the produce of every farm; the kind generally sown is the Chester or rough barley; but oats are what the tenants principally cultivate. In some farms, they sow a good deal of what goes by the name of gray oats, which are only valuable, because they yield a pretty good crop upon our thin channelly ground, where hardly any other grain will grow. Turnips, when they are sown in drills, and properly managed, grow to a very considerable size. Clover and grass-feeds also produce tolerable good crops. Flax is raised in great plenty, and is, for the most part, of a very good quality. A peck of lint-feed, in a favourable season, will produce between four and five stones of flax. Potatoes thrive very well here,

here, and constitute a great part of the food of the lower class of the people. Fruit trees do not succeed, owing to the thinness of the soil, and the coldness of the climate. Barren trees of all kinds grow here; but what seems most adapted to the soil, is the fir, which thrives very well in our worst soil. In the wood of Gleneagles, there are a dozen or twenty fir trees, of the common kind, concerning which there is no tradition, when, or by whom they were planted; they are exceedingly beautiful, and straight in the trunk, and of a considerable length. One of them is 10 feet in circumference, at about four feet above the ground. The parish, in general, supplies itself with the necessary articles of provision; and grain is frequently exported to Stirling and other towns.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly made use of in this parish, is peat and turf, of which there is great plenty. Since a good road was made through Gleneagles and Glendovan, which opens a passage to the south side of the Ochils, a considerable quantity of pit-coal is annually imported, and is used even by the common people. They are bought at the colliery of Blisnagait, belonging to the Duke of Athole, about nine or ten miles from this, and cost the purchaser 10 d. for every 30 stone upon the spot; an ordinary one horse cart will bring home 30 or 40 stone. The peats cost the people in the parish nothing but the trouble of casting them, and leading them home.

*Church.*—The value of the living, by an interim decret of the Court of Session, obtained by the minister, Mr Archibald Moncrieff, in the year 1727, is L. 43 : 17 : 11½ in money, including L 5 for communion-elements. The stipend paid in victual is 1½ chalder of bear, and the same quantity  
of

of oatmeal, with a glebe and pasture ground, consisting altogether of 17 or 18 acres. Charles Moray of Abercairney is patron. The heritors of this parish are seven in number; the Duke of Athol Charles Moray of Abercairney, Colonel Drummond of Mahany, George Haldane of Gleneagles, Alexander Campbell of Barcaldine, David Drummond of Duchaly, and William Graham of Orchil. None of these, except Colonel Drummond, Mr Haldane, and Mr Drummond, have mansion houses in the parish.

*Poor.*—It appears, by the register and books of accounts, from the Revolution to the present time, that, in the parish of Blackford, the ordinary funds have answered the ends of public charity. At first, very few applied to be taken upon the funds of the parish: And, till the Secession began, the parish being much united; all, except a few Episcopalians, came to church, and contributed to the support of the poor. Thus more money was annually collected, than was expended, in the course of the year. Hence the stock rose, and being laid out at interest, and that interest allowed to accumulate, the poor, in the year 1769, were possessed of L. 280 of stock. About the year 1778, a farmer in the parish bequeathed L. 50 to the poor. From the year 1780, to the present year, the average annual sum received has been L. 33, and the annual distributions at an average amounted to L. 28.

*Antiquities.*—It does not appear that there ever was any monastery in this parish. But there were several chapels, some of which are still standing; and, before the year 1745, public worship was occasionally performed in two of them. One is situated at the house of Gleneagles, which is the burial place of the family; and another near the castle of Tullibardine, which was built in the form of a cross, in



the 15th century, by one of the Earls of Tullibardine. In the choir of this chapel the Dukes of Athol formerly buried their dead. Besides these, there are the vestiges of two chapels in the ground of Mahany, at one of which there is still a burying ground, used by the people in the neighbourhood. There is the vestige of a small camp upon an eminence, fronting Gleneagles, which has a commanding prospect to the east, and was probably an out-post, where a small party of the Romans kept watch, while the army was encamped at Ardoch, five miles to the west. The course which the Romans pursued in their marches from Stirling, east through Strathern, lies to the north of this parish, where there are the remains of a Roman caufeway, called the *street road*. There is one barrow, a little east from the manse, but it has never been examined. The common notion concerning it, is, that it is the burial place of some great man. Perhaps it is of Druidical origin, and was one of those places where they kindled their sacred fire. In different places of the parish, there are circles of stones, one in the parks of Gleneagles, one in the glebe, and another in the heights of Sheriffmoor. These are supposed to have been places of Druidical worship. In this parish, the ancestors of the Duke of Montrose had their ordinary residence, at the castle of Kincardine, which was burnt in the time of the Civil Wars, and has never been rebuilt; the ruins remain, and show it to have been a very large and strong Gothic building. It stands upon an eminence, overlooking a deep glen, through which the water of Ruthven runs, and which makes a part of the wood of Kincardine. In Tullibardine stand the remains of a castle of that name, the seat, in former times, of the Earls of Tullibardine; and, for a long time after that family came to the titles of Athol, by marrying the heiress, they resided there some part of the year.

year. At the Rebellion 1715, it was garrisoned by a party of Mar's army, and taken by Argyle. Before the 1745, Lord George Murray and his family resided in it. Since that time it has been suffered to go to ruin.

*Miscellaneous Observations*—There are no mountains in this parish, except a small ridge of the Ochils. It is not so high as the ridge to the south of it,\* which is seen from Edinburgh. It is covered for the most part with fine pasture.

We have frequent thunder and lightening in this parish, but no remarkable accident has ever happened by it. We are exposed to very violent gales of wind from the west and south-west, which sometimes unroof houses, blow down trees, and in harvest cause a prodigious shaking in the standing corns. About two years ago, a hurricane of this kind began about the west end of the parish, and continued in a direction north-east, for about a dozen of miles, and little more than three miles in breadth. The greatest part of the flax was at the time spread upon the ground, and, within the limits mentioned, it swept the whole before it, rolled it into heaps behind dykes or hedges, or threw it into ditches and other hollow places.

The parish of Blackford hath no peculiar advantages or disadvantages. The names of places in it are for the most part English, but some few are evidently Gaelic.

The people have nothing remarkable in their size, strength, or features; they are of the middle size, of a dusky complexion, have a serious turn, and are very zealous in religious matters.

The

The women are the only manufacturers in this parish. From the flax that is raised in it, they spin a good deal of linen yarn, and make many pieces of coarse linen cloth for sale; and, by their industry, raise a part of the rent that is paid to the landlord.

The roads in the district are naturally good, owing to the gravelly soil. They are easily kept up, and till lately, this was done by the statute labour, which was very ill performed. They have now fallen into the method of commuting the statute labour for money, at the rate of from 8s. to 12s. each plough; and little tenants and cottagers are charged such small sums as they are able to pay. Within these few years, bridges have been thrown over several rivulets which come from the Ochils, and in floods were very troublesome to travellers. These were mostly built at the expence of the county. The late Sir William Moncrieff received L. 30 from the county funds, with which he built three very necessary bridges at Blackford.

N U M-

## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF ASHKIRK.

*(Counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk.)**By the Rev. Mr SIMON HALIBURTON.**Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HIS parish lies in the counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk; the greater part of it, however, is in that of Roxburgh. It is in the presbytery of Selkirk, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. The parish is of a square form, about seven English miles long, and three broad. This parish may be called hilly, but most of the hills are free from heath to their very tops. The soil in general is light, and in several parts spongy.

*River and Lakes.*—There is only one river in the parish, which runs through it from west to east; it is called *Ale*. There are four lakes within, and eight partly without the bounds of the parish, none of them above a mile in circumference, all which discharge their waters into the river *Ale*. This river abounds with trout. The lakes produce large trout, perch, and pike in considerable numbers.

*Horses and Black Cattle.*—The number of horses is about 140, and that of black cattle about 442. About 92 calves are

are bred yearly, part of which are disposed of when fat, and part retained for keeping up the flock.

*Productions.*—There was formerly, perhaps, too much grain sown here, and the passion for doing so is still great. The average increase is only three or four feeds, which plainly shews, that the land is very ill cultivated, or better adapted for pasture than for corn. Many of the farmers have got pretty much into the use of raising green crops, especially potatoes, cabbages, and turnips, which answer well. Finding the great advantage of the latter, in feeding their sheep and black cattle, it is likely that they will continue to cultivate such kinds of crops. So much, indeed, has this practice prevailed of late, that there are now 107 acres employed in this way.

*Land-rent and Heritors.*—The land-rent is about L. 2000 Sterling. Within these fifteen years it has risen about a fourth. This increase may be ascribed to the melioration of the land by marl, from a moss of great extent, which was drained about 15 years ago, as well as to the general rise of markets. There are nine heritors, only one of whom resides in the parish. Sir Gilbert Elliot, Baronet, of Minto, is patron.

*Church.*—In the month of April 1790, the church was begun to be rebuilt, and is now nearly finished. The manse was built in 1785. The stipend amounts to L. 57 : 9 : 5 in money, and 90 bolls of victual, one half oat-meal, one half barley, Teviotdale measure.

*Population.*—There are now in the parish of Ashkirk 539 souls, of whom there are,

Under

	Males.	Females.
Under 10 years of age	62	59
Between 10 and 20	62	58
20 and 50	114	109
50 and 70	32	35
70 and 100	1	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	271	268
	Males	271
		<hr/>
	Total	539

Since the year 1755, the inhabitants have decreased about 90 souls; in Dr Webster's report the number being 629. The people of this parish are industrious, frugal, temperate, and devout.

*Fuel.*—The fuel principally used is peat or turf, which are not abundant. The more wealthy parishioners bring coals, for the use of their families, from Lothian, or from the English borders. The places whence these coals are procured are about 30 miles distant from Ashkirk.

*Poor.*—The number of poor who stand upon the roll of the parish is 10; they are maintained by assessments, and the weekly collections in the church. The heritors assess themselves in a certain sum, to be raised in proportion to their valued rents. The proprietor pays one half, the tenant the other, and the distribution is made quarterly.

## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF SMALLHOLM.

*(Counties of Roxburgh and Selkirk.)**By the Rev. Dr ALEXANDER DUNCAN.**Name, Situation, Surface, Extent, &c.*

**S**MALLHOLM is the name of the parish. Whether it is derived from *small-ham*, a village, *holm* a wood, or *Home*, from the town of Home, two miles distant, which was formerly a garrison and a castle, is uncertain. It lies in the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Lauder, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. It is in extent somewhat more than three miles, from the north a little beyond the 34th mile stone, on the high road from Edinburgh to Kelso, to the 37th on the south. The form is irregular; it is near four miles from west to east, but at the east draws to a tongue, or small point. The turnpike road runs through the village, in the middle of which the church stands. Statute labour, when exacted, never came to any account; it is now commuted. The country is a mixture of flat and rising grounds. The soil is in different places very various, but generally a mixture of clay; though, upon the whole, when not too much of it is ploughed, or too often, it is thought to produce very good crops of oats, barley, pease, and some wheat. The air is healthy, neither is  
the

the place liable to any topical or epidemical disease. The village, and two other parts of the parish, have rock for their bottom, and materials of that sort are got very near the public roads, to repair them. Of the diseases, that prevail among labouring people, four sixths are fevers; a physician who practised a good many years in this country, said that these diseases abounded most in years of plenty.

*Antiquities.*—On the south west corner of the parish, stands a large square tower, belonging to Mr Scott of Harden. It is a beacon or land-mark at sea, to direct ships to Berwick; it is called *Sandy-know*, or *Smallholm-tower*. The hills or rising grounds are covered with grass for sheep pasture. This neighbourhood, on both sides of Tweed, was formerly the warlike part of the country, and exposed to the inroads of the English; the lands, therefore, all lay run-rig, that when the enemies came, all the neighbourhood being equally concerned, might run to oppose them. After the Union of the Crowns, this contention ceased, and property became safe. The ravages in former times were so frequent, that there was no bishopric in Scotland, south of the Forth, until Charles I. erected the bishopric of Edinburgh. In England, none were erected further north than Chester in the street, and Lindisfern in Holy Island; though on both sides of the border there were many abbacies. The reason was, abbacies were reckoned holy houses, and the people never touched them. But the bishop, his palace, and furniture, were reckoned secular; and therefore, on any inroad, the people, like the populace of Rome, on the *fede vacante*, accounted all his property lawful plunder. By this run-rig disposition of lands in Scotland, the possessions were formerly very small; but the people of such villages were more numerous. Now almost all these run-rig lands are divided. In the former shape they were incapable of improvement. In this parish, in the



years 1739 and 1740, 1800 acres of lands in run-rig were divided, and let into large farms. The villages and houses formerly possessed by the small farmers, have fallen down, and the lands are let to one sixth part of the former number of tenants. This is one certain cause of the decrease of the numbers of people in many places. Another is, young men going to the army and navy, many of whom never return. It was computed, that, during the two last wars, 70,000 men were recruited or raised in Scotland. It is also reckoned, besides those who have gone to North America, and to the East or West Indies, that 10,000 journeymen wrights, carpenters, bakers, gardeners, and taylors, &c. go yearly from Scotland to London. Many of them emigrate from this part of the country, sailing from Berwick and Newcastle, where the passage is short and frequent, and the freight easy.

*Population.*—In 1700, the number of inhabitants was 600; in 1743, the examination roll was 457; in 1790 it decreased more than 100. In Dr Webster's report the number of souls is stated at 551. One effect of the diminution of the numbers, is, in many places, to raise the price of labour. In 1744, day-labourers here had 5 d. or 6 d. a day without victuals; now they have 6 d. or 8 d. and victuals, and 10 d. or 1 s. without them. The number of examinable persons, who are inrolled after they are seven or eight years old, is 335; of these 150 are males, and 185 females.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The public roads from south to north, through the middle of the parish, were made by act of parliament, and are supported by the tolls. A good part of the parish is inclosed, and is let at 10 s. the English acre. Since 1744, the wages of ordinary or household servants are doubled, and are now from L. 6 to L. 8 a man servant in the year, and L. 3 or L. 4 a woman servant.

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NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF MAYBOLE.

(County of Ayr.)

By the Rev. Dr JAMES WRIGHT.

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*Situation and Name.*

**M**AYBOLE is situated in Carrick, one of the three districts into which the county of Ayr is divided. It is the principal village in Carrick. It seems to have derived its name from the ancient game called the *maypole*. There is at Maybole a piece of level ground, consisting of upwards of an acre, called the Green of Maybole, which is used as a place of exercise for the school boys; where, in former times, the people from several parts of the country used to assemble, for the purpose of enjoying the diversion of the maypole.

Maybole consists of a town and of a landward parish.

I. *Town of Maybole.*—Maybole is situated on the ridge of a piece of high ground, with a dry bottom, and a fine south exposure. It is defended from the northerly and easterly winds, by a range of high lands, which gradually fall back from the town, in the form of a sort of amphitheatre. Maybole is amply supplied with excellent water. This circumstance is mentioned, because, together

ther with the dry bottom, and southerly exposure, it accounts for the great health and longevity of the inhabitants. Within these five years, Mr David Doig, school-master at Maybole, died at the age of 104. About three years ago, a woman died here, aged 105. In this town there are at present 10 persons, whose ages put together, amount to upwards of 900 years. Maybole is a borough of barony, and enjoys as extensive privileges, as any borough of the same denomination in Scotland. Its charter is dated at Edinburgh, the 14th of November 1516. There is at Maybole a very old building, commonly called the *college*, the walls of which are still standing; and the area within is now used for the burying-place of the family of Caffillis. This house was built in the year 1371. It was the chapel or collegiate church of Maybole, and was both built and endowed by John Kennedy, a connection of the Caffillis family. The charter of the edification and endowment of this chapel, was granted to John Kennedy of Dunure, by Robert II. King of Scotland, and by Walter, Lord Bishop of Glasgow, within whose diocese the chapel lay.

*Manufactures.*—The woollen manufacture is carried on, in Maybole, to a greater extent than is commonly known. Eighty looms are employed in the town and country parish of Maybole, in weaving woollen cloth for blankets; and all these looms, except a very few, are in the town. These looms employ, in the course of the manufacture, about 300 persons, who are so industrious, that they manufacture annually about 5600 stones of wool, each stone containing 24 lib. averdupois. According to its quality, the wool is purchased from 5 s. to 21 s. *per* stone. The cloth is sold from 6 d. to 1 s. 6 d. *per* yard; and from 20 to 40 yards are made from one stone. It is wove from 1 d. to 2 d. *per* yard, and is fold

fold at eight annual public markets, four of which are at Maybole, and four at Ayr. Within these twelve months, the cotton manufacture has got a small footing at Maybole, in which 24 looms are employed.

*Population.*—In the town of Maybole, there are 800 examinable persons, that is, at or above eight years of age.

*School.*—The schoolmaster has a salary of 200 hundred merks Scots, to which the heritors, many years ago, added 100 merks more. The school-house, which is built at the foot of the Green of Maybole, is but an old mean thatched house, very unsuitable to the eminent characters, which, at different times, have been educated in it.

II. *Landward Parish of Maybole.*—The country part of this parish is very large and populous. In length from north to south, it is 12 miles, and in breadth from east to west, 7.

*Rivers.*—The rivers of Doon and Girvan, afford plenty of excellent salmon and trout. The Earl of Caillie has the privilege of a salmon cruive, at the house of Caillie, which stands upon this river, on the march of the parish of Maybole; and his Lordship lets the salmon fishing at the foot of the river, where it joins the sea, at the yearly rent of L. 100.

*Population.*—In the country part of this parish, besides those in the town, there are about 1700 examinable persons. Within the last 20 years, the population of the parish has increased by about 300 souls. Among this numerous body of people, consisting of 2500 persons, at and above the age of  
eight

eight years, there are only three Seceders, two women and one man; and even these came but lately into the parish. The return to Dr Webster being only 2058 souls, it follows, that the population has increased about 1000 since 1755, there being now about 3000 souls in the parish.

		Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1784.	Males	41	57	27
	Females	29		
		70		
1785.	Males	35	59	17
	Females	41		
		76		
1786.	Males	38	45	24
	Females	34		
		72		
1787.	Males	34	51	19
	Females	32		
		66		
1788.	Males	39	48	29
	Females	33		
		72		
1789.	Males	40	55	17
	Females	31		
		71		
1790.	Males	34	55	16
	Females	30		
		64		

*Church.*—The stipend of the minister is 63 bolls, 2 pecks of meal, and L. 43 Sterling. To this there was an augmentation lately made of L. 30 Sterling. The church was built about 35 years ago. It is a large, but mean structure.

*Poor.*—The number of the poor in the parish of Maybole is very considerable, arising partly from the great number of the inhabitants, and partly from the great influx of vagrants, particularly from Ireland. It may be said, that in this parish the poor maintain the poor. Few of the principal heritors reside in the parish; and nothing is given by them, in the

the way of donation, to the poor, who are maintained wholly by the collections made at the church door, upon Sunday. For that reason, though the contributions are very liberal, considering the small fortunes of the persons by whom they are given, the poor of this parish do not receive even one half of what they would require.

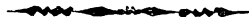
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## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF FERNELL.

(County of Angus.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID FERGUSSON.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HE antient, and true orthography of the parish, is *Fernell*; but it is usually written *Fernwell*, or *Farnwell*. Fernell is said to be of Gaelic origin; *fern* signifying, in that language, a *den*, and *nell*, a *swan*; so that it should seem to have derived its name from an adjoining den, which, at that time, had been the abode of swans. On the north side of this den stands an old castle, once the residence of the ancestors of the present family of Airly. The parish church is about three English miles south of Brechin. The parish lies in the shire of Angus, presbytery of Brechin, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is about three English miles long, and two broad.

The parish of Kinnaird, which lies between the parishes of Fernell and Brechin, was disjoined from that of Fernell, and formed into a separate parish, about the year 1633. In the year 1771, at the instance of the heritors of the parishes of Brechin, Fernell, and Kinnaird, the Court of Session annexed almost the whole of the parish of Kinnaird to Fernell,  
and

and the rest of it to Brechin; which annexation took place in the year 1787.

*Soil.*—The soil is fertile, and generally low land, being situated in the middle of a strath, which extends to Montrose, about five miles distant to the east. This part of the parish consists of a very fine clay and loamy soil, perhaps as good as any in Scotland, and very much resembles the soil of the Carse of Gowrie, betwixt Dundee and Perth. The south and west part of this parish is higher ground; the soil also is of a different nature, and inferior quality, consisting chiefly of black earth. Some of the fields, in the east part of the parish, are subject to inundations, from a small river, which, taking its rise in the muirs, and being increased by a number of small streams, sometimes in autumn swells to an amazing size, overflows its banks, and breaks down the adjoining fences.

*Rivers.*—The only large river in the parish is the South Esk, which rises among the Grampian mountains, runs close by the south side of the town of Brechin, and after meandering beautifully through the strath, discharges itself into the basin, formed by the reflux of the sea, on the west side of Montrose. A considerable part of this river forms the boundary of the parish of Fernell, on the north. It abounds in salmon and salmon-trout; and the fishing upon that part of it, which now belongs to the parish of Fernell, the property of Sir David Carnegie, in extent about two miles and a half, pays about L. 90 Sterling of yearly rent.

*Population.*—In May 1791, there were living in the parish 620 persons, of whom there were,



Under 10 years of age,	-	-	126
Unmarried,	-	-	297
Married,	-	-	172
Widowers and widows,	-	-	25
			<hr/>
			620

Eight of these 620 were between 80 and 90 years old. Within these few years the number of inhabitants has decreased considerably by the enlarging of farms, and of course removing several families of farmers, cottagers, and subtenants. In Dr Webster's report, however, the number is only 509.

Table of births, marriages, and burials, before the annexation.

	Births.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784,	13	5	11
1785,	10	3	5
1786,	13	1	9
1787,	10	10	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At a medium,	11	5	7

Since the annexation,

	Births.	Marriages.	Burials.
1788,	15	7	19
1789,	22	5	11
1790,	15	6	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At a medium,	17	6	14

No register of burials was kept here before the year 1784.  
The

The number of the principal farmers is 11 or 12, most of whom are married and have families. Several of them pay L. 100, some from L. 100 to L. 150 of rent; and one pays L. 250. There are several other small farms, which let at different prices; as, 5, 8, 10, 20, or L. 30. There are only three or four families of dissenters; of whom one or two are Episcopalians, and the rest Non-jurors. There are no Seceders, nor Roman Catholics.

*Productions.*—There are about 2200 arable acres in the parish, of which 8 or 900 acres are of a rich clay soil. The greater part of the parish is inclosed; the haughs or low grounds, where the soil is richest, with thorn hedges; and the others with fences of earth and whins, or with stone dykes; which last is acknowledged to be the best of any. Several improvements in this way have been carried on of late years, and the farmers seem to be convinced of the benefit of inclosures. All the uninclosed ground is therefore to be inclosed by the heritors with stone dykes, the tenants paying the interest. The farm houses are in general very good; they, as well as the offices, being built of stone, and covered with slate. The principal crops in the parish are wheat, oats, barley, and pease. The quantity of wheat sown here, has, for some time, greatly increased, and the clay soil is peculiarly adapted for it. This year there are about 150 acres of wheat sown. Of late, there has been almost no Chester bear sown, barley being preferred, on account of its giving a greater return, and a higher price. A considerable quantity of pease, some beans, and a great deal of clover and rye-grass, are sown in the parish; and usually about 30 acres of flax. Turnips and potatoes are a general crop all over the country. Yams are also successfully cultivated for feeding cattle, and are said to answer better with  
milk

milk cows than turnips, as the milk of cows fed upon them is not affected with the disagreeable taste, which the turnips never fail to give it. Oats, pease, and flax, are sown from the beginning of March to the end of April; barley, from the middle of April to the middle of May; and turnips, from the middle till the end of June, and are generally sown in drills. September and October are the months for sowing wheat. The harvest generally begins about the end of August, and, in ordinary years, the crop is got into the barn-yards before the middle of October. The loamy ground is cultivated four years in tillage, and four years in grafs. The clay lands are cultivated in six parts, viz. fallow, wheat, pease, barley, clover, and oats. A greater quantity of every species of grain, than is necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants, is raised within the parish. The unarable ground consists of pasture, waste ground, and planting. The extent of the natural pasture cannot be exactly ascertained; neither can the measurement of the land, denominated waste ground, be given; but it is neither extensive nor useles, as it serves to supply the inhabitants with broom or whins for fuel. Of planting, there may be between 3 and 400 acres, the greater part of which is Scots fir; but in the pleasure grounds at Kinnaird, there is a great quantity of fine thriving wood of all kinds.

*Church and School.*—The stipend of Fernell, now, in consequence of the annexation from the parish of Kinnaird, is, 103 bolls, 9 pecks meal; 32 bolls oats; 67 bolls and a fir-lot Chester bear, and L. 24 : 13 : 3 Sterling, communion elements included; besides a manse, garden, and glebe of about 7 acres. The late Earls of Southesk were patrons of this parish; but, in consequence of the forfeiture of their estate, in the year 1715, the right of patronage is now in the possession of the Crown. Sir David Carnegie, Bart. of Southesk,

esk, is the representative of the family, has his seat at Kinnaird, and is proprietor of all the parish, except Little Fithie, a small estate of about 100 acres, the property of William Gibson, Esq; who resides upon it. The manse and church were repaired in the year 1752; and the school-house was built in the year 1747. The schoolmaster's salary is about L. 10 Sterling *per annum*; and he has, at an average, twenty-four scholars, who are taught English, writing, and arithmetic.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in the parish is, at an average, 12. There is a mortification, by Dean Carnegie, of 800 merks Scotch; the annual interest of which, together with the interest of some former accumulated collections at the church door, amount yearly to about L. 19 Sterling, which is distributed among the poor. The funds have rather increased than diminished for some years past. No poor in the parish are allowed to go about begging; but this, as well as other parishes in the neighbourhood, is much oppressed by vagrants and sturdy beggars; an evil generally complained of, but never attempted to be remedied.

*Wages.*—About 40 years ago, the annual wages of the best labouring man servant was about 40 s. *per annum*; at present, they cannot be hired under L. 7 Sterling. About 40 years ago, maid servants wages were about 20 s. *per annum*; now they are L. 3, or something more yearly, besides some perquisites.

*Fuel.*—The fuel in general used among the lower ranks of the people, for a long time past, was turf, brought from Monkrithmont Muir; but that muir was, some years ago, divided among the gentlemen of property in the neighbourhood,

hood, and no turf was afterwards allowed to be carried out of it. In consequence of which, fuel is a scarce commodity here; and that now used by the lower ranks is the branches of firs, which are pruned from the woods, or such broom and whins as the uncultivated grounds afford. Coals are also brought from Arbroath, about eight miles distance, where they are bought for 6s. or 6s. 6d. *per* boll, (72 stone) free of any duty to government; so that they are 1s. 6d. cheaper than at Montrose, where the duty is levied. No peats can be had within 12 or 14 miles.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In this parish there are 60 carts and 40 ploughs, 20 of which are ploughs constructed for four horses, and 20 for two horses; so that the number of labouring horses is 120. The number of black cattle is supposed, at an average, to be about 600. There are no sheep kept in the parish, as there are no hills or waste ground to supply them with pasture. The roads were formerly kept in repair by the tenants, who had their labour appointed according to the extent and value of their farms. Last year the statute act took place, which converts the labour into money, at the rate of 1 l. 4 s. Sterling for every L. 100 Scots of valued rent. There was collected last year in this parish, including the tax on fiddle and work horses, L. 31 Sterling, which is in future to be collected every year, for the purpose of repairing the roads. There are no manufactures carried on here, all the people being employed in farming, except a few who follow handy-craft employments, such as taylors, wrights, shoemakers, weavers, &c. They are a sober and industrious set of people, enjoying, in a reasonable degree, the conveniencies and comforts of society, and seemingly contented with their situation and circumstances. There are no ale-houses, nor is the want of them considered by the people as an hardship.

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NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF STENTON.

(County of East-Lothian.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER DAVIDSON.

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*Extent and Situation.*

THE parish of Stenton lies within the county of Haddington, in the presbytery of Dunbar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The inland part of the parish is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south, and 3 from east to west. It is called the inland part, because a wing of the parish stretches southward into Lammermoor, to the distance of about 10 miles from the church, and is there bounded by the river Whitewater.

*Soil.*—There is a great diversity of soil in this parish; almost all the variety comprehended between the strongest clay and lightest mould. The strata immediately below the soil, are chiefly free stone or gravel. Round the village of Stenton, and in some adjacent fields, the ground is very stoney; the small stones upon the surface lie so thick, that in some spots, when harrowed, scarce any soil is to be seen, and yet in these very spots, the crop is generally good, and sometimes luxuriant. The ground in this neighbourhood is almost all inclosed, chiefly with stone walls, from excellent  
free

free stone quarries, which are to be found almost in every field.

*Productions.*—The crops are the same as elsewhere in East-Lothian. The grain is in general good; but, in Lammermoor and its confines, the corn is of a very inferior quality. Fortunately, in that bleak country, they depend little upon corn crops; their sheep farms are their chief support. The passion for the turnip crop seems to grow in this part of the country, and is perhaps justified by its success.

*Population.*—The numbers in this parish, by an accurate list just now made up, are 624 souls. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 631. For the last 10 years the average

of baptisms was	-	14
marriages	-	3
burials	-	7

*Poor.*—Without the aid of assessments, the poor of this parish are well provided for; the trustees, at the same time, take care, that every individual shall do the best he can, for supporting himself, and no encouragement is given to idleness. They have a capital of about L. 500, most of which has been bequeathed at different times by individuals of the family of Beild. The collections, added to the interest of this capital, afford the poor a decent and comfortable supply. The poor here are under no temptation, and, indeed, they receive no encouragement to beg, because they are aware of the consequence, that they should thereby be cut off from all parochial aid. But, though there are no vagrants from this parish, the country is perpetually harrassed, and perhaps never more so than at present, by stranger beggars, who pour in from all quarters, and greatly distress the honest and industrious.

NUM-

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF BEATH.

*(County of Fife.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES REID.**Extent, &c.*

**B**EATH is a small inland parish, about four English miles long, and three broad, situated on the west end of the county and synod of Fife, and presbytery of Dunfermline. The Earl of Moray is patron. The value of the living is about L. 80 Sterling, including the glebe.

*Productions.*—The only crops it produces are oats, barley, pease, beans, potatoes, and turnips; but no wheat, except what the minister sows in his glebe. It is believed, however, that a great deal of wheat might be raised, were the ground properly prepared; but the farmers seem to have a prejudice against it. A great proportion of the land is in grass, and produces excellent hay and pasture. The largest of the cattle bring about L. 10 or L. 12 a head. Provisions of all kinds have risen nearly one half within these 20 years, except oat meal, which is the principal food of the common people. There is only one coallery in the parish at present, belonging to John Symes, Esq; of Cartmore; several other seams of coal have been wrought formerly, and may still be wrought, as most of the ground seems to contain that mineral.



*Heritors, &c.*—There are 15 heritors in the parish, four of whom are non-resident. Many of them farm their own lands, so that the real rent of the parish cannot be easily ascertained; but there are about 30 farms in the parish, great and small, which, taken at L. 50 each, at a medium, would make the whole rent L. 1500. About two thirds of the ground are inclosed, partly with stone dykes, and partly with hedges and ditches.

There is no lime here, but plenty of stone for building. The whole of the surface is rugged and uneven, consisting of a great variety of little hills, or rising grounds, but nothing that can be called a mountain.

*Population.*—The parish contains about 100 families, which, allowing somewhat more than four to a family, may amount in all to from 400 to 500 souls. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1099. The population has decreased considerably within these 20 years; owing, not to any epidemical distemper, for the people are very healthy, but principally to the practice of laying so much ground into grass, by which means the farmers carry on their labour with fewer hands than formerly.

*Poor.*—There are no begging poor here, and only a few pensioners, generally from 10 to 12. These are supplied either quarterly, or occasionally, as they need. The funds are the ordinary collections, dues upon marriages, and burials, and the interest of L. 100 due by bond to the session.

*Rivers, &c.*—There are only two small rivers in the parish, one of which rises out of Loch Tilly, and drives two corn mills, the only two in the parish; there is also a lint mill,

mill, lately erected on a new construction, which is drawn by a single horse without water, and serves for a barley mill at the same time : this is considered as a great improvement in this part of the country. Loch Tilly is a small lake, or piece of water, which separates Beath from Dunfermline, and abounds with pikes and perches.

*Curiosities.*—The greatest curiosity in the parish is the hill of Beath, the south west part of which affords a most delightful and extensive prospect of the Frith of Forth, the three Lothians, and many of the neighbouring counties ; it is covered with a beautiful green sward, and affords excellent sheep pasture. From the top, there is certainly one of the finest landscapes in Scotland. This hill is frequently visited by strangers, for the sake of the extent and beauty of the prospect.

*School.*—The parochial school is the only one in the parish ; the salary is 100 merks Scots. The number of scholars is about 30 ; the living altogether does not exceed L. 15 or L. 16 a year.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXX.

## PARISH OF FINTRAY.

*(County of Aberdeen.)**By the Rev. Dr SAMUEL COPLAND.**Situation, Extent, &c.*

THE parish of Fintray, the origin and import of whose name are unknown, is situated in the county of Aberdeen, and in that division of the county called Formartin. It is also within the bounds both of the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen. The parish contains about 10,000 acres; and extends nearly five English miles in length, and four in breadth. Its form resembles that of an Irish harp. The natural boundaries are the Don, which separates it from Dyce, Kinnellar, and Kintore; the burn of Danemiln, which separates it from Keith-hall; and some rising grounds, and small rivulets or burns, separate it from the other parishes. The parish is hilly, but not mountainous. The highway, running south-east from Danemiln to Aberdeen, divides the arable ground almost equally: That part of it, which is on the west and south-west of the high-way, is generally a rich loamy soil. The haughs especially are very rich grounds; and this parish contains several hundred acres of haugh, the greater part of which however is subject to be overflowed by the Don. The ground rises from the river to the back part of the parish nearly 300 feet; and the soil is much worse, consisting

sitting partly of peat moss, and partly of moor, interspersed with patches of arable land, some of which is a strong clay soil.

*River.*—The river Don produces salmon and very fine trout; but the cruives, which are situated near the mouth of the river, greatly diminish the value of the higher fishings, and have given rise to many disputes between the heritors of the upper parts of the river, and the proprietors of these cruives. A late decret arbitral has been obtained, which, it was thought, would have terminated these disputes; but a process is now depending against the proprietors of the cruives, for not obeying this decision. A great inundation of the Don, in 1768, carried off the whole crop on the haughs.

*Population, &c.*—The population has decreased within these few years. At present the number is 920. The number of both sexes, below 15 years old, is 341; above 15, there are 579. At a medium of ten years, the number of deaths is 16;—of births 19;—of marriages 4. Out of 500 children, whose names are recorded in the parish register, 274 are males, and 226 females. There are 220 families in the parish, of which 4 persons are blacksmiths; 13 are house-carpenters; 10 are tailors; 7 are weavers; 5 are masons; 1 dyer, and 9 are shoemakers.—The number of inhabitants in Dr Webster's report, is 905 souls.—There are 808 black cattle, 182 horses, and 506 sheep.

*Productions and Rent.*—The productions of the parish are oats, bear or big, rye, barley, and pease. Yams, or horse potatoes, have been lately introduced with success. Potatoes and turnips are becoming very general. The rent of the parish

rish is supposed to be L. 1300 Sterling. The valued rent is L. 3007 Scots.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The disadvantages of the parish are, the poverty of the inhabitants, short leases, and distance from lime or marle. Peat mofs is also becoming scarce. This would really be an advantage, if the absurd and oppressive tax on coals were repealed; which puts it out of the power of poor people to purchase coals. The advantages of this parish are its southern exposure, which renders the harvest earlier, than that of the adjacent parishes; and the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, to which the inhabitants can go to market, and return the same day. Some long leases have lately been given, where the rents rise at different periods of the lease, and which tend much to encourage agriculture. Three of the farmers, who took these leases, came from the county of Angus. Good land generally rents at 20 s. *per* acre; poor out-field, as low as 2 s. or 3 s. The latter, in the way the tenants manage it, is the dearest.

*Church.*—The stipend is 5 chalders of victual, one third of which is bear, and 440 mërks in money. The glebe consists of 6 acres of arable land, and an acre and an half of poor grafs land. The heritors are, Sir William Forbes, who is also patron of the parish, and proprietor of considerably more than the half of it; Mr Skene of Skene, who has nearly one third part; Miss Dyce of Dirblair, and William Johnstoun portioner of Wester Blair.

*Poor.*—The number of families, on the poor's roll, is at present 16. The yearly collections are L. 18 or L. 19. It may be proper here to observe, that the late Sir Arthur Forbes, when in the decline of life, being unable, as formerly, to be

be present at public worship, always sent a sum of money every Sunday for the poor, not only from himself, but collected from all the company, who resided at his house, and did not attend. This was a considerable source of support to the poor; and affords an excellent example, in those parts of the north of Scotland, where the heritors and inhabitants are not affected by law, as is usual in the southern districts.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are nearly 300 acres planted with Scots fir, in general interspersed with oak, ash, elm, plane, beech, birch, larix, spruce, silver fir, and other forest trees.—The lands now, are commonly ploughed with weak horse ploughs. Formerly strong oxen ploughs were used. Since the introduction of horse ploughs, the number of cattle has diminished, at least one half. That of sheep is a still greater proportion.—One person, aged 96, died lately, and there are several now alive above 90 years old. The people are in general industrious; but the knitting of stockings, which is here carried on to great extent, is too sedentary an employment, and is often hurtful to the constitution. The farmers, in general, are but in middling circumstances: Their condition would be much meliorated, by giving them long leases. The largest farm here, consists of about 300 acres of arable land. The parish, in general, is uninclosed, except what the proprietors have in their own hands. The roads are now in pretty good repair; and bridges are laid over all the burns, or small rivulets in the parish.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXX.

## PARISH OF CULSALMOND.

(County of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Dr WILLIAM M'LIESH.

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Name, Extent, &c.

THE name of the parish is *Culsalmond*. It is situated in the county and synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Garrioch. In length it is three and one half miles, and in breadth three miles. There are two little hills in the parish, called *Corsdow* and *Culsalmond*, which are covered with heath, and abound with fine blue slate, which is carried to considerable distances. The rest of the parish is quite level, and of a deep fertile soil. The air, in the spring, is a little foggy, but very few distempers prevail. The only river is the Urie, running the whole length of the parish; but, as it is small, trouts alone are caught in it. The distance from the sea is 25 English miles.

*Population.*—With regard to the population of the parish, this can be traced no farther back than 36 years. It was then more populous than at present, owing to the improvements made by the proprietors, which led them to take much ground into their own hands. But as the whole parish, in the course of 25 years, has gone to new owners, the population is increasing by people coming

coming from other places, and taking the waste farms. The present inhabitants are, males, 314; females, 304; in whole 618. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 810. The annual average of births, for six years, is 16; of deaths 8, and of marriages 5. Under 10 years of age, 116; between that and 20 years, 84. All the people attend the Established Church, except 9 Seceders.

*Productions.*—The productions of the parish are oats, barley, turnips, and a very few pease. As the ground is fertile, good crops are obtained. The produce is more than double of what is sufficient to maintain the inhabitants. The number of horned cattle is 648; horses of the small kind 165; sheep, 850, and they annually rear up 140 calves. It is not above 26 years since the planting of timber began; now there are extensive plantations, all thriving well, consisting of larch, spruce, oak, ash, elm, beech, birch, mountain ash, and Scots fir. Inclosing began at the same time, and is found to be a very great improvement.

*Heritors, &c.*—The parish is divided among four proprietors, viz. Colonel McIntosh of Newton, who is the only residing heritor; Leith of Freefield; Gordon of Ardmeallie, and the heirs of Innes of Breda. The whole rent does not exceed 1150 l. stipend included, which, one year with another, may amount to 70 l. including the value of the glebe.

*Fuel.*—The only fuel is peat and turf; of which there are great abundance, except in one corner of the parish.



## NUMBER XXXI.

## PARISH OF DAIRSIE.

(County of Fife.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT M'CULLOCH.

*Situation and Surface.*

THIS parish is situated in the county and synod of Fife, and in the presbytery of Cupar. It is of an irregular form, extending from the south-east, to the north-west, two Scots miles, and from the south-west, to the north-east, nearly as much. Its general appearance is that of a gently rising ground. There are in it two hills of a moderate height, from which are very extensive prospects. The one is called *Foodie*, the other *Craig foodie*, and both of them are remarkable for bearing good crops nearly to their tops. The soil in this parish is for the most part fertile, and in many places rich and deep. The air is generally dry and healthy. There are no considerable rivers in this district, except the Eden, which forms its boundary to the south and south-east, and, a little farther on, runs into the Eastern ocean. It abounds with excellent trout, and a few salmon are sometimes caught in it. The fish are mostly taken by the rod, and very few are ever sent to market.

*Population.*—This parish contains 540 persons. In Dr Webster's report, the number of souls is 469. There are 11 farms

farms here of different extent, from 330 down to 60 acres. The parish is laboured by about 24 ploughs. Every two ploughs employs at least three men, two for the ploughs, and one for the barn and other work. A farmer having two ploughs of land, commonly keeps two boys for taking care of the cattle, and two women, chiefly for harvest work. The population of this parish is not materially different from what it was 18 years ago. There are, upon an average, five marriages, and 13 births.

*Cattle and Productions.*—There are no sheep in this parish. There are about 110 horses, 400 cows, oxen, and young cattle. Of wheat there are sown about 190 acres. Sowing artificial grasses, and the cultivation of potatoes and turnips, have of late exceedingly increased. About 20 acres or more are annually sown with flax seed.

*Church and Poor.*—The stipend of this parish is five and a half chalders of victual, and about L. 28 in money, with a manse and a glebe of six acres. The church was built by Archbishop Spottiswood, in 1622, when he was proprietor of the estate of *Dairfie*. In the old house near the church, it is said, that he wrote his history. The church is a remarkably neat and well proportioned building, having a flat lead roof, and a spire on the south-west corner. Its situation is beautiful and picturesque. The manse was built in 1749. Besides Miss Scot, who is proprietor of a great part of this parish, there are four other heritors, none of whom, except a minor, reside in the place. There are four or five persons supported by the poor's funds. The contributions for the relief of the poor on the Lord's day are from 3 s. to 3 s. 6 d. weekly.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In this parish are several good  
whin-

whin stone quarries, which are easily got at, and good free stone is to be had, at different places not far distant. Excellent cattle are bred in the neighbourhood, which, when three or four years old, bring, in the market, from six to ten guineas. This parish derives considerable advantage from its situation, being about four computed miles from the Frith of Tay, and nearly the same distance from St Andrews, to both which the farmers send a great deal of grain. Coal is the fuel generally used here, and costs 2 s. 8 d. at the pit, for the double horse cart. The ploughs formerly used here, were drawn by four oxen and two horses; now they are made much lighter, and drawn by two horses only. There is nothing peculiar either in the strength, size, or stature of the inhabitants, who in general live easy, and are disposed to be industrious. They are a plain and frugal people, and enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. There is a good bridge here over the Eden, consisting of three arches, said to have been built by Archbishop Spottiswood. The roads in this neighbourhood are as yet in bad repair. The statute work is commuted. Turnpike roads are just beginning to be made. Some of the best land in this parish has been lately let at about 40 s. the acre; other farms rent from 15 s. to 20 s. The parish in general is uninclosed. There is hardly any alteration in this place more remarkable, than the change in the people's dress, which, within these 20 years, has become much gayer than formerly.

N U M.

## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF BRACADALE.

*(County of Inverness.)**By the Rev. Mr Roderick M'Leod.**Situation, Surface, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the county of Inverness, in the island and presbytery of Sky, and provincial synod of Glenelg. It is of an irregular form. The length of the inhabited part is about 17 computed miles. The breadth in one part is seven, and in other places about four computed miles. It is intersected by arms of the sea in different directions. The surface, in general, is hilly, with some plain spots adjacent to the sea. The soil in some parts is fertile; the air is moist and foggy, but not unhealthy, owing to the frequent breezes of wind. There are no considerable lakes or rivers, and none that are navigable; though there are many rapid waters, which are frequently attended with inconvenience, difficulty, and danger, to people travelling from one part of the parish to the other. The shore is flat in some places, but for the most part high and rocky. There are various kinds of fish upon the coast, but they are not caught in any considerable quantity; which may, perhaps, be owing either to want of pains, or of proper encouragement. Sea-ware, in some farms, is used for manuring the land. The greatest number of farms in the parish have no kelp, and such  
of

of them as have any, manufacture it only once every two or three years. The average quantity of it cannot be accurately ascertained, but may be about 50 tons. The principal bays, or harbours, are Loch-Bracadale, a good and safe harbour, Loch-Harport, a considerable branch of Loch-Bracadale, where vessels may ride with safety, and Loch-Eynart, at the distance of seven computed miles south of Loch-Bracadale, where vessels sometimes resort. South of that, at the distance of three computed miles, is Loch-Brettle, an open bay, and not a safe harbour. The islands in this parish are Haverfay, Vuiay, Oranfay, Soay. These islands are not inhabited, but are only pendicles to the different farms on the shore that are opposite to them, and afford pasture for cattle, during part of the summer and winter seasons. Oranfay is a peninsula. There are no remarkable mountains within the parish; but a considerable ridge of very high and lofty hills, (the forest of the island of Sky) run betwixt this parish, and the parish of Strath, and are the property of Lord M'Donald, Colonel M'Leod, and Mr M'Alister of Strath-Aird. They are commonly called *Culinn*, a name conjectured by some to be derived from the famous *Cuchulinn*, so often mentioned in Ossian's poems. The tops of these hills are rocky, but there are hollows, or valleys between them, frequented by deer, and which likewise afford pasture to different kinds of cattle in the summer season. The hills within the parish are for the most part covered with heath, mixed with some spots of grass, and afford good summer pasture for horses, sheep, and cows. The parish, in general, affords good grazing for black cattle, and some parts of it are good pasture for sheep.

*Population.*—With regard to the population in the parish, the present amount is about 2250 souls. In Dr Webster's report,

report, the number is 1907. This increase is the more remarkable, as it has taken place, notwithstanding emigrations at different times to foreign parts. If there had been no emigrations, the number of people would have been considerably greater. From 1771 to 1774, 128 souls emigrated. In August 1788, about 200 souls went from this parish to North America, and about the same number in October 1790. The number of males will be upwards of a third more than that of the females. There are no towns nor villages in the parish. The annual average of births is 40, of deaths 16, of marriages 20. All the inhabitants are of the established church, except two Episcopalians; there are no Seceders, and no Roman Catholics.

*Productions.*—This parish produces black cattle, sheep, and horses. Black cattle is the main staple, of which numbers are sent to the English markets every year; from the returns of which the people pay their rents, and supply themselves with necessaries. There are small quantities of sheep on each farm, but there is no farm laid out entirely in sheep pasture. The breed of horses is generally so small, that each farm must keep a number of them for leading their peats, (which is their chief fuel), for leading manure, and for labouring the ground. The parish does not always supply itself with provisions, but frequently imports grain from other countries. There is neither hemp, nor flax, raised here, but there are much greater quantities of hay than there was 20, 30, or 40 years ago; all from natural grass. The people in general cultivate small oats, which they sow in the months of March and April, and reap in the months of September and October. Their barley and potatoes they sow in the month of April, and reap in the months of August and September.

With

With regard to the advantages and disadvantages of the parish, it is, like the whole of this part of Scotland, fitter for grazing and rearing cattle or sheep, than for corn.

*Language*.—The Gaelic is the principal language spoken in this parish. As to the names of places, some of them are derived from the Gaelic; but it has been always believed, that, since the encroachments of the Picts and Danes, the names of many places in this, as well as in the greatest part of the Western Isles, are derived from the Danish.

*Church, &c.*.—The land rent of this parish is about L. 1000 Sterling. The present stipend is 1000 merks Scots, the whole living, including the glebe, is upwards of L. 60 Sterling. Colonel M'Leod of M'Leod is patron and sole heritor. There are two churches in the parish, at the distance of seven or eight computed miles from each other, where the minister preaches alternately, one of which was built above 40 years ago, and was repaired in 1783. The other was raised upon the ruins of an old chapel, and is at this time in a very ruinous state. The manse was built in 1789. The number of poor who receive alms in the parish is about 170. They are chiefly supplied by the Sunday collections.

*Antiquities*.—There are different places in the parish, where there have been burial grounds, and vestiges of houses, that seem to have been places of worship in ancient times. There is one Danish fort less than a computed mile from the manse. A great part of the outer wall of it is still entire, made up of large dry stones, without mortar, or any kind of apparent cement, but very regularly and artificially laid together, and traces of apartments within. There is likewise another fort of the same kind, at the distance of about 13  
computed

computed miles, and situated at one extremity of this parish. There are several of the same form in different parts of this country, and are all built upon eminences or rising grounds. There is, at the distance of about a computed mile from the manse, a subterraneous cavern or grotto, artificially built with stone within, and the top laid over with earth, so that it cannot be seen till a person is close at the entry, which is narrow and difficult of access. It is believed, that all these subterraneous caverns were used as places of shelter or concealment in perilous times.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no turnpike roads nor bridges in the parish. There have been some attempts to make a general road through the parish, partly by statute labour, and partly by raising money; but the roads are still, for the most part, in a wretched state. With regard to inclosures, there are in general no stone inclosures; there are some feal dykes, which get an annual reparation. There are some other kinds of ditches, or feal dykes of a more durable form.



## NUMBER XXXIII.

## PARISH OF ROTHES.

*(County of Murray.)**By the Rev. Mr G. CRUICKSHANK.**Situation, Soil, &c.*

**T**HIS parish lies along the bank of the Spey, on the north side, and is in a great measure surrounded with hills, which are all covered with heath. The soil is generally dry and sandy, and the crops are, for the most part, oats and bear. The culture of green crops is not very extensively practised. There is neither lime nor marle in the parish. Salmon are caught in the Spey, and commonly sell for 4 d. a pound, during the months of March, April, and May, and afterwards from 3 d. to 2 d. *per* pound.

*Population.*—In the old parish of Rothes there are 1000 souls, and in that part of the parish of Dundurcas, which was annexed to Rothes about seven years ago, there are about 500, so that the parish of Rothes, at present, contains about 1500 souls. In Dr Webster's report, previous to the annexation, the number is 746. The population has greatly increased of late, owing to a village that is built at Rothes, which contains about 300 young and old.

*Heritors.*

*Heritors.*—There are four heritors in the parish, namely, Lord Findlater, who has about two thirds of it; Sir William Gordon of Gordonston, Baronet, who has the lands of Inchbeary and Gerbety; the Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, who resides at Orton, and Mrs M'Dowal Grant of Airndelly, who has the lands of Ackenway.

*Antiquities.*—There are the ruins of an old Castle, which gives title to the noble family of Rothes, which was once the residence of the Earls of Rothes, from whom all the Leslies, are descended. It now belongs to Lord Findlater.

NUM.

## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF FLISK.

(County of Fife.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM GOURLAY.

*Situation and Extent.*

THIS parish is situated on the river Tay, opposite to that beautiful, fertile country, the Carle of Gowry. It is bounded by Birkhill on the east, and the castle of Balinbriek on the west, along the Tay. This castle is an old edifice, approaching fast to ruin, and which was long the residence of the Rothes family. It has been a place of good accommodation as well as strength. The extent of this parish is about three miles in length, and more than a mile in breadth, in many places.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>Population.</i> —Under 10 years	42	42	84
from 10 to 20	40	31	71
from 20 to 50	52	69	121
from 50 to 70	24	22	46
from 70 to 100	5	4	9
	—	—	—
Total	163	168	331

In Dr Webster's report, the number is 318.

*Productions.*

*Productions.*—The farmers sow a good deal of wheat. About 12 or 15 years ago, there was very little wheat sown; but now they sow, one year with another, 150 bolls, in the extent of one or two and twenty ploughs of land. As the barony lands in this parish are upon the Tay, the farmers have their barley, which is esteemed very good, shipped off in cargoes to other places; but, before the demand from the distilleries, &c. they often found it difficult to procure a market for their grain. They have now got threshing-mills introduced, which will forward their operations not a little.

*Hills.*—There is a very large hill, called *Norman's Law*, which rises from the level of the Tay, upon two eminences, one above another. From this hill there is a most extensive prospect. The common opinion, as to the origin of the name *Norman*, is, that the Norwegians, in their piratical incursions, did, for some time, encamp upon this hill. This traditional account is favoured by the appearance of an intrenchment round the summit.

*Sheep.*—There is not a sheep in this parish, nor indeed, from the present mode of farming, can sheep be kept, unless the low lands, as well as the hilly grounds, of which there is a vast extent, were inclosed.

## NUMBER XXXV.

## PARISH OF SKIRLING.

*(County of Peebles.)**By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM HOWE.**Situation, Extent, Surface.*

**T**HIS parish lies in the county of Tweeddale, or Peebles. The western boundaries of the parish are also the boundaries of the shire. It is in the presbytery of Biggar, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is two miles and a half long, and nearly the same in breadth. The general appearance of the surface is uneven. We have no mountains; but there are three small green hills in the parish. On part of two farms there is some short heather. The soil is fertile, though generally light. Being much above the level of the sea, the air is pure and wholesome. Owing to our high situation, the crops are often damaged by frosts, which sometimes set in about the middle of August. The house of Skirling appears, by the vestiges of the walls, to have been large. It was surrounded by a morass or bog, except a small space on the south-west side, and that was defended by turrets. The entry to the house was by a bridge of stone over this bog.

*Fairs.*—We have four annual fairs here; the first on the Tuesday before the 12th of May; the second on the 3d Tuesday

Tuesday after the 11th of May; the third on the first Wednesday after the 11th of June, and the last on the 15th of September. At those fairs are sold horses, cows, shoes, saddlery ware, coopers articles, fiddles, and pedlars goods.

*Population.*—From a survey of the parish, there are at present in it,

under 10	-	-	-	49
from 10 to 20	-	-	-	56
from 20 to 50	-	-	-	105
from 50 to 70	-	-	-	18
from 70 to 85 (the age of the oldest person)	-	-	-	6
Total				234
Males				120
Females				114
				234

In Dr Webster's report, the number is 335.

*Productions.*—Natural grass is found here on the hills and plains. White clover grows spontaneously in some fields. We have pot-herbs of all sorts, and various kinds of ash, elm, beech, plane, and fir trees. A great part of the parish has lately been sown with grass-seeds for pasture. There are between 70 and 80 horses in the parish. The chief crop here is oats, with which between 300 and 400 acres are annually sown. Each acre, at an average, will produce between 5 and 6 bolls. Between 30 and 40 bolls of pease are the utmost that are sown in one year; this crop being most readily damaged by frost. Potatoes and turnips thrive in this soil. An acre of potatoes planted in the drill way, with the plough, will produce about 20 bolls Linlithgow measure, and

and sell for between 4 s. and 5 s. a boll; cows and horses feed well on them. Every farmer here sows five or six lippies of flax-feed; cottagers and those who have small possessions, two or three lippies. Each lippie produces between 12 lib. and a stone of scutched flax. The waste ground in this parish serves for sheep walks; and there may be of such ground between 70 and 80 acres.

*Church.*—The living here is L. 38 : 17 : 8; one chalders of bear, 17½ bolls of meal; a manse and a glebe, containing 7 acres, 3 roods, and 19 falls. John Carmichael of Skirling, successor to the late Lord Hyndford, is patron. The church here was probably first built as a chapel of ease for the proprietor and his tenants. It appears to have been rebuilt in 1720. The manse was built in 1636; and rebuilt in 1725.

*Poor.*—The persons receiving charity here, at present, are one family of five children, another of two, and two single persons. None of these receive weekly or monthly pensions, except one person. They only receive, occasionally, such supplies as we are able to afford, from the collections in the church; the hire of the mort-cloths, and for proclamation of banns. The whole of these may amount to between L. 4 and L. 5 *per annum*. We have no stock, but a few pounds to answer any extraordinary demand.

*Fuel.*—The fuel here is mostly coal, which is brought from the distance of 15 miles. There is only one moss in the parish, which is nearly exhausted.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In this parish there are 10 farmers. One of these possesses five farms. Other two possess two farms each. Each of these 10 farms contain, at an average,

average near 200 acres. The rent, at an average, is 4s. *per* acre. Besides these ten farms, there are ten smaller possessions about this village, which are inclosed with hedges and ditches, and with belts of planting. They are rented at 20s. and 25s. *per* acre. There is a map of the parish in the hands of Cornelius Elliot, Esq; writer to the signet. I suppose there are between 2000 and 3000 acres in it. The roads in this parish, are, at present, in bad repair, owing to a great part of the lead, from Leadhills and Wenlockhead, passing from one end of it to the other. The statute labour is exacted in kind, and is found to be inadequate to the keeping of the roads in proper repair.



## NUMBER XXXVI.

## PARISH OF DURRIS.

*(County of Aberdeen.)**By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM STRACHAN.**Name and Situation.*

THE antient name of the parish, as appears by some old manuscripts in my possession, is *Duired*. The modern name is *Durris* or *Dores*. The word *Duired*, signifies, in the Gaelic language, *the Mouth of the Highlands*. The parish of Durris lies in the county of the Mearns, and in the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen. Its form is nearly that of an oblong square. It is about four or five Scots miles long; and two and a half broad. The appearance of the country is, in some parts, flat, and in others mountainous. Part of the Grampian hills run along the south side of the parish. The soil, near the river side, is generally thin and sandy. There are, however, two pieces of flat ground, viz. those of Durris and Balbridie, of a deep soil. That of Durris is mostly inclosed and subdivided. A good part of it has, of late, been improved; and now produces excellent crops. In the midland, and towards the hills, the soil is deeper and blacker.

*Mineral Waters.*—There are several mineral springs in this parish, mostly of the chalybeate kind. There is one on  
the

the top of mount Gower, called *Red-Beard's Well*, which is reckoned good for stomachic complaints. There is another strongly impregnated with sulphur. The taste of the water is disagreeable; but it fits very light on the stomach.

*River*.—The river Dee bounds the parish on the north. It is not navigable, but at Aberdeen, by means of the tides. The salmon fishings on the Dee, for some years past, have not been profitable; because the fish do not come up the river in such numbers as formerly. From the month of January, till the middle of May, salmon sells at Aberdeen, at 6 d. *per* pound. During the rest of the season, they are sold at 3 d. *per* pound. They are in perfection from the beginning of January to the middle of September.

*Hills*.—The hills in the parish are Hawk's Nest, Mount Gower, Cragg-beg, Mon-dernel and Cairn Monearn. The most remarkable of these hills is Cairn Monearn; according to Mr Garden's map of the county, it is 340 yards high. It has a very large cairn of stones on the top of it. All these hills are covered with moss and heath. There are a good many rocks at the foot of Cragg-beg. Among these rocks is a cavern. A road to Stonehaven, called the *Stag-road*, is near this cave. Robbers, headed by one Red-Beard, are said formerly to have sheltered themselves in it; and to have committed many depredations. Red-Beard's Well received its name from this robber.

*Population*.—In the year 1769, as appears by a roll of the former incumbent,

The population was	-	777	} decreased since 1769, 126.
The present population is		651	

The

The number of males is	-	-	299
The number of females	-	-	352
In Dr Webster's report, the number is	-	-	889.

*Productions, &c.*—The produce is barley, oats, pease, turnips, potatoes and cabbages. Lord Peterborough, nine years ago, planted a large field near the house of Durriss, with Scots fir, larix, &c. This plantation is thriving very well. He has lately inclosed a great deal of moor ground near the house of Durriss. Part of these inclosures is already planted. There is a very romantic den at the back of the house of Durriss, planted with ash, elm, horse-chestnut, beech, larix, birch, and oak. The number of cattle may be about 5 or 600, of horses 123, and of sheep 2275.

*Church.*—The stipend of Durriss is L. 50 Sterling. No victual is paid to the minister. The Earl of Peterborough is both patron and proprietor. It brings him in L. 1200 Sterling *per annum*. The manse, and most of the office-houses are new. They were built in the years 1773 and 1774.

*Poor.*—The number of poor, receiving alms, is from 30 to 40 yearly. The total sum of annual collections, and of annual rents, for the use of the poor, is L. 35, of which L. 1 Sterling, and upwards, is appropriated to the infirmary of Aberdeen.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used here, is peat and turf. The peat is procured from excellent mosses, in different parts of the parish; and the turf from the grounds near the mosses.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The number of farms is 42.  
There

There are no manufacturers, strictly speaking, in the parish. The women and children make a great many hosiery, but are not fond of spinning lint. There is one Roman Catholic, one Episcopalian; all the rest are of the established church. There is no map of the parish; but there is one of the county by Mr Garden. He makes the number of acres in this parish 13,309 Scots, 16,912 English.—About a quarter of a mile below the church, on the north side of the Aberdeen road, there is a little hill, called the *Castle-hill*. It has formerly been a place of some strength. Places on the top, where cannon have been planted, are very visible. There is a pretty deep ditch round the foot of it, on the east, south, and west. A stream of water, coming from a neighbouring hill, can easily be brought to fill the ditch.

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## NUMBER XXXVII.

## PARISH OF MAKERSTON.

*(County of Roxburgh.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES RICHARDSON.**Name, Situation, &c.*

THE etymology and derivation may be, the *Town* of *MacKer*, or *Ker's Son*. It lies in the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Kelso, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. Its form is a long square, stretching five or six miles along the north bank of the Tweed, from east to west. Its breadth, from north to south, is between four and five miles. The country is flat, with a gentle ascent from the Tweed. The air is dry, and the soil fertile. There is no lake or river, except the Tweed, which produces fine salmon and trout. The former are sold from 3 d. to 1 s. *per* pound, according to the season; but by far the greatest proportion is carried to Berwick, pickled, and sent to the London market. The Tweed is not navigable here. The pastures are for the most part rich, and so very fine, that they feed the best mutton, though not the largest in this country; with very good oxen, cows, and horses, that fetch high prices. A good many swine are also fed.

*Population.*—The population of this parish must be greatly decreased, which is the case in all the neighbouring country parishes.

parishes. About 50 years ago, there were 16 small farmers in the village of Makerston, where now there is not one. It contains only 12 old cottages. There were formerly about 24 farmers in this parish, with their families and servants, where we can now reckon only nine. I presume, that the number of inhabitants must then have exceeded 1000, where I can hardly find above one fourth of that number, viz. 250 or 255. Of these, there is nearly an equal number of males and females, about 60 under 10 years of age, and 10 or 12 between 10 and 20. All the rest are between 20 and 70 years. The total number of births, for these six last years, is 76. The marriages are only 18 in that space. In Dr Webster's report the number of souls is stated at 165.

*Church.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, may be, as victual now sells, about L. 100; one half is paid in money.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is no map of the parish, but it is supposed to contain about 3300 acres, which yield in rent about L. 1700 or L. 1800. Of these, perhaps 600 or 700 may be in pasture, on which above 1000 sheep are fed; and 160 or 180 black cattle are fed for the butcher, and for family use. There are 60 horses for plough, cart, and saddle; besides one chaise and two waggons. The farms are laboured by 18 ploughs, and as many carts carry the corn to market, and bring home the coals; which are the only fuel used, except some cuttings of wood, and a few whins. There is no moss, and there are not five acres in the whole parish, of moor land. Wheat, barley, oats, pease, turnips, and potatoes, are the produce of the land. All the coals and lime, used here, are brought from Northumberland,  
about

above 20 miles; or from Mid.Loathian, at a still greater distance. A cart load of 1200 or 1400 weight costs 10s. and often more. A turnpike road, which is in tolerable good repair, runs through the parish. The statute labour is not exacted in kind, but is commuted at a fixed rate.

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## NUMBER XXXVIII.

## PARISH OF TOROSAY.

*(County of Argyle.)**By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD M'ARTHUR.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HIS parish derives its name from a district of it which lies next to the main land of Lorn. The name seems to be derived from two Gaelic words, which signify a *mound* or *small hill*, and a *ford*, or a *pass over water*, joined together by the conjunction signifying *and*. It lies in the island and presbytery of Mull, in the synod and county of Argyle. The general surface of the parish of Torosaj is mountainous, and these mountains are mostly covered with heath. The length of the parish from north to south is computed at about 12 miles by the shortest road; but along the coast the road forms a curve, and is much longer; the land is indented by several bays, viz. Lochbuy on the south, Lochspelve, and Lochdon, on the east, and north of these the Bay of Dowart, and Bay of Couynahenach, Macalister's Bay, and Bay of Pennygown. In the first of these, fine large herrings are found yearly, both about Lammas and Hallowmas; but the fishing is mostly by country boats, the bay being thought not safe for vessels of any burden. The herrings are also seen sometimes in Lochnagaull, which divides part of this parish from that of Kilninian, but in no great quantities.



tities. The gross land rent of the parish is somewhat above L. 2000 Sterling.

*Church.*—The Duke of Argyle is patron. The living is now L. 83 : 6 : 8 Sterling, including communion-elements. The last incumbent had a long process for a glebe, in which he was cast; after which the heritors agreed to give him L. 20 Sterling yearly, in lieu of glebe and manse. There are two places of public worship, at which the minister officiates alternately, and only one of them has a church. There is also a church at the confines of this parish and Kilninian, built at the joint expence of both; where officiates a missionary employed by the committee on the royal bounty, with a salary of L. 24; but he goes every third Sunday over the mountains to Kilfinichan, having under his charge part of each of the three extensive parishes into which Mull is divided.

*School.*—The schools in the parish of Torofay are three, one of which is parochial, with a salary of L. 8 Sterling, but has no other emolument, except the common fees; the scholars attending this school are from 20 to 30. The other two schools are chiefly paid by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge; to one they give L. 6 salary, to which the parishioners add L. 4; the number of scholars here are from 20 or 35. The third school has L. 8 from the Society, and L. 2 from Lochbuy, and the number of scholars is from 8 to 18. These two schools have few other emoluments.

*Population.*—The number of souls in the whole parish is 1733. They are all Protestants of the established church. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1012.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The annual average quantity of kelp manufactured is from 90 to 100 tons. The situation next to the main land is attended with some advantages; but the height of the mountains brings down on this parish rather more rain and snow than fall upon the rest. Some of these mountains are excellent sheep walks, and others are very barren. From the top of the mountain called *Beimmore*, or the *Great Mountain*, most of the western isles may, with a clear sky, be seen at one view, as distinctly as if they were laid down upon a sheet of paper. *Beintaluidh* also, or *Prospect Mountain*, as the word seems to import, commands a very extensive view on all sides, and sailors give it the name of the *Sugar Loaf*.

There are several woods in different parts of the parish, mostly birch, with some oak and ash. These woods are occasionally sold for charcoal to the Lorn Furnace Company. The shores to the south are high and rocky; along the east and north east, they are accessible, though not flat, excepting in a few places. There is a stated ferry to Morven, another to Lisimore, a third to Nether Lorn, and the principal ferry of Mull is from Achanacreig in Torofay, first to Kerrera, and thence to the mainland near Oban. Here near 2000 black cattle are yearly wafted over, for the several markets to which they are driven, and a considerable number of horses; but in the above number are included the black cattle from the isles of Coll and Tyree, which are driven through Mull, in their way to the low country. Some black cattle are also ferried to Morven, both from this parish and that of Kilninian, in their way to the public markets. There is also a market for horses, held in the parish of Torofay, about the 21st of August yearly. From the landing place at Achanacreig, along the coast to Arofs, in the parish of Kilninian,

nian, which is about 20 measured miles, the road has lately been made; and in that space there are five stone bridges, besides the bridge over the water of Ba, or of Knock, which is off that line. In the mountains of Torofay there are red deer, foxes, eagles, hawks, grouse, black-cock, tarmagan, and, in the winter, wood-cocks. The place of principal note is Dowart, where there is an old castle, formerly the residence of M'Lean of Mull and Morven. Most of the names of places are evidently of Gaelic derivation.

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## NUMBER XXXIX.

## PARISH OF MONEDIE.

*(County of Perth.)**By the Rev. Mr GEORGE FRASER.**Situation and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish lies in the county of Perth, about four computed miles, to the north west from the town of Perth. Both in length and breadth, it is about two computed miles. There are, properly speaking, no hills in the parish, but only rising grounds, which run northward, and southward, from the banks of the Shochie.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The soil is various. On the low flat parts, it is partly a light loam, and partly gravelly; both of them on a dry hard deep gravel. On the rising grounds adjacent to the river, the soil is a rich loam, upon a strong deep clay. In the places more distant from the river, the soil consists of a cold wet tilly clay, resembling strong thick mortar. A large quantity of the soil is moor ground, covered with dwarf heath. The air is dry and salubrious, owing perhaps to an extensive range of hills, on the west and north, which are situated at a good distance, and attract the clouds and fogs. There are often great rains, snows, and frosts, in the hills, and the places near them, when it is quite fair and fresh below. The west winds prevail

vail most here, and are commonly dry, which contributes to render the people healthy. They generally live to a good old age. There were two persons, in the present incumbent's time, who were reckoned considerably above 100 years. Their ages could not be precisely ascertained, as their names were not in the register.

*Agriculture, Manure, &c.*—Within these eight or nine years the various soils are much improved; and the lands which formerly yielded only three or four returns, now give six or eight, and some more. The rental of one estate only, three fourths of which are improved, and which, previous thereto, drew only L. 105, now draws L. 400, besides the minister's stipend, schoolmaster's salary, and other public burdens. Of late, oxen have not been used in ploughing. At first a team of four horses and a driver were employed in their stead, but now that the breed of horses is a little improved, they plough with only two and no driver. The old Scots plough is still used by the old tenants; but the new farmers who have consolidated several of the small farms into one, use the new ploughs, with waved mould boards, and other deviations from the old Scots plough. Rolling after harrowing is now becoming general. The principal manure is lime; it is brought by sea, from Lord Elgin's quarries in Fife, to Perth; from whence the farmers drive it to their farms, many of them above 10 or 12 miles distant. They allow about 30, 40, or 50 bolls, in shells, to the acre. There has lately been found a pit of shell marle, on the farm of Monedie, three or four acres in extent, and two or three feet thick; but under a covering of about 12 feet at an average. The common crops are oats, barley, pease, potatoes, turnips, lint, and grafs. Till of late, they made use of gray oats in their thin gravelly outfields, and black oats in the

the wet swampy fields. They also used to sow oats and rye intermingled; but now, as by the improvements carrying on the distinction of out and infield is wearing out, these crops are disused. They commonly fallow with turnips and potatoes, which are found to be beneficial crops, as well as a great improvement of the soil. As all the lands in this country seem to have been gained at first out of moor ground, each farm has a good deal of moor intermixed with the ploughed fields. The farmers have begun to cultivate these moors, which are answering very well, and in time will be converted into good soil, and reward them for their industry. The proprietors are beginning to plant the moors with firs. Early pease seems to agree best with our soils, and are therefore generally used. Lint thrives well, which the old tenants of small farms manufacture into linen, (most of them being weavers), and find a good market for it in Perth. Some of our principal farmers now sow a considerable quantity of lint, and expose it to sale upon the field, a little before it is full ripe; and they commonly make about L. 12 or L. 14 the acre. Last year, one farmer got L. 19 *per* acre. Barley-harvest commences usually about the end of August; when the barley is cut down, the pease are commonly ripe; and then follow the oats, when the harvest is finished. The crops are got into the barn-yard, before the end of September, and then the potatoes are dug up. In late seasons the corns are not got in till the end of October.

*Sheep, &c.*—Almost every tenant in the parish had formerly some sheep, but they were all banished as destructive to the young hedges, with which the new farms are inclosed. But an English gentleman, who has taken the farm of Monedie, which Mr Graham has been improving these two years, has got a score of pregnant ewes, of the Bakewell breed.

breed. They are remarkable for the largeness of their carcass, the fineness and quantity of their fleeces, and their easily fattening even on poor pasture. If they thrive, he intends to introduce the breed of them into this part of the country. The same gentleman has also brought a horse from Mr Culley, the celebrated farmer in Northumberland, to improve the breed of horses, which is much wanted in this country. The horse is highly commended, by all the connoisseurs, as the finest they ever saw. He has all the genuine marks of an excellent strong draught-horse, and is about 16 hands high. He is greatly run upon by all the neighbouring gentlemen and farmers, who are desirous of strong draught horses. The breed of cows are but slowly improving. There are few tenants who have not an apiary: bees having a great range of open country, thrive well, and make plenty of honey.

*Manufactures and Trade.*—There are no manufactures in the strict sense of the word. Most of the old tenants were weavers, and a great many of them are so still. There are three tailors, one smith, one mason, and one lint-dresser. Every man almost of the lower ranks knits his own stockings, which he learns while herding the cattle. The women are all spinners of linen yarn, and assist in managing the farm.

*Farm-houses.*—The lower farmers, who occupy only small farms, build their own houses, and they build them of stone and seal, thatching with divot and straw; but now, when it is necessary to renew them, they employ masons to build them of stone and mortar, harling them on the outside with lime; and they thatch them with straw and clay, as they are prohibited from casting seal and divot. These houses give the country a better and more cheerful look, and they can be kept

kept clean and neat. There are four new farm-houses wholly of mason work.

*Rents*.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 2000 Scots; and the real rent, by the improvements in agriculture, will be as many pounds Sterling, if not more. The tenants pay their rents in money and victual. Kain fowls, carriages, shearing in harvest, running of errands, and other servitudes, are now converted into money; which is a great benefit to the tenants, who were obliged to answer their landlords, when called upon, however unseasonable and prejudicial to them. The tenant now enjoys more liberty, and has more leisure to attend to the improvement of his farm.

*Population*.—Marriages, baptisms, and burials, taken at an average of six years, immediately preceding 1791, are as follows: Marriages 5, baptisms 13, burials 10. From an account taken by the elders, the number of the people is 520; but there are between 7 and 800 joined, *quoad sacra*, to the parish.

*Poor*.—The poor are provided for, by an assessment on the heritors and house-holders; one half on the heritors, the other on the house-holders. For the purpose of assessment, the heritors, minister, and elders, meet, on summons, half-yearly in the kirk, inform themselves of the number and state of the necessitous poor, appoint them a weekly allowance, according to their different circumstances, and mark their proceedings in writing.

*Church*.—The stipend is four chalders of victual, converted at 10s. 5d. Sterling *per* boll, and four chalders, *ipsis corporibus*, two thirds meal, and one third bear; which, with



the conversion of some small teinds, and the glebe, consisting of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres, makes the whole of the stipend amount, in ordinary years, to L. 80, and in extraordinary years, it does not exceed L. 90. The manse is a very old house, and has been frequently repaired at a great expence. The offices were, within these two years, renewed, but upon too small a scale. The kirk also, is an old building. It got some repairs a good number of years ago; but it is, at present, in a very miserable and poor condition, and too small for the congregation.

*School, &c.*—The schoolmaster is well lodged, in a house lately built of mason work. He occupies the upper story with a garret; the ground story is the school. His salary is 100 merks Scots, which, with the other emoluments, amount only to about L. 20.

*Fuel.*—Till within these two or three years, the principal fuel of the common people was turf, but, as they are now prohibited from paring the ground, they use coals; which are brought from Fife to Perth, where they are sold for about 3 s. or 4 s. the boll, (40 stones to the boll), and the people find them cheaper, and more comfortable than turf. There is no peat moss in the parish.

*Antiquities.*—There are many circles of stones, supposed to be Druidical temples. There are several vestiges of ancient battles, distinguished by cairns of stones, with a large stone placed erect, and another large one, lying length-ways, at its foot. There is the pretorium of a Roman camp, according to the opinion of an officer, an antiquary, who carefully viewed the spot. There is also a vault, the only remains of a palace belonging to the bishop of Dunkeld. There is no date

on it, but it seems to have been built before lime was known as a cement.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is but one public house at present, which rather deserves the name of a two-penny house, as there is no entertainment to be had in it, but ale and Scots spirits. We have two meal, and two lint mills. The people are now emancipated from the disagreeable obligation to particular mills, and smithies; and left at full liberty to go where they please. Some of the meal mills grind bear into pot barley pretty well, without any additional machinery. The only river in the parish is Shochie, which is but small. It is clear and rapid, owing to its great declivity; it abounds with trouts, and a stone bridge was lately built over it, opposite to the kirk, which stands on the south side of it. There was another bridge built last year, over Condrachie, where the new high-way, planned and formed by Mr Graham, crosses that rivulet. This bridge and high-way, which is much more convenient, and shorter than the old one, were executed at the sole expence of Mr Graham; as well as other two new and very convenient roads, communicating with it.

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## NUMBER XL.

## PARISH OF MAXTON.

*(County of Roxburgh.)**By the Rev. Mr STEPHEN OLIVER.**Situation, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Maxton is situated in the county of Roxburgh, in the presbytery of Selkirk, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. It lies along the south side of the river Tweed, where there are fine salmon and trout. It is nearly four miles in length, and three in breadth. The soil, in the upper part of the parish, is a stiff clay; in the lower, it is lighter and dry.

*Population.*—The parish is not so populous, as it was some years ago; owing, in some measure, to several farms being possessed by one tenant. About the year 1782, there was a pretty exact account taken of all the inhabitants of the parish. The number of persons above 10 years of age, amounted to 262, and of children below 10 years, to 64, in all 326. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 397. The marriages are seldom above four in one year, the births seldom above ten, and the deaths are about the same number.

*Agriculture.*—A good deal of attention is paid to agriculture. The land produces wheat, barley, oats, pease, rye, potatoes,

toes, turnips, and rye-grafs. The great diftance from coal and lime is feverely felt. The valued rent of the whole parifh is L. 5390 : 6 : 8 Scots.

*Church.*—A good part of the ftipend is paid in victual, which varies according to the price of grain; *communibus annis*, it is about L. 88 Sterling, with a good glebe. No perfon remembers when the church was built; both it and the manfe were lately repaired at confiderable expence. The bell is a good one, and has this infcription upon it; “ 1609. *Soli Deo Gloria. Joan. Burgenfis me fecit.*”

*School and Poor.*—A good fchool-houfe was lately built, which coft about L. 80 Sterling; the fchoolmafter enjoys the legal falary. There are about feven or eight penfioners on the poor’s lift; the rates are paid by the heritors and tenants, and amount fometimes to L. 25, fometimes to L. 30 Sterling, yearly.

*Antiquities.*—Upon the eftate and farm of Littledean, there are the remains of an old tower, which formerly had been a place of fome ftrength, and was built in the form of an half moon. It was long the refidence of the Kers of Littledean, and ftill belongs to that antient family; who have alfo a vault, or burying ground, adjoining to the church of Maxton, where they ftill bury, and have done fo, for many generations. Upon Rutherford common, there are the remains of a Roman camp, on a rifing ground, not far from the banks of Tweed, called, “ the *Ringly-Hall*,” from its circular figure; upon the oppofite fide of that river, there is a deep hollow, called the *Scots Hole*, in which the Scots lay, while this Roman camp was poffeffed by the Englifh. They were fome days in this fituation, with the Tweed only between

tween them; when at last the English, being superior in numbers, ventured to ford the Tweed, at a place where the village of Rutherford now stands, and the Scots met them on a rising ground, on the opposite side, which is still called the *Pleabrae*. An obstinate battle ensued, in which the English were worsted, many of them slain, and interred in the burying ground at Rutherford. From this battle, the place was called *Rue-the-ford*, on account of the great loss sustained by the English, in fording the Tweed, to attack the Scots. This account is by tradition. The time of this battle cannot be ascertained. The lands and barony of Rutherford, belong to Sir Alexander Don of Newton, Baronet, the representative of a very antient family in the Merse. Near the border, betwixt the parishes of Maxton and Ancrum, there is the ridge of a hill called *Lilliard Edge*, formerly *Ancrum Muir*. There, a battle was fought between the Scots and English, soon after the death of King James V. who died in the year 1542, when the Earl of Arran was Regent of Scotland. Sir Ralph Rivers, and Sir Bryan Laiton, came to Jedburgh with an army of 5000 English, to seize Merse and Teviotdale, in name of Henry VIII, then King of England, who died not long after, in the year 1547. The Regent and the Earl of Angus came with a small body of men to oppose them. The Earl of Angus was greatly exasperated against the English, because, some time before, they had defaced the tombs of his ancestors at Melrose, and had done much hurt to the abbey there. The Regent and the Earl of Angus, without waiting for the arrival of greater force, which was expected, met the English at Lilliard Edge, where the Scots obtained a great victory, considering the inequality of their number. A young woman, of the name of *Lilliard*, fought along with the Scots, with great courage; in  
memory

memory of which, a tomb stone was erected upon her grave, in the field of battle, with this inscription :

- ‘ Fair maiden LILLIARD lies under this stane,
- ‘ Little was her stature, but great was her fame ;
- ‘ On the English lads she laid many thumps,
- ‘ And when her legs were off, she fought upon her stumps.’

Some remains of this tomb stone are still to be seen. It is near a Roman causeway, or road, which runs through the parish of Maxtôn, about two miles, and goes southward towards the foot of Jed water, and northward toward the foot of Eildon hills, on the west side.

NUM.

## NUMBER XLI.

## PARISH OF INVERKEILOR.

*(County of Forfar.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN CARNEGIE.**Name.*

THE antient name of this parish was *Congboillis*, as appears from a charter describing the lands of Boifack. Its present name is *Inverkeilor*, from the Gaelic word *inver*, implying the mouth of a stream, there being a rivulet named *Keilor*, which empties itself into the sea, about a mile from the village.

*Situation, General Appearances, &c.*—The parish is situated in the county of Forfar, or Angus, presbytery of Aberbrothock, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is of an oblong form, and extends from the sea westward, about six Scots miles in length; and its breadth at a medium is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The general appearance of the country is pretty level, except on the north side, where the ground rises from the river Lunan, and forms a beautiful bank, mostly of good arable land, sloping to the south.

*Soil, Air, Diseases.*—The soil of the parish varies, but is in general dry and fertile; the air is pure and healthy, but in the months of April and May, thick fogs frequently rise  
from

from the sea. The ague was formerly the most prevalent distemper; but of late the rheumatism has become more general.

*Rivers and Mills.*—The river Lunan runs eastward through this parish, and takes its rise, about four miles from the west end of it, near Forfar. This river has its source from a well, called *Lunan Well*, a little above a chain of lochs, viz. Restenet, Rescobie, and Balgaves, through which it passes, and in its course is fed by several burns. It flows with a clear current, and after a variety of beautiful windings, falls into the sea at Redcastle. It formerly abounded with fine trouts, and some pike, but of late the fish have suffered much from watering lint in the river, or in burns that run into it; and from fishing with nets. In the course of this river, through the parish, there are 15 mills, four of which are corn, four barley, five lint, one flour, and one oil mill.

*Sea-coast.*—The extent of sea-coast is about five miles, of which, that along the bay of Lunan, (which affords a safe anchorage for ships, except in a storm from the east), is flat and sandy, and overgrown with bent; but the coast on the south is high and rocky, where there is a remarkable promontory, the Red-head, on the estate of the Earl of Northesk, whose seat, Ethie-house, lies near it. It was built by Cardinal Beaton, and was one of his country seats. This cape is 45 fathoms in height; it is seen at a great distance from sea, and abounds with a variety of sea-fowls. At the Red-head there is an inexhaustible quarry of fine free stone. And below the rocks, pebbles, known by the name of *Scots pebbles*, are numerous; among which there are some of the colour and density of an amethyst.



*Fish.*—On this part of the coast there is a small fishing town, called *Ethie-haven*, inhabited by ten industrious fishermen, who employ two boats. The fish caught are haddocks, skate, cod, ling, holybut, and sometimes turbot. Salted cod, (about nine inches in length), were sent to the London market, and sold at 5s *per* hundred. In the year 1755, a lobster fishing commenced, which considerably hurt the fishing of skate, killing, ling, and holybut; but the small fish were not found to be scarcer. In London the demand for salted cod ceased, but lobsters found there a good market. In the year 1760, a salmon fishing was begun on Redcastle and Lunan sands. It was pretty successful that season, but not since; perhaps, in some measure, owing to steeping lint in the river Lunan, which communicates with the bay. The white fishing continued much the same, till the year 1786, from which period, both the great and the small fish, have been very scarce, particularly the haddocks.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used is coal, brought from the Frith of Forth, and sold at the harbour of Aberbrothock, at 6s. 6d. a cart load, being 72 stone. But on all that pass the Red-head, northward, there is a tax of 18½ d. *per* boll. There are indeed still some whin and broom in the country, but the supply from these is become, by the improvements in agriculture, exceedingly scarce.

*Population.*—There are no records of this parish, farther back than the year 1739; since which time the population has increased. The number of souls at present in the parish, is 1747. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1286. The births at an average of seven years, amount to 45 *per annum*, the marriages to 14, the burials to 24. But it must be observed, that the number of burials cannot be exactly ascertained,

ascertained, as many of the parishioners bury elsewhere, and some from other parishes bury here; and it is only when the mort-cloth is given, that the deaths are recorded.

There are six heritors in the parish, of whom four are resident. The number of tenants is 48, of ploughs 98, and these, except a few, are drawn by two horses. There are 353 houses in the parish. The average number of souls in each family, is about 5. The following tradesmen are all householders: weavers 46, who are chiefly employed in making coarse green linen cloth, or Osnaburghs, which they sell to the greater manufacturers in towns, intended for the West-Indian and American markets, and exported from London and Glasgow; carpenters 9,—tailors 8,—shoemakers 5,—blacksmiths 5,—flax-dressers 6,—masons 3,—coopers 2,—bakers 2,—brewers 3,—retailers of ale 5. The inhabitants are all of the established church, except four families of Episcopalians, and one family of Seceders.

*Rent and Crops.*—The valued rent of the parish is 6354l. 6s. 8d. Scots. The real rent is 3179l. 13s. 6d. Sterling. The rate at which land is let, is various: some farmers pay from 7s. 6d. to 20s. *per acre*. There is no map of the parish, but the number of acres is reckoned to be about 7083. Of these one half is annually employed in raising wheat, barley, oats, pease, &c.; and betwixt 70 and 80 acres at an average, in raising flax. The other half in hay, pasture, summer-fallow, and potatoes, which afford a very general subsistence; and in turnips, on which cattle are fed after the foggage. The tenants find their advantage in breeding cattle, a considerable number of which, both fat and lean, go to England yearly. The produce of the parish is more than sufficient to supply its inhabitants.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—The average number of poor on the roll, is about 20, who receive according to their circumstances, from 2 s. to 7 s. *per* month. The annual amount of the sum, expended for their relief, and for occasional charities, is about L. 54 Sterling, which arises chiefly from the weekly collections, and from the interest of a small mortgaged sum.

*Church.*—The stipend is, meal 68 bolls at 7 stone *per* boll, bear 48 bolls, wheat 12 bolls, money L. 17 : 2 : 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ , including L. 5 for communion elements; a glebe four acres arable, and L. 20 Scots for grass. Both kirk and manse are old, and need frequent repairs.

*School.*—The number of scholars is various; there have been from 30 to 70. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks from heritors, and eight bolls of oats in seed-time from the tenants. The school fees *per* quarter are, for reading 1 s. reading and writing 1 s. 6 d. arithmetic 2 s. and Latin 2 s. He has likewise some emoluments, arising from the offices of session-clerk and precentor, together with a house and garden.

*Roads.*—About two miles of the post-road, leading from Aberbrothock to Montrose, run through this parish. It has been hitherto kept tolerably well in repair by the statute labour. Two tolls have been lately erected on it, with a view to the alteration of its course. The turnpike road betwixt Aberbrothock and Forfar, passes, for about two miles, through the west part of the parish.

*Antiquities.*—At the mouth of the river Lunan, on an eminence, stands an old venerable ruin, named *Redcastle*; it is said to have been built by William the Lyon, and used as a  
royal

royal hunting seat, which is probable from the names of some farms, belonging to the Earl of Northesk, lying very near it, but in the parish of Lunan, as *Hawkehill*, *Courthill*, and *Cotbill*; likewise in reference to a royal hunting-seat, *Kinblethmont*, in this parish, the seat of Mr Lindsay-Carnegie of Spynie and Boifack, implies the *King's-blythe-mount*. About a mile from Ethie-house, eastward, nigh the sea, stand the remains of a religious house, called *St Murdock's Chapel*, where divine service was performed by the monks from the abbey of Aberbrothock. At a place called *Chapelton*, there are the remains of the chapelry of *Quytefield*, now annexed by charter to the estate of Mr Lindsay-Carnegie; and which is the family burying ground. There are vestiges of Danish camps, both in the lands of the Earl of Northesk, and of Mr Lindsay-Carnegie. Those on the ground of the latter are near a farm-house, called *Denmark*. Although, owing to the cultivation of the country, the vestiges are not now remaining so very distinct, still the tradition is strong, and the name of *Denmark* seems to warrant it.

*Improvements.*—Since the settlement of the present incumbent, agriculture has been amazingly improved. There was then little wheat sown, no barley, (the first boll of which the present incumbent imported from East-Lothian); no grass-seeds, nor summer-fallow, few inclosures, and those of earth. At present, agriculture, in every branch, is in a state of cultivation, little inferior to the Lothians. Of late, the knowledge of improvements, and the value of farms, have increased with a rapid progress. And within these 10 or 12 years, a spirit of improvement has been particularly observable. Farmers are so sensible of the advantages of inclosures, that all the fences now going on are of stone. Their houses of late, especially of those who have any encouragement, from the  
length

length of their leases, are neat, commodious, and substantial, with a complete steading or set of offices. The houses of cottagers and tradesmen, are generally now of stone, and some of them slated. It must be observed, that in building here, there is a local convenience, as on every estate in the parish, there is plenty of free stone. This spirit of improvement has not produced, in the parish at large, the depopulating effects that have marked its progress in other parts of Scotland. A junction of farms has taken place in but a few instances; and in these, owing to some local inducements, viz. ground lately feued, and the adjacency of a river, the loss to population is fully compensated, by many new houses built for tradesmen.

N U M.

## NUMBER XLII.

## PARISH OF LOGIE.

*(County of Stirling.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES WRIGHT.**Extent and Situation.*

**T**HIS parish is about four miles in length, and nearly as much in breadth, and is situated about two miles north from Stirling, in the presbytery of Dunblane, and provincial synod of Perth and Stirling. The parish lies in three shires, viz. Stirling, Perth, and Clackmannan.

*Population.*—About 30 years ago, when a computation of the number of the inhabitants was made, at the request of the sheriff-depute of Perthshire, it was reckoned, that the souls contained in each of the three counties, amounted to about 500, making in all 1500. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1985.

*Produce and Soil.*—Provisions of all kinds are plentiful. There are four coalhills within as many miles of the church. There is plenty of peat in Moss Flanders, which is about four miles distant from the church. As to the soil of this parish, the one half of it is strong carse clay ground, and is reckoned to be the richest of any in the kingdom; the other half is dryfield, and hilly ground; the former produces exceeding

ceeding good crops; the latter is fit for pasturing cattle, sheep, and goats: these two soils are nearly equally divided by a high-road, at the foot of the Ochil hills, running from Alva to Stirling.

*Poor.*—Poor's rates are adopted in this parish, one half of which is paid by the heritors, and the other by the tenants. In the year 1774, the number of the poor was 33, for whom were contributed L. 40 Sterling. L. 28 was paid by the heritors and tenants, and L. 12 out of the poor's funds; but in 1775, L. 38 was distributed, and for some years past, the heritors and tenants have advanced only L. 22, which, with L. 12 paid yearly out of the poor's funds, shows that the expences have diminished. The poor live in their own houses, and none are allowed to beg.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The abbey of Cambuskenneth is the only place of antiquity in this parish, where King James III. of Scotland was buried. Nigh to this is the Abbey Craig, of considerable height; upon the top of which is to be seen the form of a battery, said to be erected in Oliver Cromwell's time, when he laid siege to the castle of Stirling; but without effect. There is a high conical hill in this parish; called *Dunmyatt*, from the top of which, is to be seen part of 12 counties. About half a mile from the foot of this hill to the north, is a very fine well, which issues from more than 60 springs, that rise through the sand and channel. It is called the *Holy Well*, and is said to have formerly been much resorted to by the Roman Catholics. There are appearances of silver and copper mines in this parish. Some of them have been wrought, but with little profit to the adventurers. The only one that seemed to prove advantageous, was that on the estate of Aithrey, belonging to Mr Haldane;

Haldane, in the years 1761, 1762, 1763, and 1764, a company of gentlemen from England, along with the proprietor, laid out a considerable sum of money in working this mine; and they got about 50 barrels of silver ore, of which four barrels made a ton, and each ton was valued at London at L. 60 Sterling. One Dr Twisse, to whom the ore was consigned, became bankrupt, which put an end to the adventure.



## N U M B E R XLIII.

## UNITED PARISHES OF STITCHEL AND HUME.

*(Counties of Roxburgh and Berwick.)**By the Rev. Mr ANDREW SCOTT.**Situation, Name, &c.*

THE united parishes of Stichel and Hume, lie in the presbytery of Kelso, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. The former is in the county of Roxburgh, and the latter in that of the Merse or Berwickshire. The parish of Stichel is situated on the north east corner of Roxburghshire, and ten-twelfths of it are surrounded by Berwickshire. It is said that the name *Stichel* signifies in Gaelic a declivity; and this name will be reckoned very proper by those who have seen the situation of the house and village of Stichel. Most part of the parish is 600 feet above the level of the river Tweed at Kelso, which is only four miles distant. The united parishes will be between five and six miles from south to north, and between three and four from east to west. The figure is irregular, being frequently intercepted by the parishes surrounding it.

*Rent and Soil.*—The valued rent of the united parishes is L. 7623 : 18 : 4 Scots. The real rent is, at present, upwards of L. 3000 Sterling. A good part of the land is of a strong soil, and bears good crops, both of grass and grain of all kinds.

kinds. There is a good deal of clay in the soil, and in some places the land is wet and cold, which makes it less fit to receive the benefit of lime. It is, however, certain, that the tenants have improved their lands in a high degree, by the use of lime and other attentions to agriculture. The lands are almost all inclosed, and mostly in tillage.

*Cattle.*—The cattle in the parish of Stichel are of a larger size than the common run of cattle, north of the Tweed, owing to the late Sir Robert Pringle, having, for several years, had a supply of Dutch bulls. It is now the practice to feed cattle on turnip in the field, as well as in the house. Turnip is also given to the sheep through the winter. The sheep are chiefly of the English breed, and the wool is of the same quality, which they usually produce.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, young and old, is nearly 1000. Of these there are between 3 and 400 Seceders. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 959.

*Poor.*—Each barony, viz. that of Stichel and Hume, maintains its own poor, which is done by assessments on the proprietors and tenants, as circumstances require. There is a deed of mortification of L. 100 Sterling, by a Captain Robert Home of the regiment of foot, formerly commanded by Colonel Roger Handyside, the one half of the interest of which is annually distributed at Christmas, to poor householders in the village of Hume; and the other half to the schoolmaster of Hume, for teaching poor scholars born in the village.—There are eight persons on the poor's roll in the parish of Hume, and several families who receive occasional supplies from the session. At present, there are no poor on the roll, in the parish of Stichel,  
owing

owing chiefly to the uncommon care and attention of the family of Stichel to the inhabitants.

*Church.*—The King is patron of the parish. The living consists of 600 merks of money, and six chalders of victual, one half of which is bear, and the other infield oats, Linlithgow measure. The allowance for communion elements is L. 40 Scots, of which the one half is paid by the Earl of Marchmont, and the other by Sir James Pringle, Baronet, of Stichel. The glebe of Stichel consists of about five Scots acres, and the glebe of Hume betwixt three and four acres English.

*Antiquities, &c.*—The castle of Hume, which stands in the parish, was for ages a noted defence to its neighbourhood, during the contentions and wars on the borders. The Earls of Home resided in it. Our southern neighbours often besieged it. It was surrendered to the Duke of Somerset in the year 1547, and retaken in the 1549. It is said, that Oliver Cromwell, when at Haddington, sent a summons to the governor, ordering him to surrender the castle, but that the then governor returned for answer; That ‘*He Willie Wastle,*’ stood firm in his castle, and that all the dogs of his town, ‘*should not drive Willie Wastle down.*’ And that this is the origin of that play, with which the children here often exercise themselves. Oliver Cromwell, however, after considerable difficulties, made himself master of it, and in a great measure demolished it. There is a tradition generally believed in the country, that when King James II, went to besiege the castle of Roxburgh, he left his Queen in Hume Castle; that one day, when she was upon the road to visit her royal husband, she was met about half a mile east of Stichel House, by a messenger, with the melancholy account of his Majesty’s being killed by the bursting of a cannon. This sad

news

news brought on her labour pains, and she was immediately delivered of a child, upon a hill, ever since called *Queen's-cairn*. In one of the farms belonging to Sir James Pringle, in the parish of Hume, called *Hardie's Mill Place*, is a loch of about 30 acres, in which peats have formerly been got, but, in a dry summer, cattle can feed all over it; to the north of the loch, about 200 yards distant, is a rising ground, called *Lurgie Craigs*, which consists of regular ranges of whin stones, similar, but not near so large, to those in Arthur's seat, on the foot path to Duddingston from Edinburgh. They are regular polygons of about five and six feet high, and 16 or 17 inches over; they stand erect and close, but not adhering to each other, so that a man with a crow can easily separate them. They have all the appearance of being the same with those of the Giants Causeway in Ireland, or in some of the Western Islands of Scotland. In another of these farms, belonging to Sir James Pringle, viz. Hume-Byres, is a hill, called *Hume Pallat*, about a mile from the castle, and nearly on a level with it; upon the west end of the hill, are the distinct remains of a fort with a fosse; whether formerly an appendage of Hume Castle, or not, cannot now be known.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The water of Eden separates the parish of Stitchel from that of Nenthorn, for about a mile and an half. In this course it falls over a rock, nearly perpendicular, of about 40 feet high. In a flood, or in a hard frost, it is a most beautiful object. This rock is at a small distance from Newton-Don House. There are no manufacturers in the parish. Lime and coals are brought from the English side, and are exceedingly dear. The procuring fuel is one of the greatest hardships that the parish lies under. Coals are carried near 20 miles, and any peats that are used, are driven about seven. The poorer people, therefore, have but a very scanty supply of fuel.

## N U M B E R XLIV.

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

*(County of Selkirk.)**By the Rev. Mr* ROBERT RUSSELL.*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HE ancient and modern name of the parish is *Etterick*; but from whence it received this appellation, there is not even a tradition extant. It is situated in the county of Selkirk, in the presbytery of the same name, and in the synod of Merse and Teviotdale. It extends about ten miles every way.

*Surface and Soil.*—The general appearance of the country is hilly and mountainous. The soil in the haughs is exceedingly deep and fertile. This is occasioned, in a great measure, by the inundations from the hills. As they bring down with them a great many rich particles of earth, so when they retire, they leave these behind them, which deepen and fertilize the soil. Very few good crops are, however, raised. This is owing to the great height of the country, and the frequency of the rains, which prevent the crops from coming to maturity. In a remarkably dry and hot year, the case is otherwise. Then, not only a great quantity of straw, but of grain, is produced. This, however, seldom happens. Upon the hills, the soil is in many places mossy, and fit for  
nothing

nothing but fuel and pasturage. In other places, it is pretty deep and hard, but, on account of the immense height and steepness, it is susceptible of no cultivation. The air is in general moist. This is occasioned by the height of the hills, which continually attract the clouds, and the vapour that is constantly exhaled by the sun from the mossy grounds. It does not appear, however, to be unfavourable to health, as the people live as long here as those in dryer countries.

*Lakes and Rivers.*—There are two lochs adjoining to one another, partly in this parish, and partly in Yarrow. The one is called the *Loch of the Lows*, and the other *St Mary's Loch*. The extent of the former is inconsiderable; the latter is about three miles long, and one broad in some places. The fish, with which they chiefly abound, are pike and perch. No person, however, pays any attention to them. The *Etterick* is the only river in this parish. It is a small one, but abounds with excellent trout. After a course of 30 miles to the eastward, (wherein it passes through the parishes of *Etterick*, *Yarrow*, and *Selkirk*), it is absorbed in the *Tweed*, some miles above *Melrose*.

*Mountains and Hills.*—The mountains in general are high. The most remarkable are those called the *Ward Law*, and *Etterick Penn.* The former rises 1900 feet above the level of the sea; the latter 2200. The hills, for the most part, are covered with a fine green pasture. Some heath is interspersed.

*Sheep.*—This parish produces no remarkable species of animals, except sheep, which are allowed by all to be delicious food, and to thrive well, either when removed to the English pastures, or the Highland hills. Nothing, however, can  
be

be laid for their wool. It is of the coarsest kind, and little adapted for manufacture. A stone of it does not bring more than 6s. The number of sheep is about 30,000, and there are about 230 head of black cattle, and 40 horses.

*Population.*—The ancient state of the population of this parish cannot be exactly ascertained. It seems, however, to have been considerably greater in former times than at present. In one place, about 50 years ago, there were 32 houses; but at present, there are only three. From this circumstance, it would appear, that the population hath decreased. The present number of inhabitants, however, amounts to 470; of these 222 are males, and 248 are females. In Dr Webster's report, the number is only 397.

*Productions.*—Nothing but the common vegetables and plants are produced.—The Scots fir is almost the only species of wood to be seen here, and that in very small quantities. Indeed, there is not so much as to answer necessary purposes. In former times, this country abounded with wood; hence it received the name, which it still retains, of *Etterick Forest*. Not a vestige, however, of the ancient wood now remains. As great quantities of oak are still dug up in the moor, this seems to have been the prevalent species. The number of acres employed in raising corn, roots, &c. is not exactly known. But it may easily be conceived, that they are very few, when, in a square of 10 miles, there is not so much arable ground, as to maintain 400 people with its produce. Barley, oats, and potatoes, are the only crops raised. Wheat, rye, turnip, and cabbage, are never attempted. The parish both exports and imports articles of provisions. It exports mutton in great quantities, and imports  
meal

meal of various kinds to a considerable extent. Cheese also is another great article of exportation.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This parish possesses no advantage. The nearest market town is 15 miles distant. The roads to all of them are almost impassable. The only road that looks like a turnpike is to Selkirk; but even it in many places is so deep, as greatly to obstruct travelling. The distance is about 16 miles, and it requires four hours to ride it. The snow also, at times, is a great inconvenience; often for many months, we can have no intercourse with mankind. It often also obliges the farmers to fly with their flocks to Annandale for provision. Another great disadvantage is the want of bridges. For many hours the traveller is obstructed on his journey, when the waters are swelled. The land rent of the parish is between L. 2000 and L. 3000 Sterling, *per annum*. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 100 *per annum*. Lord Napier is patron. There are 10 proprietors of land in this parish: none of them reside in it. The number of persons, receiving alms, at this time, is 15. The assessments upon the heritors for their support, amount to L. 37 Sterling, *per annum*. The fuel used here is peat. Coal is distant 30 miles. In this parish there are 12 ploughs, and 20 carts, but no carriages or waggons.



## NUMBER XLV.

## PARISH OF FORGANDENNY.

*(County of Perth.)**By the Rev. Mr ROBERT THOMAS.**Origin of the Name.*

**T**HE parish of Forgandenny has born its present name from time immemorial. If it ever had any other name, it is not now known. The word is compounded; *Forgan* appears to be of Gaelic extraction, for there is a hill in the Highlands, called *Fergan*; which, by a small alteration of the vowel *e*, into *o*, becomes *Forgan*: *Denny* seems to be added, to distinguish this parish from the parish of Long-Forgan, in the east end of the Carse of Gowry. It is obvious, that it is called Forgandenny, or Denny-Forgan, from the situation of the church, which is upon a small hill, on each side of which there is a den, formed by the perpetual running of two small brooks, which meet at the foot of the hill, a little to the northward of the church. Perhaps likewise from the number of dens in the hills.

*Situation and Extent.*—This parish is situated in the county, synod, and presbytery of Perth, about three English miles, nearly due south, from the town of that name. It is about five miles in length, and scarcely two in breadth. Its whole extent is computed to be about 8000 Scots acres.

*Surface.*

*Surface.*—The appearance of the country is various. The parish may be divided into two parts, the upper and the lower. The lower division, though it rises gradually to the foot of the hills, is upon the whole a champaign country: the upper is hilly, being part of those hills which are called the Ochils. In the upper, or hilly part, there are frequent rocks, yet it cannot from them be denominated rocky, most of those hills being covered with grass, and some parts of them with heath, furze, and broom.

*Soil.*—In the hilly part, the soil consists of reddish clay, black earth, and sand. It is for the most part light, and better fitted for producing oats, than any other sort of grain; and these it produces in great abundance. In the lower part the soil likewise varies. The meadows, by the side of the Earn are sandy. The grounds above them consist chiefly of rich black earth, and clay. The meadows, both by the sides of the Earn, and of the May, a small river, which runs through the hills, produce plenty of excellent flax. And on the black earth and clay are raised rich crops of barley, and wheat, besides oats, clover, turnips, cabbages, and potatoes. Much of the low part of the parish they call *carfe* ground, from its being the same sort of soil with the Carfe of Gowry. And, indeed, the Carfe of Gowry seems to be but a continuation of that extensive valley, which is called *Strathearn*. That chain of hills which in *Strathearn* are called the Ochills, and which bound the south side of the strath, run from west to east through Fife, nearly as far as the mouth of the Tay. And the hilly ground which shelters *Strathearn* on the north, is separated from those hills, which are called the *Brae* of the *Carfe*, only by the course of the Tay. From a high hill in the parish of Forgan, which they call *Castle-law*,

*law*, there is a prospect of all that level, which in one place is called Strathearn, and in another the Carse of Gowry.

*Climate and Diseases*—The air in the higher grounds is rather chilly. But in the valleys on the river May, and in the low part of the parish, where the country is sheltered with wood, it is much milder. The hills are sometimes covered with mists or fogs, which rise also occasionally from the surface of the Earn, and hover over its banks. But these mists are far from being frequent; and the air is upon the whole dry and very salubrious. Before the low part of the parish was drained, the ague was a frequent complaint; but, since that took place, it is scarcely known.

*Minerals*.—There are two mineral springs in the parish. The one is on the estate of Mr Oliphant of Rossie. It is a chalybeate; but it has not been generally attended to. The other is on the estate of Lord Ruthven. It is situated in the neighbourhood of the mineral springs of Pitcaithlie, and its virtues are nearly the same. The waters of these springs, when drunk from a quart to two quarts, prove moderately cathartic. They are likewise used in the form of a cold, but, more frequently, of a warm bath. They are much frequented by the gentry and others, who sometimes receive much benefit from them. They give relief in various cases, but chiefly, perhaps, in rheumatic and scorbutic complaints, and disorders of that nature.

*Rivers*.—The rivers are the Earn, and the May. The Earn issues from a lake of the same name in the Highlands, and flowing through Strathearn, a beautiful, and in many places a well cultivated country, falls into the Tay, a little below the old castle of Elcho. This river has been much  
and

and justly admired, for those many beautiful curves which it describes, and peninsulas which it forms in its course. It produces salmon, different sorts of trout, pike, perch, eel, and flounders. Both in the parish, and above it, the salmon fishings are inconsiderable. The only salmon fishing which belongs to this parish is let at about L. 7 Sterling. As we proceed down the river, these fishings become more valuable, till we come to the conflux of the Tay and Earn, where salmon are caught in great abundance. The price, which this sort of fish gives, in the spring is 9d. and in summer  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. per pound. The May takes its rise in the hills, about two miles due south from Dunning, and, after describing a curve of about eight miles in length, somewhat resembling a reaping hook, (the greatest part of which is contained in this parish), falls into the Earn nearly opposite to the parks of Duplin. In this small river, the salmon spawn below a place called the *Fall of Muckarsie*, but none are caught in it. Not to mention eels, salmon, smelt, and some flounders, it affords in great abundance a very fine flavoured trout, about the size of an herring. The Earn is navigable up to a bridge, which is built across it, about two miles east from the village of Forgan. Vessels, from 30 to 40 tons burden, come to this bridge, laden with lime and coals, for the inhabitants in the neighbourhood.

*Stones and Mineral Productions.*—The only stone used in building, to be found in this parish, is whin stone. Iron stone is frequent, and a species of lime stone has been found on the banks of the May. But neither of these sorts of quarries have as yet been wrought. In the wood of Condie, which is in the Ochills, on the banks of the May, copper was found by the grandfather of the present Mr Oliphant of Condie. And near the same place, on the estate of Mr Oliphant

Oliphant of Rossie, there were discovered, some years ago, certain metallic appearances, which invited a company to make a trial of them. Accordingly, a trial was made, and lead ore was discovered, containing in it a great quantity of silver; but, unfortunately, the chief person concerned in the undertaking failed, and the prosecution of the work ceased.

*Land Floods.*—In autumn and winter, the meadows, on the sides both of the Earn and May, are frequently overflowed. When the Earn overflows its banks, it sometimes carries off a great deal of the produce of the fields, if the farmers are not sufficiently careful to have it removed to some higher ground; but what damage is sustained in this way, is amply compensated by the rich particles of earth, which are washed from the hills, and deposited upon the meadows, and which serve them, in general, instead of manure.

*Cattle, &c.*—There are in this parish, at an average, 262 horses, 1222 black cattle, and 520 sheep. The breed of horses and cattle has of late years been improved, both by their being better fed, and by their being mixed with a kind which are more generous, and of a larger size. The cattle, in the hilly part, are rather of a smaller size than those in the low. But those which are fed on the banks of the May, are more than commonly handsome, and are esteemed very good beef. The hill cattle weigh from 30 to 40 stone, and those in the low country from 40 to 50. The horses, though not large, are hardy and very well fitted for labour. A horse in its prime costs from L. 16 to L. 20.

*Population.*—The population of the parish, so far back as can be remembered, has been nearly stationary. The number of souls, at present, is 978, of which 467 are males,  
and

and 511 females. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1295. The annual average of births is 27, of deaths 22, and of marriages 7. The number of farmers families is about 23. There are no manufacturers who do business to any extent. There are 2 possessors of mills, (of which there are 6 in the parish), who manufacture corn into meal, and sell it in the neighbourhood. And there are two or three people, who, with a servant or two, manufacture linen cloth and shoes, which they sell in Perth. There are no merchants in this parish. The number of handicraftsmen, in which are included some of the manufacturers, is

	-	67
Apprentices	-	13
Household servants male and female	-	18
Labouring servants ditto	-	98
Day labourers	-	23
Students at college	-	4
Persons born in other parishes	-	257
Those who attend the established church	-	731
Seceders	-	241
Episcopalians	-	6

The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 36:—Between the annual deaths and the whole population, as 1 to 44:—Between the annual marriages and the whole population, as 1 to 146.

*Vegetable Productions* —The hills and pasture grounds, besides different sorts of grass, produce naturally red and white clover. In most of the gardens of the common people, are raised coleworts, cabbages, onions, leeks, turnips, and carrots. Some of them likewise have introduced gooseberry bushes, chiefly for shelter to their hives of bees, of which there is no inconsiderable number. And others, in the low part of the parish, have of late begun to plant in their little gardens,

gardens, thyme, southernwood, balm, mint, chamomile, and some flowers, which serve both for ornament and use. The barren wood, which grows wild, is chiefly alder, hazle, beech, and birch. Most of the wood in the plantations is the common fir, intermixed with oak, ash, plane, larix, birch, beech, &c. The hedge rows are beech, elm, plane, chestnut, larix, &c. but chiefly oak, which is planted in the greatest abundance. There is a number of very fine trees in the low part of the parish, which have arrived at maturity, amongst which are not a few oaks. And of this latter sort of wood, there is such abundance, of about 20 or 30 years standing, and in so thriving a condition, as affords the most pleasing hopes, that, in some future period, it will contribute in a great measure to supply our dock yards for ship-building; especially if it be considered, that most of it grows within a mile of the Earn, down which river it may be conveyed in rafts, and shipped to any port in Britain. Besides the ordinary crops of barley and oats, and the different green crops, there is raised, in the low part of the parish, a considerable quantity of wheat. In the hilly district, the principal crops consist of oats, pease, and barley. Potatoes and flax are raised in abundance in both places. Turnips also, with which they feed their cattle, and some of their sheep, are raised through the whole parish, but principally in the low grounds.

*Exports.*—This parish exports, to different places in the neighbourhood, several articles of provision, such as meal, grain, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, black cattle, sheep, and some honey. And it is almost solely by their exports, together with their linen yarn, that they are able to pay their rents, and procure a subsistence.

*Language.*

*Language.*—The language now spoken is a dialect of the English; but the names of many places seem to indicate, that the Earse, or Gaelic, had formerly been the vulgar language. Many of these names are plainly derived from that language, and are in some measure descriptive of the places to which they serve as names. *Culteuchar*, from *cult* a back place or corner, and *uachder* uppermost or highest, signifies the highest corner or back place. *Rossie* signifies a head of land near water. *Bunion*, compounded of *bun* the foot, and *ion* land, signifies the foot of the land. *Dich* signifies a chasm, gully, or ditch. *Ocbills*, in a word, signifying the hills of that name, is purely English, and seems to be compounded of *oak* and *bills*, as if the word were written *Oak-hills*.

*Church and Stipend.*—The whole emoluments of the living, manse and glebe included, amount to about L. 100 Sterling. This parish was formerly in the diocese of the Bishop of Dunkeld; and, therefore, the right of patronage is supposed to be vested in the Crown. The church, from a date upon the aisle, is supposed to have been built about 400 years ago. The manse is of about 54 years standing. Both of them have at different times undergone various repairs. The number of heritors is 17; of these eight are resident, the other nine, non-resident.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used here in summer is furze, broom, wood, and sprays, or branches of trees. The parish produces very little peat. In winter, the chief part of the fuel is coals; these coals are brought from places in Fife, about 10 or 12 miles distant. The price of them at the pit is 18d. a cart load. When brought home they cost 1d. per stone. What can be procured for 20s. is, with what other



fuel can be got at home, sufficient for a poor family during a whole year.

*Rent.*—The rent of the best arable ground is from 25 s. to 30 s. *per acre*, and of the best meadow ground 21 s. Some ground, however, is worth 40 s. *per acre*. The rent of inferior arable ground is from 20 s. to 10 s.

*Size of Farms.*—Some farms consist of 200 acres, and others of 150. The average size of farms here is somewhat above 100 acres; but there are a few good farms between 80 and 40 acres; and several mechanics and others rent small portions of good ground, of about two or three acres, which serve in some measure to employ them, and to contribute to their subsistence and comfort. The number of farms is perhaps, upon the whole, diminished by the addition of one small place to another.

*Ploughs, &c.*—The plough used by the farmers, is the common Scots plough, without any wheels. That invented by Small has been lately introduced, and affords much satisfaction. There are 48 ploughs in the parish, 1 coach, 2 chaises, and 210 carts, but no carriages of any other sort.

*Villages.*—There are four villages in the parish, the Newton, Ardargie, the Path of Condie, and Forgan. The Newton is situated between the houses of Newton and Rossie, upon a rising ground, half a mile from the Earn. It consists of about 15 dwelling-houses. Ardargie is a village in the Ochills. It is situated at the foot of a ridge of hills, and upon a height up from the May. It contains about 17 or 18 farm houses and cottages. The Path of Condie lies in the Ochills, towards the south extremity of the parish. It is  
built

built upon a hill, which on the one side is washed by the May, and on the other by a rivulet, called the Chapel water, both of which streams meet to the east of this hill, in a deep and sufficiently pleafant valley. This village contains about 22 dwelling-houfes, befides a mill, an Antiburgher meeting-houfe, and a fchool. The village of Forgan is fituated between the houfes of Freeland and Roffie, about half a mile up from the Earn. It confifts of about 30 houfes, moft of which are inhabited by handicraftsmen and labourers. It is divided into two parts, by a fmall brook, which runs through it.

*Church and School.*—The church has a very decent appearance, but what gives it a venerable air, is its being furrounded with a number of the fineft trees which this country produces. The fchool-houfe and dwelling-houfe of the fchool-mafter, form together a very neat fmall building. In this fchool there are educated annually about 50 boys and girls, of which about 10 or a dozen are the children of poor people, the whole expence of whofe education is defrayed by the kirk-ffeffion. The whole emoluments of the fchool amount to L. 27 or L. 30 Sterling.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The public roads, in the low part of the parifh, and even in the hills in fome places, as well as the bridges, are exceedingly good. They were at firft made, and are ftill kept in repair, by the ftatute labour, which is partly exacted in kind, and partly commuted. The private roads, leading to the gentlemen's houfes, do honour to the proprietors. All of them in point of goodnefs are equal, and fome of them fuperior to the public roads.

*Inclofures.*—The greater part of the low part of the pa-  
rifh

rish is inclosed. The inclosures are made by hedges and ditches, and surrounded with a single, double, or triple row of trees, which at once shelter and beautify the country. A considerable part of the higher grounds are likewise inclosed. And though much remains yet to be inclosed, yet all are convinced of the benefit of this improvement.

*Public Houses.*—There are five public houses in the parish, three or four of which are necessary. The effects of them upon the morals of the people is inconsiderable.

*Poor.*—The poor of this parish are supplied solely from the property of the session or church. This property consists of what is collected at the church door, and of the remainders of such collections in former times, after relieving the poor, which have in time accumulated, and are laid out upon interest. There are, at an average, four or five constant pensioners upon the session. These receive monthly 2s. 3s. 4s. or 5s. according to their need, and reside in houses of their own. Several others likewise receive supply occasionally, when their circumstances require it.

*Antiquities.*—In the west border of the low part of the parish, are the remains of an ancient fortification. It is situated upon a piece of rising ground resembling a semisphere. It is fortified, partly by nature, and partly by a stone wall, the remains of which are yet discoverable under the moss, which has nearly covered them. On the east there is an opening, and lower down, without the walls, there are some remains of ditches. No place can be better fitted for observation. It commands an extensive prospect on all sides, except the south. It is situated at the lower end of the valley, through which the May runs, and which is the only passage, within some  
miles

miles on each side, through the Ochils to Fife. It is therefore imagined by some, that it might have been an outpost of the Romans, whilst they were in Strathearn. Beside Ardargie, a village in the hills, there is a place, which for time immemorial has been called the *Roman Camp*. It is situated upon a height above the May. Its figure is a square, each side of which is about 90 yards in length. On the one side it is defended by a deep hollow, through which runs a brook; and on the other three sides by trenches. The width of these trenches, at the top, is about 10 yards, their depth on the side next the camp about 14 feet, and on the outside 10. Somewhat more than a mile south from Forgan, is a place called *Castle-law*. It is situated upon the summit of a very high hill, which resembles a low cone. The circumference of its area is about 500 yards. This spot is defended on all sides by a stone wall, the vestiges of which are yet to be seen; these vestiges are of a form nearly circular, and the walls seem to have taken their form from the top of the hill on which they were built. Besides this wall, there are also several outworks, which seem to have been formed for defence; particularly on the south, where the hill is less steep, and the ground below higher, there are three mounds of earth parallel to the wall, and to each other. Within the area of this castle or fortification, are the vestiges of buildings; and there was erected, by the former Lord Ruthven, on this spot, a sort of half tower, which is yet standing. This place commands a prospect of the country, to the mouth of the Tay, or the German ocean on the east, all Strathearn to the Grampian mountains on the west, a great part of Perthshire and Angusshire on the north and north east, and the top of the Lomond hills on the south. The general opinion concerning Castle-law is, that it had been a Danish fortification. About half a mile north from  
the

the foot of this high hill, is a place called the *Law of Dumbills*. It is a craggy hill, on the top of which are the vestiges of a wall, whose form has also been determined by that of the hill on which it was built. There is nothing remarkable in these vestiges. They are much the same with what is to be seen, on many of those hills, called *Laws*, and are very probably the remains of some ancient fortification.

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## NUMBER XLVI.

## PARISH OF HOBKIRK.

*(County of Roxburgh.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN RICCALTON.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**T**HE ancient name was *Hobskirk*, and the modern name is *Hobkirk*. Tradition says that it was built by a man of the name of *Hob*, and had taken its name from the founder. The parish is situated in the county of Roxburgh, presbytery of Jedburgh, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale. It is of an oblong form, about 12 miles in length, and about three where broadest. The general appearance of the country is mountainous.

*Soil.*—The soil is very different both in its nature and quality. All along the side of the water of Rule, it is a very fertile, deep, strong clay, some parts of it mixed with small channel, and other parts with sand. At a distance from the water, it is a light sandy soil, lying upon the face of a cold till, and most of it very barren.

*Mountains, &c.*—The most remarkable mountains are Winbrough, and Fanna. Winbrough, from its base to the summit, is an ascent of a mile and a half, and Fanna is nearly the same. Windbrough is so high, that, from its  
summit,

fummit, you have a view of both east and west seas, though both are at the distance of 40 miles. The parish abounds with free stone. Beyond Winbrough there are very good lime stone quarries, and three lime kilns; two of them upon the lands of Sir Francis Elliot of Stobs, and another upon the lands of Mr Elliot of Harrot. A little below the last mentioned lime kiln, there is a place called *Robert's Linn*, where there are large rocks of pebbles, of which are made seals and buttons of different kinds. Most of the rock is of a light blue colour. There are other parts of it finely variegated with strokes of red and yellow; and so much are they esteemed, that great quantities are carried as far as Sheffield and Birmingham.

*Population*.—The parish at present contains about 700 souls. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 530. The number of males and females are nearly equal. At an average for these 20 years past, the number of births has been 20, and that of deaths about 14. The number of souls

under 10 years of age is	-	-	150
From 10 to 20	-	-	150
From 20 to 50	-	-	300
From 50 to 70	-	-	80
From 70 to 100	-	-	20

The number of farmers in the parish is 32, and that of their servants 127.

*Cattle*.—The parish at an average contains about 500 black cattle, 9000 sheep, and 156 horses.

*Productions and Rent*.—At an average there are 1000 acres in tillage. As it is an Highland place, the crop consists mostly of oats, barley, pease, turnips, and potatoes. There are

are not perhaps above 20 acres sown with wheat. The land-rent of the parish is L. 2830 Sterling.

*Church*.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 115. The Crown is patron. The church was repaired in 1777. The manse was built in 1770. There are eleven heritors in the parish, only three of whom reside in it. There are about 30 Seceders, and one Episcopalian.

*Poor*.—The number of poor receiving alms is 25. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief is L. 76 Sterling.

*Eminent Men*.—The immortal Elliot, Lord Heathfield, Governor of Gibraltar, who, with a fortitude, a vigilance, an incorruptible integrity, and a military skill, scarcely to be paralleled in history, defended that fortress against the united forces, naval and military, of the house of Bourbon, was born in this parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations*.—The air is rather moist, but not unhealthy. No destructive epidemical distempers prevail in it. The common fuel is peat, one horse-load of which, when carried to market, is sold at 1 s. ; when bought on the spot, at 6 d. There are 46 ploughs in the parish, mostly of the English kind, though some still use the old Scotch plough. The number of carts is 70. There are three single-horse chaises, and only one post-chaise. There is a species of Bristol stone sometimes found in the bed of the water. The number of handicraftsmen is 27, with 6 apprentices. There is only one woollen manufacturer. None have been under the necessity of leaving the parish for want of employment ; nor have any emigrated from it, farther than to the neigh-



bouring towns or parishes. None have ever perished for want, nor have any been guilty of capital crimes, or even of those more petty offences which are punished by banishment. The people in general are of a strong robust make, and a good complexion. The greatest height of stature any of them attain, is 6 feet 2 inches. There are 147 houses in the parish, and, at an average, 5 souls in each family. The number of acres has never been exactly ascertained, but the parish is famous for the best breeding grounds, which produce sheep of an excellent quality, and distinguished for a fine staple of wool. The turnpike road from Edinburgh to Newcastle runs through this parish: It was made at the expence of the county, and is kept in repair by the tolls. The people in general are convinced of the utility of public roads. Provisions are rather high. The present price of beef is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* pound. Early in the spring, veal is 5 d. and seldom under  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. at any season of the year; mutton 4 d. and seldom under  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d.; even at the most plentiful season, good lamb is never under 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. *per* quarter, and sometimes 2 s. Pork is commonly 4 s. or 4 s. 6 d. *per* stone; pigs of three weeks old, 3 s. and, at six weeks old, generally 7 s.; a goose never under 2 s.; a duck, 8 d.; chickens, from 3 d. to 8 d.; butter, 9 d. *per* pound; cheese, 7 d.; oats, 20 s. *per* boll; wheat, 1 l. 12 s.; barley, 1 l. 4 s.; pease, 1 l. 5 s. The prices of these commodities, thirty or forty years ago, were, best beef, 2 d. or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* pound; best mutton,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. or 2 d.; lamb, 5 d. or 6 d. *per* quarter, &c. Butter, 4 d. or 5 d. *per* pound; cheese, 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. *per* stone; oats, 7 s. or 8 s. *per* boll, seldom above 10 s.; barley, 11 s. or 12 s.; wheat, 18 s. or 20 s.; pease 10 s. and seldom above 12 s. Labourers in husbandry are hired at 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. *per* day; bricklayers, masons, carpenters, &c. 1 s. 6 d.; taylor, 8 d. including victuals.

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## NUMBER XLVII.

## PARISH OF DRUMOAK.

(County of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES FRASER.

*Name, Situation, &c.*

**I**N this part of the country, it is almost always called *Dalmaik*. The church and manse are situated by the river Dee, on a haugh (in Erse *Dal*); and near, a well, which has still the name of *St Maik's Well*. Yet it is almost universally written *Drumoak*, and sometimes *Drumaok*. It is *Drumoak* in papers above 150 years old. It lies in the county of Aberdeen, (except what belongs to the estate of Leys, in the west end of the parish, which is in Kincardineshire), and in the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen. It is about four measured miles from east to west, and about two from north to south.

*Soil and Climate.*—The soil is shallow, and a great deal of it is only fit for sheep pasture. The air is dry and very healthy.

*Population.*—In 1790, the number of souls was 708, of whom 321 were males, and 387 females. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 760. In 1780, the number was 663; and in 1786, only 637. The annual average of births for

ten

ten years, ending in 1789, is exactly 20. During the course of that year, however, there were 30. For ten years, beginning 1692, (when our oldest register commences), the average is 16. For ten years, beginning 1720, very near 21; and for the same period, preceding 1780, a little above 18. The average of deaths cannot be ascertained, there being no register of burials. The grave-digger computes about 10 parishioners annually buried. The number of marriages is only about 2 each year, since June 1786. All the inhabitants are of the established church, except one Episcopalian.

*Productions.*—No wheat is sown in this parish, and but little artificial grasses, or turnips. The crops consist chiefly of barley and oats. There are about 2000 sheep. Oxen are less employed in ploughing than formerly. The parish generally supplies itself with provisions.

*Church.*—The stipend is L. 37 : 7 : 9 and 28 bolls of meal. The glebe consists of about five acres arable ground, and as much pasture fit for sheep. Mr Irvine of Drum is patron, and the only residing heritor. There are other two non-resident. The church is so old that no body knows when it was built: It has had frequent repairs. The manse was repaired 30 years ago.

*Poor.*—There are about 20 poor people in the parish who receive alms. The annual amount of the funds is about L 20, including L. 4 arising from the interest of legacies, by the Laird of Drum, to decayed tenants, or their widows, and to poor scholars.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general live very economically. There is little change of property. Men  
servants

servants receive about 5 l. *per annum* of wages; women about 2 l.; labourers in husbandry, 1 s. *per day*, or 6 d. and their victuals. Peats from the moss, of which a certain quantity is allotted to each farm, are chiefly used for fuel. The roads are in good repair. The statute labour is partly performed in kind, and partly commuted. The best arable land is rented at about 15 s. *per acre*. The number of farms is not diminishing. There are few inclosures\*.

\* For farther particulars respecting this parish, the reader is referred to a book printed at Paisley, in 1782, entitled, "Description of the East Coast of Scotland, by Francis Douglas," p. 255, &c. where a description is given of the Tower of Drum, &c.

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## NUMBER XLVIII.

## PARISH OF LESWALT.

(County of Wigton.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN ROSE.

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Name, Situation, &c.

**T**HIS parish is named *Leswalt*. The origin of the name cannot be ascertained. It forms a part of that peninsula commonly called the *Rinns of Galloway*. It is situated in the county of Wigton, in the Presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway. Its greatest length is seven miles, its greatest breadth from five to six, and where narrowest, it is three miles. The appearance of the parish is much diversified with hills and plains, vallies, meadows, and large mosses. The part adjacent to Lochryan extends about three miles, is almost level, and the soil is light and sandy, with a mixture of gravel. All this track is well cultivated, and, in moist seasons, yields excellent crops of oats and bear. The means of improvement, lime and shells, are easily obtained from the vicinity of Lochryan. On the south, the ground is hilly, wet, and spongy, partly green, and partly covered with heath; and, even on the highest ground, there are large deep mosses. All this track is much fitter for pasture than tillage. Here little improvement has been made. There is indeed one species of culture, which has been practised here very successfully; that is, by pairing, or, as it is here called, *ripping*

*ripping* and burning the sod, and spreading the ashes. After these operations, some farmers have had seven or eight, and some more, excellent crops of oats. In some farms, the same operations have been repeated on the very same ground, three several times, and still attended with equal success. But it is remarked, that, after these operations, the grass degenerates, becomes very coarse, and resembles bent. On the south-west and north-west points of the parish, the ground is very wet and spongy, consisting of a deep clay, mixed with gravel, and is either green or covered with heath. The interjacent space along the Irish channel is much diversified. In some places the land is flat, partly green, partly covered with heath; in other places there are fine green vallies, that descend to the shore in a variety of turnings and windings. The soil is either light and sandy, or deep moss. The coast is high, bold, and rocky. Here no improvement has yet been attempted, from the difficulty of procuring manure. Lochryan is some miles distant, and there are several steep pulis for carriages in the way. There is not a safe port on the west coast of this parish, for the importation of lime from Ireland; though, at a small expence, a very commodious one might be formed, much to the emolument of both proprietors and farmers. On this coast there are great quantities of fish, particularly excellent cod, of which some are caught by the tenants, at the intervals of labour, for the use of their own families; a few only are sold, and none exported. The ground in the middle of the parish is high, and either green, or covered with heath. In some places there are large tracks of deep moss. Hence little improvement has been made, except what has been done by Sir Stair Agnew, adjacent to his own house, where there are some fields highly cultivated, and which produce excellent crops of clover and rye-grass. There are also several ranges

of

of planting, some old, some young, and all in a thriving condition.

*Productions, &c.*—As this parish has not been measured, it is impossible to ascertain the number of acres that are in tillage, though it must be considerable; as, besides affording a sufficiency for the inhabitants, wheat, meal, and malt are sold at Stranraer, and there is an annual exportation of from 6 to 700 bolls of oats and bear, to Ayr, Greenock, and Port-Glasgow. Black cattle and sheep are the articles upon which the farmers chiefly depend for the payment of their rents. There may be about 1500 head of horned cattle in this parish, and near 3000 sheep; but these last are fast decreasing in numbers, as agriculture advances in its progress. There are 240 work horses, and above 50 carts in this parish.—There is no river in it, but there are two streams of water, called Solburn, and the burn of Pallanton, both abounding with fine trout, and, at some distance from the sea, with salmon. The former empties itself into the bay of Lochryan, the latter, after many windings through an extensive plain, into the bay of Luce. Upon the sides of these burns, there are large tracks of fine meadow ground, almost to their sources. None of the hills in this parish are of any considerable height, though, from the peninsular situation of the country, they command extensive prospects. One in particular, called the Tone of Cragach, a beautiful green hill, rising in form of a cone, commands a full view of the Irish coast, the bay of Belfast, the island of Arran, and some of the other Western islands. There are plain traces of an encampment on the summit of this hill.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate here is mild, temperate, and salubrious, though moist. There have been several instances

of

of longevity since the fettlement of the present incumbent. One man lived to the age of 98, two to the age of 92, and there is one now living aged 95.

*Population.*—What the population was, at any former period, is not precisely known; but it has certainly, of late, increased considerably. This is not so much to be ascribed to the progress of agriculture, as to a passion that has prevailed for some years, of taking feus in the villages. In the year 1766, there were only 18 houses in Clayhole, and now there are about 50. The man is still alive who built the first house in it. The number, in Dr Webster's report, is 652. The present population of the parish, from an accurate survey lately made, amounts to 1194 souls. Of this number there may be about 150 Irish, three English, and one Mulatto. These are in general either hired servants or labourers. The births during the last 12 months were 28, and the marriages eight; but there were some irregular marriages.

*Poor.*—The poor are chiefly supported by the weekly collections, and the interest of a small sum of money set apart for them. There are, at present, 13 upon the poor's list. Few of the natives of this country are in very indigent circumstances, but we have constant supplies from Ireland, of poor emaciated persons, whose very aspect excites compassion. Every week brings fresh cargoes to Portpatrick, and they are permitted to traverse this country at large. This is a grievance that has been long complained of, but hitherto without redress.

*Church and School, &c.*—The stipend is L. 49 : 18 : 3½ of money, and 15 bolls of meal, of 16 stone to the boll, and

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4 bolls



4 bolls bear, 12 bushels to the boll. The valued rent of this parish is about 3600 pounds Scotch; the real rent L. 2000 Sterling. There is a school-house near the church, where the youth are taught for about five months in the year; but towards the summer season they are generally called off, to assist their parents in country matters. There is also a school at one of the villages; but the perquisites are small, and no salary has been paid for near 50 years; hence learning must be at a low ebb.

*Antiquities.*—Lochnaw Castle is the only considerable building in the parish. It is a very antient edifice, built on an elevated situation, and seems to have been intended for a place of defence in former times. It was protected on the south by a deep fosse, the vestiges of which may still be traced; and on the north by a lake of water, called *Lochnaw*, which has been drained, and its bed is now fine meadow and pasture ground.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are only three heritors in this parish, the Earl of Stair, Sir Stair Agnew of Lochnaw, Baronet, and Robert Vans Agnew, Esq; of Schuchan. Sir Stair Agnew is the only residing heritor. It is not easy to say what the land lets at *per acre*, as the ground has not been measured; but the rents have been all doubled during the present incumbency, and the farmers live better, and have more elegance in their houses, than formerly. Mr Vans Agnew's lands in the neighbourhood of Stranraer, that have been measured, let at from 15 s. to 42 s. *per acre*. There are above 40 farmers in this parish, who pay above L. 10 of yearly rent, and several tenants and subtenants, who pay near that sum. There is only one farmer who pays above L. 100.—There are two villages in the eastern extremity

of

of the parish, close upon Stranraer, and separated from it only by an ideal line, called the Clayhole and Hillhead, which contains near one half of the inhabitants of the parish. Mr Vans Agnew is the proprietor of the ground on which these villages stand. He lets it out in small lots for building houses, at an easy feu duty of 3 d. a foot in front of a house, and allows 100 feet behind the house for garden ground. Such as choose to slate their houses, are exempted from feu-duty for four years, and this has encouraged many to make use of slate. The inhabitants of the villages are generally tradesmen, sailors, and labourers; and some of them rent small pieces of ground.

NUM.

## NUMBER XLIX.

## PARISH OF STOBO.

*(County of Tweeddale.)**By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER KER.**Situation, Surface, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Stobo is situated in the county of Tweeddale, in the presbytery of Peebles, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is about six miles long, and between three and four miles broad. One part of the parish is mountainous, and fit only for sheep pasture; another part of it is arable, and capable of cultivation. Some of the hills are green, but most of them are covered with heath.

*Soil.*—The soil of the arable land is various; some parts are a wet clay, interspersed with stones; when drained and limed, they give good returns. There is another part, lying on the side of the river Tweed, which is a mixture of earth, clay, and sand. This land yields very good crops, although it does not, in general, receive from the farmer that justice, in point of improvement, which its quality deserves, owing to the inundations of the river Tweed, to which it is in many places exposed, and by which, in some parts, it is over-run with a considerable current. This land is peculiarly adapted for pasture. It produces a thick stool of natural grass, which is well adapted, either for fattening cattle, or for milk

cows,

cows, whose butter, in respect of colour and richness, may be distinguished from the milk of any other cows, which pasture upon the higher grounds. The greater part of the land is a light, but fertile soil, lying upon a bed of gravel. This soil, when properly cultivated, never fails, when the season is showry, to produce excellent crops; but, in a hot or dry year, it is very much parched, and, of course, the labour of the most skilful and industrious farmer is defeated. It may be observed, that the land is in general stoney; and, what is remarkable, in the hollows, where the stones most abound, (in such quantities, that a plough, when at the beam, does not reach the bottom of them), there the heaviest part of the crop upon the field is produced. It may be accounted for in this way, that the stones, by sheltering or keeping warm any small quantity of soil, which is amongst them, in the cold seasons, and by protecting it from the scorching heat of the sun, in the hot seasons, always occasion a good crop.

*Ploughs, &c.*—The Scotch plough is chiefly used in the parish, as it is best adapted to the nature of the ground. The practice of ploughing with oxen was for several years almost totally given up, till of late, that some of the farmers have begun to revive that ancient practice. In strong stoney land, which is frequently to be met with in this parish, oxen are preferable to horses. The oxen move at a slow, but persevering pace, and take the draught along with them; whereas the metal of the horse is soon raised by resistance and the whip; of course he becomes restive and unmanageable. The oxen have also the advantage of the horses in point of economy, being maintained at much less expence. The chief objection against oxen ploughs is the slowness of their movement; but, when the superior execution of their work is considered, where the ground is cross  
and

and stoney, and that they can continue in the yoke two hours longer than the horses without any injury, the objection has little or no weight.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The situation of Stobo is dry, and the air pure. The state of health, which the inhabitants in general enjoy, is the best proof of the wholesomeness of the climate, few or none of them being affected with any peculiar disease.

*Rivers.*—The river Tweed, which runs through this parish, and divides the north part of it from the south, has its source in the parish of Tweedsmuir, at a fountain called *Tweeds Well*, about 18 miles distant from Stobo, and 7 from Moffat.

*Antiquities.*—The Sheriff Muir is the chief place which discovers some remains of antiquity. It is a flat uncultivated heath, with some stones upon it, which have the appearance of being monuments; from which circumstance some have concluded that it must have been once the scene of battle. But there is no record or historical evidence of the fact. There are two erect stones of considerable size, about six feet distant, which are probably the site of a grave, by some supposed to have been a Druidical temple. From the center of the grave, there are a number of stones about a foot high, erected at regular distances, and extending eastward in a curved direction. Two cairns are likewise raised upon this muir, the one considerably larger than the other; both of them, it may be presumed, to perpetuate the memory of persons of distinction. Not far distant from the two erect stones already mentioned, is a large round cavity, in the form of a basin, called *Pinkie's Hole*; it is about 90 paces in circumference,

circumference, and, at the centre, is between 6 and 7 feet below the level of the adjacent plain; whether it is the effect of nature or of art, it is difficult to determine. There is another cavity near the largest cairn, which is much larger than Pinkie's Hole, being about 140 paces in circumference; but it is neither so deep, nor so regular in the formation, having a small ridge in the middle of it. There are also, upon the muir, a few small circular appearances, which are evidently the effect of art. The Sheriff Muir is the place where the Tweeddale militia met. It was thought expedient, whilst the unfortunate animosity subsisted between the sister kingdoms, that each county should embody a militia, who were summoned to appear before the sheriff-depute on a certain day, and at an appointed time and place. This muir being both central for the county, and well adapted for mustering the militia, was the place appointed by the sheriff for that purpose; hence it was called the *Sheriff Muir*, and still retains the name.

*Slates.*—There are two seams of slate in one hill, nearly of equal quality, which must have been wrought for many ages past, as the oldest houses in the district of country, to which they have been carried, are covered with them. The slates are of a dark blue colour, split to a proper thickness, and, for durability, and strength in proportion to their thickness, are believed to be inferior to no slate whatsoever, as no decay is observed in the slates of the oldest houses covered with them. The seams of slate having been long let, with a large farm in which they are situated, little attention was given by the tenant to the working of them, and the country was ill served with them; but the quarries are now wrought, to a great extent, by the present proprietor, and his lessees, and the slates are said to be much improved in size.

*Inclosures,*

*Inclosures, &c.*—Part of the estate of Stobo, contiguous to the house, was inclosed early in this century, to which the present proprietor has added largely. The inclosures east from the manse extend about a mile, and to the west about two miles, and in depth, from north to south, from half a mile to a mile. The river Tweed is the south boundary. The fences are quickset hedges, or dry stone walls. Inclosures are begun in other parts of the parish, but hitherto they have made no considerable progress. There are few full grown trees in the parish, except in the old inclosures of Stobo, where there are a good many; and in the new inclosures, considerable young plantations have been made of all kinds of trees usually planted in Scotland. The farmers are in general sensible of the advantages of inclosures. One farmer, upon a three-and-twenty years lease, has begun to inclose part of his farm at his own expence; and others, upon shorter leases, solicit the aid of their landlords, (who are not averse to encourage them), to assist them in making small inclosures.

*Productions.*—Oats, bear, and pease are the staple crops in the parish. Wheat is sown, but in small quantities. Turnip is sown by those who have inclosures; and potatoes are found to be so generally useful, and the soil so well suited to the growth of them, that they are raised by every person. Clover and rye-grass are also sown, and some sow as much flax or lint-feed as is necessary for family uses. There is more grain produced in the parish than is necessary for the maintenance of its inhabitants.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, of which this parish consisted, preceding the year 1734, is not ascertained. From the remains of old houses and old towers, which are now much decayed, but are still in the remembrance of old people,

people, it appears that the population is considerably diminished. The greatest part of the depopulation took place previous to the year 1734. If there is any decrease since that period, it is very trifling, as appears from the examination roll of the parish at that time, compared with the examination roll of this year. Since the year 1734 it has undergone some changes in regard to numbers. In that year there were only 200 examinable persons in the parish, persons from eight years of age and upwards. In this state it continued till the year 1741 or 1742, when it had an increase of numbers, from having the half of the parish of Dawick annexed to it; in consequence of this circumstance, the numbers were increased from 200, to between 240 and 250. Of late years, however, the numbers have decreased. There are at present in the parish only 221 examinable persons, and 97 that are not examinable, or under eight years of age; total, 318 souls. Among this number there are 15 Seceders. The number of males, from eight years of age and upwards, is 119; the females, 102. There are 60 houses in the parish, and 5 inhabitants, upon an average, to each house. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 313. The births, for these eight years past, are, at an average, about 9 *per annum*; during the same period there have been 36 burials at the church, but then 13 of these persons did not reside in the parish at the time of their death; so that 23 only have died for these 8 years past, being, at an average, about 3 *per annum*. There have been only 10 marriages during the last 8 years.

*Church, &c.*—The church of Stobo is Gothic, and appears from history to be between 4 and 500 years old. The remains of a font, an oven, and other apparatus peculiar to the Popish church, are still to be seen. It was called in ancient times the *Parsonage of Stobo*. It appears from the original



ginal rights of Lord Wigton, once patron of this parish, that it was a parsonage, having four churches belonging to it, which were called the *Pendicles of Stobo*, viz. the church of Dawick, upper and lower Drummelzier, Broughton, and Glenholm. Dawick is now annexed to Stobo and Drummelzier, and what was called, in the original rights of Lord Wigton, *Upper Drummelzier*, is now a distinct parish, and is called *Tweedsmuir Parish*. The stipend is 49 l. 8 s. 10 $\frac{2}{3}$  d. Sterling money, 60 bolls of victual, part of which is meal, and part bear. Besides the stipend, the minister of Stobo receives from Sir James Nasmyth 10 bolls of meal, which is converted at the Mid-Lothian fiars, being the rent of one half of the glebe and grafs of Dawick annexed to Stobo. There is a manse, and a glebe of 21 English acres, which is all inclosed, and subdivided with stone walls and quickset hedges. The present incumbent inclosed the most part of the glebe at his own expence.

*Poor.*—There are very few persons at present upon the poor's list; any support which they receive arises from the weekly collections, and from the interest of some money which belongs to the kirk-session.

*School.*—There is but one school in the parish, which is taught by the established school-master. His yearly salary is 5 l. 11 s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. There are about 24 scholars; from those that are beginners, or confined to the reading of English, he receives one shilling *per* quarter; and from those that are taught writing and arithmetic, one shilling and sixpence. He has a comfortable house, which was built about 15 years ago.

*Fuel.*

*Fuel*.—There is no particular inconvenience which the inhabitants of this parish labour under from its local situation, but a difficulty of procuring fuel. There is no peat which can pay the labour of manufacturing. And as to the turf it affords, though generally used, it is of a very inferior quality. There is no good coal nearer than Lothian, which is 18 English miles distant.

*Miscellaneous Observations*.—The valued rent of the parish is 2874 l. 9 s. 8 d. Scotch, the real rent about 1143 l. Sterling. There are three proprietors, none of whom reside in the parish. The number of tenants is 11, their ploughs 14. There is an excellent breed of sheep in the parish, they are remarkably found and healthy, of a middle size, and in number about 5000. There are 81 horses, and 190 black cattle in the parish. There are also a good number of black cattle, mostly of the Highland kind, which are bought either early in the summer, for the purpose of feeding, or in the autumn, in order to eat up the foggage or after-grass. The high road which runs through this parish, and which is commonly called *Stobo Hedges*, from its being bounded on each side by a hedge for some miles, was completely made some years ago. The roads which join it, on the west and east, have also been made of late years. The statute labour is commuted. There is no turnpike in the parish. There are two bridges over the Water of Lyne, which is the boundary, on the east, between this parish, and those of Newlands, Lyne, and Peebles. One of them was built by contribution within these few years; the other, though an old bridge, is very sufficient, and makes the access between this and Peebles very easy. The bridge which was lately built over the Water of Lyne, was in consequence of a road being made along the side of Lyne Water, which joins the  
Peebles

Peebles road upon the east, and the Kirkcurd road upon the west. This road is completely finished, and is of great advantage to travellers coming from the west country by the way of Peebles. There is also a bridge over Biggar Water, which is the boundary on the west between this parish and Glenholm. This bridge opens up a free communication between this parish and the road leading to Moffat.

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N U M B E R L.

UNITED PARISHES OF LARBERT  
AND DUNIPACE.

(*County of Stirling.*)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE HARVIE.*

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace are situated in the county of Stirling, about seven miles distant from the town, lying towards the south-east, and are within the presbytery of Stirling, and synod of Perth and Stirling. Each parish hath its own church and kirk-session. These churches were originally two chapels, belonging to the abbot of Cambuskenneth, near Stirling: But, at the Reformation, they were erected into different charges; and, since that time, have been under one minister. The extent of both parishes, from east to west, is about eight, and from south to north, about two miles. They are generally level ground; and the soil is partly of a light dry nature, and partly clayey.

*Minerals.*—There is plenty of free-stone and coal in both parishes; but no coal is wrought at present, except at Kinaird and Quarrole, which lie in the parish of Larbert.

*Population.*—In former times, the parish of Dunipace was the most populous; but now the population there is greatly diminished,

nished, owing to the heritors taking the land into their own hands, and appropriating it to pasturage for large cattle, sheep, &c. The population of the parish of Larbert has increased in a very large proportion. There are about 3000 people in it above 12 years of age, consequently about 4000 in all. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1864. There are several villages in said parish, but no market town. The number of handicraftsmen in Larbert parish is about 1500. In the parish of Dunipace, there are only about 80. The annual average of marriages in the parish of Larbert is about 31, which is taken from the records. The births in it are about 60; but, on account of the different sectaries, there are a great many who are not recorded. Of deaths, there are about 38; but there are several inhabitants in the parish of Larbert who have their burying places in other parishes, and the deaths of such are not inserted in our records. At an average of three years, there are, in the parish of Larbert, 17 baptisms, 5 marriages, and 10 burials.

*Manufactories.*—The manufactories in both parishes are very considerable. In the parish of Dunipace, there are a printfield, and a cotton-spinning manufactory. In the parish of Larbert the famous Carron works are situated, which is one of the greatest founderies in Europe. There are about 1000 workmen employed, and about 150 carts for driving coals, iron-stone, &c. The works consist of 5 blast furnaces; 16 air furnaces; a clay mill for grinding clay and making fire bricks for the use of the said furnace; an engine that raises 4 tons and a half of water at one stroke, and, on an average, draws 7 strokes in a minute. This engine goes in the time of drought, and consumes 16 tons of coal in 24 hours. Besides the coals consumed by this engine, there are 120 tons burnt every day in the works, and by the inhabitants  
 belonging

belonging to them. Besides the air furnaces, there are 3 cupola furnaces, that go by virtue of the blast furnaces, by pipes conveyed from the machinery of the blasts. Their business is much the same with the air furnaces. There are also 4 boring mills, for boring guns, pipes, cylinders, &c. One of the boring mills is adapted for turning the guns on the outside. They have likewise smiths forges for making the largest anchors and anvils, as well as small work of various kinds; besides a forge for making malleable iron, and a plating forge: Also a forge for stamping iron, the hammer of which, with the helve, are both of cast metal, and weigh a ton and a half. A nail manufactory is likewise carried on in Larbert parish to a considerable extent.

*Church.*—There are no places of public worship, except the established churches of Larbert and Dunipace.

*Produce, &c.*—Neither parish can supply itself with meal, owing to so much ground being laid out in pasture. In both parishes, there are about 50 acres sown with flax, and as much with grafs. There is no ground in common in either, except where the great cattle tryft is held three times in the year. It is a dry muir, belonging to Sir Michael Bruce, where, it is computed, there are between 20,000 and 30,000 cattle collected at the October tryft. The advantages enjoyed by both, are plenty of coal, and, from their vicinity to the great Canal, water carriage to and from the East and West seas at an easy rate. Of course, they have plenty of provisions brought to them from many distant places.

*Antiquities.*—Near the Carron works once stood the famous *Arthur's Oven*, called by Buchanan *Templum Termini*. Several Danish forts, or observatories, are in these parishes; one at

at Larbert, another at Braes, in the parish of Dunipace, and a third in Upper Torwood. There are two artificial mounts in the parish of Dunipace, near the church. Each of them cover, at the base, about an acre of land. They are upwards of 60 feet high, and raised in a conical form. The reason of raising them is said to be for a memorial of a peace which had been concluded there between the Romans and Scots \*. A part of one of the mounts, towards the west, was carried away (as Buchanan says) by a flood in the river Carron. At what time this happened is uncertain; but the course which the river had then taken, when it made this encroachment on the mount, is still visible. The great Roman Causeway from Carmuir, (where the Roman camp was, in the parish of Falkirk), which crossed the river Carron by a bridge, west of the village of Larbert, and went almost in a straight line to the castle of Stirling, is still entire in many parts, both in the parish of Larbert and Dunipace. In Dunipace parish is the famous Torwood; in the middle of which there are the remains of Wallace's tree, an oak which, according to a measurement, when entire, was said to be about 12 feet diameter. To this wood Wallace is said to have fled, and secreted himself in the body of that tree, then hollow, after his defeat in the north. Adjoining to this is a square field, inclosed by a ditch, where Mr Donald Cargill excommunicated King Charles II.

*Schools.*—In the parish of Larbert there are five schools, the principal of which is the parish school in Stenhouse-muir. The number of scholars, in general, is between 60 and 70. The annual salary is 100 l. Scotch, and 1 l. Sterling

\* The name of the parish is supposed to originate from these two hills. They were the *Dunēs pacis* or *hills of peace*.

King as session clerk. The perquisites arising from baptisms, marriages, and certificates, &c. amount in general to 8 l. 10 s. Sterling. In the school at the village of Carron-shore, there are about 40 scholars, and the same number in the school at the village of Larbert. In another school at the colliery of Kinnaird, about 24 scholars are taught. In the parish school of Dunipace there are about 40 scholars. The fees *per* quarter are the same with the parish school of Larbert. The annual salary is 100 merks Scotch; the master has 1 l. Sterling *per annum* for being session clerk. The perquisites arising from baptisms, marriages, &c. amount to 1 l. 4 s. 8 d.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The great road that leads from Stirling to Edinburgh, goes through both parishes, upon which there is a toll-bar at the Torwood. This road is maintained by the toll; and other cross roads are repaired by an assessment laid upon householders, and the statute work of the farmers. The land rent is generally between 20 s. and 30 s. Sterling *per* acre. There are several funds in the parish of Larbert, besides the poor's rates, and collections at the church door. The first was erected by the Carron Company soon after they began their works, for the benefit of their workmen. The members belonging to this fund are about three hundred and twenty. There are three public houses in the parish of Larbert; one at Carron, and two in the village. There is one in the parish of Dunipace, on the road from Stirling to Glasgow. But alehouses, or rather what may be called whisky houses, are very numerous in both these parishes. In these houses a drink of good ale cannot be got; but aquavitae is to be had in abundance. It has even got the better of some of the fair sex, who instead of being admired, then become the abhorrence of sober men. In general it is observed to be hurtful to the



health, morals, and usefulness of mankind, especially when taken too often, or to excess. There are six heritors in the parish of Larbert, viz. Sir Michael Bruce, Bart. Colonel Dundas, Mr Bruce of Kinnaird, Mr Strachan of Woodside, Mr Caddel of Banton, and Mr Miles Riddell of Larbert; and three in Dunipace, viz. Mr Morehead of Herbertshire, Mr Johnston of Denovan, and Mr Spottiswood of Dunipace; each of whom keeps a four wheeled carriage. It is worthy of being recorded, to the honour of these gentlemen, that during the great scarcity in 1782 and 1783, they voluntarily raised the assessment upon their property from 20 s. to 30 s. Sterling on the 100 l. Scotch of valued rent, for the support of the poor; besides importing grain, which they sold below the market price to all who applied for it. Mr Bruce of Kinnaird, the famous Abyssinian traveller, has lately erected an elegant monument of cast metal, over the vault wherein his lady and eldest son are interred, which is much admired by strangers. There have been 40 houses built within these 10 years, besides one gentleman's seat in the parish of Larbert, and only four taken down within that period. Servants wages are very high in comparison of what they were formerly, being about 10 l. *per annum*, besides their board; so that between the increase of rents, and the high rate of wages, the husbandman is often put to great difficulties. Such as employ cottagers seem to be easier, and better served.

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## NUMBER LI.

## PARISH OF PENNINGHAM.

(County of Wigton.)

By the Rev. Dr WILLIAM BOYD.

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

SOME have conjectured, that in the old Scottish language the parish was called *Penningham*, first, because it is the head on the north end, next to Cree Water, of the whole county and shire of Galloway; and that the last syllable in old times denoted *head*. Secondly, because the parish is almost surrounded with water, and therefore has been called Penningham, in allusion to its being a large *peninsula*. But this is given more from conjecture, than from any substantial reason that can be assigned\*. Penningham lies in the province

\* Since writing the above, the following remark has been transmitted, which is given *verbatim*. It appears that Scotland, as far as the Frith of Edinburgh, was possessed by the Saxons: Hence the etymology of many places in that district of country; as, for example, the termination *ton*, is equivalent to the word *town*, affixed to many names, and serves to corroborate this remark. It is not unlikely, therefore, that the termination *ham* or *ghame* may be equivalent to the word *dale*, which is to be found in the names of many places, both in England and Scotland, when inhabited by the Saxons: For, as *Cunningham* in Carrick, in the shire of Ayr, evidently signifies the *King's Dale*,

vince of Galloway and county of Wigton, and is one of those parishes of which the presbytery of Wigton is composed. The parish is at least 16 miles long from its two greatest extremities; and upon the north end, above the military road, it is 5 broad; on the south end  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The military road passes through the middle of the parish, leading from Newton Stewart and the Water of Cree, to Stranraer and Portpatrick.

*Rivers.*—The river Cree, by the assistance of the tides from the sea, is navigable within 2 miles of the towns of Newton Stewart and Minnigaff. This river, after making various turnings and windings, for about 4 English miles in length from the above towns, at last empties itself into a bay of the main ocean, opposite to Wigton, the county town upon the west, and Cree Town, the parish of Kirkinabreck, and stewartry of Kirkcudbright upon the east. In the usual seasons, plenty of salmon are caught in this river, and sell at most reasonable rates, generally 2 d. *per* pound, and not above 3 d. at the highest. It is remarkable for a certain species of small fish, which come in great quantities in spring. They are exceedingly good, and sent to the most distant corners of the country. The name they are commonly called by, is *sperlings* or *smelts*. It is said that they are not found in any other river, except one or two, in all Scotland.

*Church.*—The stipend is 1240 merks Scotch, the expence of sacramental elements included. The manse was let some  
years

*Dale*, therefore it is not an improbable conjecture, that the name *Penningham* may be originally derived from the same root, although the exact meaning of the first syllable *Penning*, or *Penning*, does not clearly appear.

years ago, and, by the carelessness of servants, burnt to the ground. The present incumbent is allowed, by the heritors, 8 l. 14 s. yearly in lieu of it. The glebe is very indifferent, and far from being legal, being let only for 8 guineas yearly. The valuation of the parish is 615 l. Scotch.

*Population.*—The number of souls in the country part of the parish are at least 900: Those in Newton Stewart will fully amount to 1100, making in all 2000. The increase of the inhabitants in this particular village of Newton-Stewart is amazing. Its origin does not exceed 85 years. The proprietor, (Castlestewart), a second son of the Galloway family, wisely viewed it as a proper place for erecting a village, and therefore built a house or two at his own expence, in order to begin it. The humour of building and feuing, from the example set by the proprietor, prevailed among the people, and ever since has been increasing. What has greatly promoted the above humour was, the throwing a large and beautiful bridge, at the north end of the town, over the Water of Cree, by which the shire of Galloway and stewartry of Kirkcudbright are united with the old and new towns of Minnigaff, on the opposite side of the water. This bridge, built upwards of 40 years ago, is of great advantage to the public in general, and to the town of Newton-Stewart in particular. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1509 souls.

*Soil and Produce.*—The grounds above the military road, which divide the parish, are far inferior to those below on the south end, except a few spots on the Water and Loch of Cree, which, if properly improved, are capable of raising excellent crops, being warm and fertile. The other side of this upper end of the parish, is greatly inferior to the east side, and very moorish. Still, however, the grounds, even  
in

in their wild and natural state, are capable of supplying the inhabitants and their families with plenty of grain; and, what is very extraordinary, there is not any part of the ground in the whole parish, however wild or barren, but what might be improved so as to supply the inhabitants with provisions. The upper end of the parish, on which snow may be supposed to lie for some time, yet is seldom or never covered with it above three, four, or six days at the utmost; but in the adjoining parishes of Kirkcowan, Colmonell, and Minnigaff, it will remain for weeks, nay sometimes for months. This is judged to be owing to its being situated between two large rivers, and the land lying much lower than that in these other parishes. The wool in the parish in general is good, and superior to that of most of the neighbouring parishes. It is much run upon, and commonly gives about 10s. 6d. *per* stone. The soil in general, on the south end of the parish, is exceedingly good. The land is fertile, and much of it has of late been improved with shells and lime, and produces uncommon crops of corn, ryegrass, and clover. The grounds indeed are stoney, except what is immediately upon the water side, and occasions a good deal of expence in clearing them off; but, when done, the labour and expence are amply repaid. The most remarkable spot of ground in the parish, is a corner of it called the *Moss of Cree*, lying along the side of the Water of Cree. It begins at a port called *Carty*, about 2 miles from Newton-Stewart, where small vessels can be brought with safety into it, either with merchant goods from the English side, or with lime, coals, and shells; and extends, in length and breadth, to about 4 English miles. It is of a deep clay bottom, and was once undoubtedly covered with the sea, and afterwards with wood; for large trunks of trees are still found in different parts of it. The tide comes up the Water of Cree, very nigh to the town of Newton-Stewart,

ton-Stewart, and in a very forcible manner, making vast and daily encroachments; but what the land loses on one side, is commonly regained on the other. This part of the parish is uncommonly fertile. The inhabitants living upon this mofs, though every day in water up to the mid-leg, in course of their ordinary employments, and dwelling in mud or clay houses, are, notwithstanding, the healthiest in the parish, and arrive at the greatest age. They seldom complain of any ailments. It has been observed, by some families in the neighbourhood of the Mofs of Cree, whose houses are built upon higher ground, that the land in the Mofs of Cree appears to be swelling and increasing in height; and, say they, we would not be surpris'd, if one day it would take a floating, and be all carried into the ocean, which immediately adjoins to the south end of it, as the Solway Mofs in Annandale did some years ago, and the waters of the sea return again to their former channel, and overflow it a-new.

*Sheep.*—The number of sheep, so far as can be calculated with any degree of exactness, amounts to 9840.

*School.*—A regular school is kept for teaching Latin, English, writing, and arithmetic. The salary is 10*l.* yearly. The number of scholars is about 50 through the year. The whole emoluments, including school-wages, salary, &c. are reckoned to be 30*l.* yearly.

NUM.

## NUMBER LII.

## PARISH OF POLMONT.

(County of Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM FINLAY.

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

THE parish of Polmont was disjoined from that of Falkirk in 1724. The derivation of the name is uncertain; but one of the titles of the Duke of Hamilton, viz. Lord Polmont, is taken from it. The parish is situated in the county of Stirling, presbytery of Linlithgow, and synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. Its greatest length is 5 miles, and its breadth 2. It is intersected by the Frith of Forth on the north, and the river Avon on the east; and partly by the great canal.

*Soil, Climate, Minerals, &c.*—A considerable part of the parish is of a rich carse ground, and very fertile; the average rent of which is 2 l. *per* acre. The rest is high, and of a light soil, but mostly in cultivation, except a small part of moor, and about one eighth, or one tenth, in common. The climate is remarkably healthy, even in the low carse districts. Seed is sown in March or April, and harvest generally takes place in September. There are several mineral springs, impregnated with iron, from the great quantities of iron ore in the higher grounds. The shore of the Frith (if it may be called)

called), is flat, pretty extensive at low water, and covered with sleet. There are several considerable quarries of free-stone, two of which are constantly wrought for building, and employ from 12 to 14 men. There are also several coal mines, chiefly belonging to the duke of Hamilton. The principal one is that at Shieldhill, in the moor south from Falkirk, which is let in lease to the Carron Company, and produces about 500 tons *per week*, of a remarkably fine quality. This coal work employs about 250 people, men, women, and children, and from 40 to 50 horses. It yields, to the proprietor, about 500 l. *per annum*; besides the profit of the iron-stone, which is wrought from the old coal-pits, and is sold to the Carron Company at 10 d. *per stone weight*, above the expence of working it, and affords constant employment to about a dozen of people.

*Population.*—According to the report sent to Dr Webster in 1755, the population then amounted to 1094 souls. It must therefore have increased considerably since that period, as it now amounts to about 1400. Of these the far greater part reside in the country, there being only a few houses near the church, and about 50 families who have feus on the turnpike road, which lies south from it. The average of births, for these last five years, is 64; of deaths, during the same period, 53, and of marriages, 22. The average number of persons to each family is  $3\frac{1}{3}$ , there being 400 houses in the parish, and not one of them uninhabited. Of these there are ten, which may be properly stiled villas, being possessed by genteel families, but without any great extent of property. The building of these houses, and the concomitant improvements of the country, occasioning a demand for labourers, have been the chief causes of increasing the population, as well as of preventing emigrations, of which



there has not been a single instance from this district, for these five years past. There are about 200 household servants, male and female, in the parish, the former of whom get from 5 l. to 8 l. a year, and the latter from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—The living, including the glebe, is worth about 90 l. *per annum* at an average. The Crown is patron. The church was built in 1732, and has had no reparations since, except being plastered in the roof and walls in 1785. The manse was built a few years after, and got some trifling repairs in 1784, and, in 1785, new office houses were built. There are about 40 heritors, 20 of whom are of the smaller sort. All the people attend the established church, except a few Seceders. There are no Episcopalians, and only one Roman Catholic. There are at present 17 regular pensioners, who receive alms from the poor's funds, besides those who receive charity occasionally. The annual amount of the funds for their relief is about 28 l. Sterling.

*General Character, &c.*—The people, in general, are sober and industrious. None have been indicted for any crime, or banished, these many years, one only excepted. They measure from 5 feet 8, to 5 feet 10 inches. There is only one individual in the parish 6 feet 3. No particular manufactures are carried on in it. The expence of living is rather upon the increase of late years. Landed property has not changed often, and what has been sold lately has drawn 30 years purchase, and in general higher. On the whole, the people enjoy the usual comforts and advantages of society, and appear to be very well contented with their situation and circumstances.

## NUMBER LIII.

## PARISH OF HODDOM.

*(County of Dumfries.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES YORSTOUN.*

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*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Hoddom lies in the county of Dumfries, and in that division of it called *Annandale*. It is situated about 16 miles south-east from the town of Dumfries, and belongs to the synod of Dumfries, and presbytery of Annan. The extent of the parish is, in length, about 5 miles, and, in breadth, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Its form is somewhat quadrangular. The present parish of Hoddom consists of three parishes united; Hoddom, Line, and Ecclesfechan. It is now almost a century and a half since these parishes were thrown into one. In each there is still a glebe belonging to the minister.

*Rivers.*—The rivers connected with the present parish are the Annan, the Milk, and the Mien. The river Annan runs along the west side of the parish, and is enlarged by the supplies it receives, in a course from the north, of about 26 miles. About 6 miles to the south, it empties itself into the Solway Frith. The fish in this river are salmon, trouts, &c. Though there be as yet no scarcity, yet, it is to be observed, that there never have been so many fish in the river since the  
land

land began to be manured with lime. This manure being washed from the land into the river by floods, is supposed to be very fatal to every species of fish. The Milk washes only a small corner on the north-west of the parish, and then empties itself into the Annan. It runs from the east. The extent of its course is about 14 miles. It abounds with small fish, and is an excellent river for trouting. The Mien, which is so small as hardly to deserve the name of a river, runs also from the east. The extent of its course is about 6 miles. It runs across the parish, dividing the old parish of Hoddom from that of Line, and then empties itself into the Annan. This rivulet is continually changing its channel, and damaging the land lying alongst its banks.

*Surface and Soil.*—The land of the parish consists partly of high, partly of low ground; and it may be added, that the low ground contains a considerable extent of holm. The soil may be classed under three kinds: 1st, The holm land, which lies by the banks of the Annan on the west, and by those of the Mien, towards the east of the parish. The land near the banks of these rivers is all, excepting a few small spots, a deep and a rich loam, collected by the rivers, and exceedingly fertile. The next is that in the body of the parish, where there is a plain of about two square miles. The soil in that plain is light and gravelly, but pretty free from stones; and, with proper culture, and a season not remarkably dry, produces rich crops both of corn and grass. The third is that towards the northern parts of the parish, where the ground rises, from the plain in the body of the parish, in a gradual and gentle ascent, finely exposed to the south and south-west. The soil here inclines to clay; much of it lies upon a cold till; some of it upon a rock; but, when properly limed, is almost as productive as the low lands.

lands. A few farms to the east, on the march of Middlebie, and a few to the north, on the march of Tundergarth, have not the same exposure, but the soil is the same. On the west side of the old parish of Line, a considerable tract of land lies waste, the most of which could not admit of culture; but, excepting this and a few other places, all the land in the present parish of Hoddom is arable; and, indeed, the greatest part of it has actually been ploughed.

*Inclosures and Produce.*—About 22 years ago, not a fence or dyke of any kind was to be seen in the whole parish. Now, almost every farm is surrounded with a good fence, either of stone or hedge, mostly of the latter; and several farms are divided into parks or inclosures. The grain crops are principally oats and barley. In some particular spots, wheat may be seen; but so little of it, as not to deserve being particularly mentioned. The mode of culture commonly adopted is, first, manuring the land with lime, when that is judged necessary; then breaking the ground, and taking from it two crops of oats successively; then manuring the land with dung, and taking from it one crop of barley; then taking from it other two crops of oats; and, after that, suffering the land to rest for about four years. This is the method which is commonly followed; but there are individuals who pursue a different method, and lay out their fields both with judgment and taste. The quantity of grain, produced in the parish, greatly exceeds that which is consumed by the inhabitants. 1700 Carlisle bushels of barley, 400 Carlisle bushels of oats, together with 3500 stone weight of oat-meal, are computed to have been, for these three years past, carried out of the parish annually, at an average. Some of this barley is exported to Greenock, but the greatest part to Lancashire and Cumberland. It must  
not,

not, however, be understood that all the grain carried out of the parish, is over and above what is consumed by the inhabitants. Both meal and malt are brought into the parish from other places, and sold in small quantities to those who cannot afford to lay in a stock. But the quantity brought in, bears no proportion to that which is carried ~~out~~ of the parish. The vegetable produce, not included in grain, consists chiefly of potatoes, the chief sustenance of day-labourers, and the lower class of people. Few if any of these are exported. Almost every cottager keeps a hog or two, which he fattens; and, by the assistance of these animals, the inhabitants are enabled to consume almost the whole potatoe produce of the parish. A few fields are allotted for turnips. Of late years, a considerable quantity of ground has been laid out in fown grafs. The quantity allotted for flax and hemp may not exceed 12 acres. There is one farm in the parish which it may be proper particularly to mention, on account of its having been lately converted into a dairy, a new thing in this part of the country. It is the farm of Relief; belongs to Mr Pulteney; and is let to a person from Cheshire, who had acquired the knowledge of dairy-work in that country. Cheefe is there made of the same kind with that made in Cheshire, and is sold at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* pound. The butter, which is made from the thick of the whey, is sold at 6 d. *per* pound. This dairy consists of about 200 acres. 40 cows were kept upon it last season. The quantity of cheefe made and sold amounted to the value of 140 l. Sterling, and of butter to the value of 11 l. Last season was unfavourable; and it is expected that a considerably greater quantity of cheefe and butter will be made this season. The stock of milk-cows is also to be increased this season, by the additional number of ten.

*Curiosities.*

*Curiosities.*—Two places deserve to be mentioned, on account of their curiosity, and connection with antiquity. The one is the hill of Burnfwark, famous for its particular form, (which, from its smoothness and regularity, has all the appearance of art), for the extensive view which it commands, and for the vestiges of Roman works, which may be distinctly traced on the sides, and on the top of the hill \*. The other place is Hallguards, being the place on which the old castle of Hoddom stood, said to have been the seat of one of the families of the Bruces. This castle is said to have been demolished some centuries ago in compliance with the terms of a border treaty. It was rebuilt by Lord Kerfess, in the days of Queen Mary, but removed to a situation on the other side of the Annan, where it now stands. The history of this castle, and also of the Tower of Repentance, will probably be given in the account of the parish of Cumbertrees, to which they belong.

*Church.*—The living, including the stipend and the value of the three glebes formerly mentioned, amounts to 100*l.* The manse is old, and in wretched repair. The offices are in good condition, having been very lately built. The right of presentation is vested in the Duke of Queensberry and Mr Sharpe of Hoddom, who have exercised it by turns.

*School.*—The schoolmaster's salary is only 6*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* besides quarter wages, which have usually amounted to upwards of 10*l.* *per annum.*

*Poor.*

\* For a more particular description, consult Gordon's Itinerary, in which is drawn a plan of the hill, and the works upon it.

*Poor.*—The poor's funds consist of a capital of 400 l. Sterling. This capital originated from two mortified fums; the one a sum of 1119 l. 19 s. 4 d. Scotch money, mortified to the poor of the parish in the year 1701, by Mr James Alexander, through whose means, chiefly, the three parishes were united; the other, a sum of 1000 merks, mortified by John Sharpe of Hoddum, in the year 1715. By the interest having, from different causes, been suffered to accumulate, these fums have swelled to a capital of 400 l. Sterling. Besides the above, the weekly collections produce about 12 l. Sterling *per annum*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are few parishes so well provided with roads as that of Hoddum. It is divided longitudinally almost into two halves, by the turnpike road leading from Gratenay to Moffat; and there are five cross roads, all of which are equal to turnpike. It may be proper to mention the conveniency of its situation, in regard to one of the principal commodities for improvement, viz. lime. Lime of excellent quality is to be got in great abundance, within the distance of 2 miles. This, together with the good roads, has of late years greatly increased the value of the land, and wealth of the inhabitants. The commencement of improvements in this parish, and within the county of Dumfries in general, may be dated from the year 1777, when a particular act of Parliament was obtained, authorising a certain description of heritors, to assess the proprietors of land, and their tenants, in an annual sum, not exceeding 12 s. on each 100 merks valuation, for the special purpose of repairing and supporting the different highways in each parish within the county. Before that act was obtained, most of the roads were unmade, or had been repaired in a very superficial manner; and in that district of the county called Annandale

dale, almost the whole of the roads were impassable during the winter season. The power granted by the act 1777, has enabled the gentlemen of the county, who have exerted themselves with much laudable zeal, to repair, in the course of 14 years, almost every road of consequence in the respective parishes. The four great roads within the county, which lead to Edinburgh by Langholm, to Edinburgh and Glasgow by Moffat, to Portpatrick by Dunfries, and to Ayrshire by Sanquhar, as also the road from Annan to Langholm, are now turnpike roads, and have all been effectually repaired since the year 1777. The tolls upon them produce about 1700 l. *per annum*; and no county, either in Scotland or in England, can boast of having better roads than the county of Dumfries. From this cause alone, Dumfriesshire has become a great thoroughfare. The improvement of the soil has been great, rapid, and substantial. Lime, the only manure used for the improvement of waste lands, can now, by means of the good roads, be without any difficulty transported to a considerable distance at all seasons. The great, almost the only drawback, which this parish sustains, is the want of coals. Our distance from these is about 16 miles, which renders their carriage by land very expensive; and the unreasonable oppressive tax laid upon coals imported, renders their carriage by sea still more burdensome.

In the account of the parish of Hoddam, the village of Ecclesfechan must not be omitted. It consists of 105 houses and 500 inhabitants. In this village there are two well furnished inns, where passengers meet with good accommodation, and may be provided with post chaises and post horses. There are 2 inns of an inferior kind, 22 tippling houses, and 8 shops. It has been a post town since the year 1788. The mail coach, which runs between London and Glasgow, passes and repasses every 24 hours; and every day is a post day in



Ecclesfechan, for London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The revenue, arising from the postage levied upon letters and packets, at the post-office in Ecclesfechan, amounts to 120*l. per annum*. But the chief things for which Ecclesfechan deserves to be mentioned, are its fairs and markets. In this village a market is held every month, besides two fairs in the year. These fairs and markets, besides convening the inhabitants of the country around, draw crowds of people from the Border, and even from the English side. On these occasions there is frequently a good shew, and a great sale of horses and black cattle. Hawkers and pedlars get a number of their goods disposed of, and a good deal of business is transacted in the way of settling accounts. On the markets preceding the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas, many attend for the purpose of hiring servants for the ensuing half year. In former times, these meetings used never to part without some bloody encounter; but, through the progress of civilization, this *Border*, or rather *barbarous* spirit, has of late been gradually decreasing, and, in a short time, it is to be hoped, will cease to exist.

Besides these fairs and monthly markets, there has lately been established a weekly market for swine, which promises to be of great advantage. Formerly, the only market for swine, near this place, was at Longtown, a village on the English side of the Border. About 4 years ago, some dealers being of opinion, that a market in Ecclesfechan would be more convenient for many of the inhabitants of this part of the country, proposed to establish one in this village.—A market for swine was advertised to be held every Friday, from the beginning of January to the beginning of May. It was first held in January 1788, and has since continued according to the original establishment. During these 4 years, upwards of

1000 carcases of swine, at 4 s. *per* stone, which will amount to 2 l. 8 s. each carcase, have been sold at an average each season. Most of this pork, with a great quantity not brought to the market, is made into bacon in this country. After being properly manufactured and dried, it is sold commonly at 6 s. *per* stone to different dealers, by whom it is exported to different places in England. A great quantity is exported each season to London, by a person who resides in Ecclesfechan. Of late years this parish, as well as those in the neighbourhood, have been comfortably situated in regard to fresh provisions. Formerly, there was rarely any fresh butcher meat to be got nearer than Dumfries; now, one may be very well supplied from Ecclesfechan twice in the week during summer, and once in the ten days or fortnight during winter. And, from Annan, one may be regularly supplied twice in the week during the whole of summer, and the greatest part of winter. This is a great convenience to the inhabitants of this place, who, not long ago, were subjected to the trouble of sending to Dumfries, which is 16 miles distant, at all times, when they stood in need of fresh provisions. It would not be doing justice to the place, to omit mentioning the objects which contribute to its beauty and pleasantness. A place is always pleasant where there is much wood, water, and dry ground. All these contribute to beautify Hoddam, and to render it the most delightful spot in Annandale. The three rivers have already been described. The fields, lying on the banks of these rivers, particularly the Annan, are charming, being mostly holm land, dry, and at the same time rich, and surrounded with beautiful banks of wood. On this side of the Annan, one large wood, consisting of birch, oak, and ash, ascends from the river about a quarter of a mile, and extends along its banks about two miles. Part of it goes beyond the bounds of this parish. A foot path, always dry and  
clean,

clean, makes a most delightful walk from one end of the wood to the other. One may walk for the space of two miles together, enjoying all the way the charms both of wood and water, in their utmost perfection. On the other side of the Annan, the hill of Woodcockair rises from the river, in a pretty steep ascent, for about a mile, and is covered with one of the finest woods in the south of Scotland. This is an object, to those on the opposite side, at once pleasant, from the beauty which it exhibits, and comfortable, from the shelter which it affords. Mention has already been made of the large plain in the body of the parish: The road from Dumfries to Carlisle by Ecclesfechan runs through it. On each side of the road, this plain is divided into inclosures, fenced with hedges, and interspersed with clumps of oak and ash. To the traveller coming from Dumfries, who has to pass through a wild, bleak, hilly tract of country, this vale, at first view, appears like a paradise.

*Statistical Table of the Parish of Hoddom.*

Population, 1755, -	1393	Persons under 50,	462
———— 1791, -	1198	———— under 70,	146
Decrease,	195	———— above 70,	27
Average of births, for 3		Houses inhabited,	247
years preceding 1791,	33	———— uninhabited,	0
———— of deaths,	14	New houses built within	
———— of marriages,	7	these 7 years, -	38
Males, - - -	554	Old ditto pulled down,	0
Females, - - -	644	Married persons, -	239
Persons under 10 years of		Widowers and widows,	61
age, - - -	312	Members of the Estab-	
———— under 20,	251	lished Church,	1079
		Seceders,	

Seceders, - - -	119	Millers, - - -	2
Heritors residing *, -	29	Bakers, - - -	4
—— non-residing †, -	12	Apprentices, - - -	19
Clergyman, - - -	1	Male servants, - - -	60
Merchants, - - -	8	Female ditto, - - -	65
Writer, - - -	1	Carriers, - - -	7
Schoolmaster, - - -	1	Tanner, - - -	1
Farmers ‡, - - -	70	Cloggers §, - - -	3
Day-labourers, - - -	24	Clockmaker, - - -	1
Innkeepers, - - -	4	Poor, - - -	16
Smiths, - - -	5	Capital of their funds, L.	400
Masons, - - -	6	Annual income, - L.	32
Joiners, - - -	7	Carts, - - -	153
Weavers, - - -	15	Ploughs, - - -	79
Shoemakers, - - -	4	Rent, anno 1791, in Ster-	
Tailors, - - -	7	ling money, - L.	2668
Butchers, - - -	3		

*Number.*

\* Of these there are 2, the rental of whose property is between 100l. and 300l. *per annum*; 4, whose property is between 30l. and 100l. a year; and 23, whose rental is under 30l. *per annum*.

† Though these do properly not belong to this table, as being none of the classes of inhabitants of the parish; yet, from the interest which they have in the parish, it was judged proper to mark them in this place of the table. Two of these gentlemen have property to the amount of 300l. or upwards; one rents between 200l. and 300l. *per annum*; 4, between 30l. and 100l.; and the other 5 below 30l. a year.

‡ By farmers, are to be understood those only who follow farming as their *chief* occupation. In this class, weavers, tailors, &c. though possessing farms, are not included, farming not being the chief occupation by which they live.

§ Persons whose business is to make clogs. These are a kind of shoes much worn by the lower class of inhabitants in the winter

	Number.	Value each.	Total value.
Horses,	259	L. 12 0 0	L. 3108 0 0
Cattle,	1037	3 0 0	3111 0 0
Sheep,	1078	0 10 6	565 19 0
Swine *,	235	2 0 0	470 0 0

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Total value of stock, L. 7254 19 0

winter season. The upper part consists of very strong leather; the under part, of soles of timber about an inch and a half thick. They are very cumbersome, but dry and warm, and reckoned very conducive to health. They are common in many parts of England, and cannot be too strongly recommended for the use of the poor in Scotland, who find shoes a very expensive article of dress, particularly in the remote parts of the country.

\* Attention to the breeding of swine has, as yet, only prevailed near the western borders of Scotland. It is found so advantageous, that it ought to be extended as much as possible all over the kingdom. It requires skill; but, where the proper mode of managing swine is well known, from the quickness of the return, they prove the most profitable stock of any.

N U M-

## NUMBER LIV.

## PARISH OF DUN.

*(County of Forfar.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES LAUDER.**Situation, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Dun is situated in the county of Angus, sheriffdom of Forfar, and presbytery of Brechin. It is very near in the middle between the towns of Brechin and Montrose; is about 4 miles in length, and as much in breadth; is bounded on the west by the parish of Brechin, and on the east by that of Montrose. Between these two, there is an excellent high-road, kept in good repair by the gentlemen and tenants, so that at present it has no need of turnpikes. It is bounded on the south by the parishes of Maryton and Kinnaird, which last is now annexed to that of Farnel, and on the north by the parishes of Strickathrow and Logie.

*Church, &c.*—The kirk is within Mr Erskine's inclosures. It appears antiently to have been a chapel belonging to the family of Dun, the mansion-house of the family having been built very near to the church-yard. The glebe, I think, consists of little more than 5 acres, very good arable land. The stipend may amount to between 72 l. and 80 l. *communibus annis*, as a great part is paid in victual. The church is in  
good

good repair; it has two lofts, one to the east, the other to the west. The east end of the church is filed the choir, and has a fount in the wall, intended, of old, for baptism.

*Name, &c.*—The name of *Dun* seems to be taken from the proprietor, who was called *Dun* of that ilk. It is said that one of the name of *Erskine* married the heiress; but when that happened, is difficult to say, as it is known only by family tradition. Others derive the name from the Gaelic *Dunis*, which signifies, in that language, a *hill* or rising ground; and it is indeed on a ground pretty much elevated above the river *South Esk*, or fourth water; for *Esk* is said, in Gaelic, to signify *water*. There is a very elegant bridge over the river, consisting of three large arches, finely ornamented. It was built in the 1787, and opens an easy and safe passage over the river, which was formerly very dangerous; and many lives were lost, by venturing to cross it when in flood, or covered with ice. There is a good salmon fishing upon the river, which abounds with trouts of various kinds, viz. finouts, which appear in the month of May, and continue till the end of June. They are thought by some to be salmon fry, the catching of which has been prohibited by those who have the salmon fishings in lease. There are likewise plenty of sea trouts, about 12, 18, or 20 inches in length; besides a trout called a finneck, which appears in the months of July and August, and disappears towards the end of September. There are also many other kinds of trouts, which seem to be passengers, as they appear only at certain seasons of the year.

*Soil and Produce.*—The lands upon the river side consist of a clay soil, and produce excellent wheat and barley. There are about 30 bolls of wheat sown in the parish, besides  
great

great quantities of barley, oats, and peas. Potatoes are commonly planted about the middle of April, and turnips about the middle of June. Some farmers feed cattle with turnips, which turn out to very good account, as there is a great demand for butcher meat, the parish being situated in the neighbourhood of the two populous towns of Montrose and Brechin. There are but few sheep kept in this district, (as they are thought prejudicial to the sown grass and hay), excepting such as are necessary for the use of the inhabitants.

*School.*—There is one public school in the parish. The legal salary of the schoolmaster is only 100 merks, too small encouragement to obtain a properly qualified person for that office; and therefore the heritors, minister, and principal tenants in the parish, have subscribed a certain sum in addition to the legal salary, in order to make up a tolerable living for the schoolmaster.

*Population.*—The number of parishioners, in the year 1750, by the late incumbent's examination roll, amounted to 506. Afterwards they increased greatly; for in the years 1760, and 1766, they amounted to 640. But after that period, when many small farms were converted into one, the numbers decreased, and at present do not exceed 500 souls. In Dr Webster's list, the number is 657. There is a register of marriages, births, and burials, kept, an extract of which, for ten years past, is as follows:

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Z z

Years.



Years.	Marriages.	Births.		Burials.
		mal.	fem.	
1781	4	9	7	31
1782	8	13	12	15
1783	4	5	10	18
1784	3	7	12	17
1785	3	8	5	23
1786	7	16	9	9
1787	5	3	5	18
1788	5	3	5	15
1789	4	8	7	18
1790	9	8	6	10
	—	—	—	—
	52	80	78	174

*Antiquities.*—On the height, to the west of the manse, there were two tumuli of earth, covered over with stones. When the tenant cleared off the stones, and digged to level his field, he found several urns of potter's clay figured, in which were ashes and pieces of bones. There is likewise, a little farther to the north west, a pretty large tumulus, where-in there were also found several urns of the same kind, with ashes and bones in them.

*Poor.*—None are allowed to beg in the parish. The poor's funds, together with the weekly collections, are sufficient to supply them.

NUM-

## NUMBER LV.

## PARISH OF SOUTHEND.

*(County of Argyle.)**By the Rev. Mr DAVID CAMPBELL.**Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Southend, in the presbytery of Kintyre, and synod of Argyle, lies at the extremity of the peninsula of Kintyre. Its length, from east to west, is about 11 miles, and its breadth, from north to south, is about 5.—On the north and east, it is bounded by the parish of Campbeltoun, and on the west and south, by the Irish sea, the breadth of which, to Ballycastle, is about 7 leagues. Between the two countries, however, there is not much intercourse or commerce. The Irish bring over some black cattle, and carry back small horses in return. A ferry boat is always in waiting in this parish; the fare of the whole boat is 15 s. in summer, and 20 s. in winter. They sometimes go to the opposite coast in one tide, and return with the next.

*Surface, &c.*—This parish exhibits a beautiful and variegated prospect of hills, neither high nor rocky, and vallies, through four of which small rivers flow; and on each side of those vallies, there are farm houses at small distances from each other. The rivers frequently overflow their banks,  
and

and change their course, to the great injury of the community. Within these 40 years, a great part of the higher grounds, which formerly were covered with heath, have been converted into arable and pasture land. Prior to that time there were no carts in the parish, and very little lime made use of, for the cultivation of the land; but of late a spirit of improvement has prevailed among the inhabitants, most of whom cover two or three acres yearly with lime, and would do much more in this respect, were it not for the scarcity of fuel. The peats are not so fit for the purpose, and are at some distance. There are coals at the distance of 9 or 10 miles; but they are not so good as those to be had in Ballycastle in Ireland, from whence, or from Ayrshire, they would readily carry them, were it not for the tax imposed upon coals carried coastways, which is a great hindrance to the improvement of this part of the country. There is no draw-kiln for burning lime, but one built by an English farmer for his own use. All the other farmers make their kilns of turf.

*Produce.*—The produce of the country is oats, barley, potatoes, and beans, and in greater abundance than serves to supply the inhabitants. There is also some wheat and rye cultivated in the parish. Some hundred bolls of barley, meal, and potatoes, are yearly sold in the neighbouring town of Campbeltown; and some of those articles are exported from hence to Clyde. About 400 bolls of barley are distilled within the bounds of the parish.

*Population.*—The number of examinable persons, from 8 years old and upwards, is near 1000; consequently the total population is about 1300. In Dr Webster's report, the number is 1391. The average of Christenings, for the last

10 years, is 60, and of marriages, 14. The language of above two thirds of the inhabitants is Gaelic; the remainder speak English. Both, however, know as much of each other's language, as qualifies them to transact all matters of business.

*Curiosities.*—There are no very remarkable natural curiosities in this parish. There are several caves, but not of such a size as to merit much notice. Along the coast there are the remains of some Danish forts, the most considerable of which is in Balemacumra, on the promontory commonly called the Mull of Kintyre, near the place where a light-house has been lately erected, which is of great service to vessels from England, from the north, the west of Ireland, and America; several of whom suffered formerly in dark nights, or when the promontory was covered with fog. The old castle of Dunaverty deserves to be mentioned, as the scene of some historical events. There is, on one side, a tremendous precipice hanging over the sea; on the other, the hill on which it is situated rises in the form of a pyramid. Nature was assisted by art in making this a very strong hold. The sea nearly surrounds it; and the fossée, covered with a draw-bridge, after which two or three walls, one within the other, fortified the ascent. On the top of this rock the Lord of the Isles had one of his castles, in which Robert Bruce took refuge for some nights, during his adversity, as appears from his life, by Archdeacon Barbour. There, also, Alexander McDonald, known by the name of Alister, son of Coll Kittach, who had raised a party of Irish and Highlanders, calling themselves Royalists, to assist Montrose in the civil wars, had his last palladium; 300 of his men were pursued by General Leslie, and besieged there in the year 1647. Being reduced to great distress by the want of water, they were persuaded to surrender at discretion; after

ter which they were barbarously massacred. The general, on this occasion, seems to have been a nice casuist; he thought he kept his word, by distinguishing between the discretion of the Estates, (which was the expression made use of in the treaty), and his own discretion, by which they were put to death. His adjutant general, Sir James Turner, in his account of this transaction, seems desirous to lay a share of the guilt to the account of a Mr Nave, who urged, that sparing the enemies of God and the kirk, would involve him in the like sin and curse of Saul, in sparing the Amalekites. To shew mercy to them, however, adds the historian, would have been more like a Christian.

Not far from this rock is the island of Sanda, above a mile and a half in length, and half a mile in breadth, famed as the place of rendezvous for the Danish fleet, in their excursions to these coasts. Hence it went under the name of *Avona Porticosa*, and is still sometimes called *Aven*. Sanda, however, is the more ancient, as well as the more common name, as appears from St. Columba's life by Adomnan. In this island there are the remains of an old Popish chapel. There are also two other small islands at the east side of Sanda, well calculated for keeping sheep; and about a league to the south of it, there lies a dangerous rock, called *Paterfon's Rock*, above a mile in circumference. Several vessels have been endangered, and some lost upon this rock, which is always covered at high water, but visible at low water. In the sound of Sanda, which is a league distant from the continent, there is plenty of cod; and along the whole coast of the parish, the people are abundantly supplied, at proper seasons of the year, with haddocks, whittings, skate, mackerel, &c. On the water foot of Cariskey, also, there are several hundred salmon taken in a good season. The casual mention made  
above

above of St. Columba, leads the author to observe, that, till about 120 years ago, there were two churches in this parish, one dedicated to that saint, and the other to St. Blaas. The walls of St. Columba's chapel are still pretty entire; but of St. Blaas's there is no vestige. It was probably carried away by the river, which passed near it. Most of the burial ground, which belonged to it, has been demolished in the same manner, within a century back.

Between St. Columba's chapel and the Castle of Dunaverity, there is a bank of fine coral, above 100 yards from the sea mark. If the farmers had skill and industry to drag it into boats, it would be of great service to them; and it is found to be better manure for moist heavy lands even than lime. The small quantity of it, found after storms, has been of signal service to gardens and outfield lands; and when scattered upon moor lands, it wears out the heath in a few years. There is also, in some vallies here, and along the banks of the rivots, what is commonly called *Fuller's earth*.

*Church.*—The Duke of Argyle is patron of this parish, and has the greatest share of the property in it. There are 7 other heritors, 2 of whom generally reside in it. The stipend was only 50 l. till about 16 years ago, when the minister commenced a process before the Court of Session, and, after some years litigation, he obtained an augmentation of 16 l. 12 s. 10  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. The whole living, at present, including the allowance for communion elements, with a manse, and glebe consisting of 6 acres, amounts to 75 l. no part of it being paid in victual. A new church was built in 1774. There is also a parochial school, with a good house, accommodated with 4 acres of land, given by the Duke of Argyle at a moderate rent.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—The number of poor in the parish list is about 24. The amount of the collections at the church door is about 12 l. a year, which is occasionally distributed, according to their necessities. There is no mortification, or any other fund of provision for the support of the poor, and some of them are under the necessity of going about to beg.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The rental of the parish is about 3000 l. Sterling yearly. The price of provisions, at present, is 22 s. the Kintyre boll of meal, at 10 stone each; 12 s. the boll of potatoes; and 3½ d. the English pound of beef. The wages of men servants, maintained in the house, are about 7 l. yearly; and of women servants, nearly half as much.

NUM-

N U M B E R LVI.

P A R I S H O F A P P L E C R O S S.

(*County of Ross.*)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN M'QUEEN.

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*Origin of the Name.*

**A**PPLECROSS is a fanciful designation, assumed by one of the proprietors of that part of the parish, from which it derives its name. In commemoration of this, five apple trees were planted cross ways, and have since, in form, been perpetuated by his successors. The antient and only name by which it is known in the language of the country, is *Comrich*, a Gaelic word signifying *protection*; a name implying the immunity of the place in antient times, this having been the seat of a cloister, and, as such, an asylum for all, who either from persecution, or merited punishment, fled for protection.

*Situation.*—The figure of the parish is irregular, being frequently intersected by the sea, and having, in the centre of one of its most populous districts, a few farms which form a part of the parish of Lochcarron. It is situated in the county of Ross, presbytery of Lochcarron, and synod of Glenelg.



*Extent.*—The extent of the parish is considerable, but cannot, with precision, be ascertained, as there is neither public road nor bridge, from one extremity of it to the other. The foot traveller is guided, according to the season of the year, what course to take, over rugged hills, rapid waters, and deep and marshy moors. Besides here, as in all the adjoining parishes and Western Isles, the computation of miles is merely arbitrary, always terminated by a burn, cairn, well, or some such accidental mark, which renders them so remarkably unequal, that it is impossible to reduce any given number of these imaginary miles to a regular computation. The extent of sea coast, taking it in a direct line, by the opening of every bay and creek, is upwards of 20 miles; or following the shore, in all its curves and windings, cannot be under 90 miles long. Though in general high and rocky, yet, in some parts, it is flat and sandy. The course of the tides is all along from the north. There is no current worthy of observation.

*Surface and Soil.*—The general appearance of the parish is hilly, rocky, and mountainous. Yet amidst these hills, covered with heath, and dreary to the sight, are vallies both beautiful and very fertile; but being detached by hills, lofty, and often inaccessible, the soil is exceedingly various. The shallow is the most prevalent, which frequent rain nourishes into a state of fertility, of which it would otherwise be deficient.

*Climate and Crop.*—The climate, like the surface of the country, is remarkably unequal. The same day is often diversified by the appearance of all the different seasons; and though occasionally we may have some tracts of dry weather, yet at no period can two successive days be wholly depended on. The husbandman hath, in all his operations, the climate

mate to combat. The ground is prepared, either with the plough or crooked spade, a clumsy hand implement, pointed with a piece of iron four or five inches diameter, which, though ludicrous to the eye of a stranger, is absolutely necessary in shallow stoney ground, where it is impossible for the plough to move, or for the hand spade to be used; yet it must be acknowledged, that it is often employed without necessity. Oats, potatoes, and barley, are the crops of the parish; which, as soon after the middle of March as the ground is properly dried up from the winter storms, are sown in regular succession, with as little interruption as the weather permits. Small oats are much, if not principally used, a hardy grain, which, though neither so fruitful nor so nourishing as the large, is found to be best adapted to the severities of the climate. The early oats have been tried, but abandoned, as precarious and uncertain. Potatoes are much cultivated, and serve as a substitute for bread among the lower class of people, nearly for two thirds of the whole year. In a rainy climate, early crops are not to be expected; yet this parish, notwithstanding its local disadvantages, is remarkable for an early harvest. The harvests 1782 and 1783, were singular over all Scotland. The barley was then cut in October, and the oats not got in till the end of November; yet these were years of plenty; the general scarcity did not affect this parish, whose crop would bear a comparison with any year's since that period. But it is to be observed, that this is not a corn, but a grazing country, whose crops rarely supply the parish with meal, a considerable quantity of surface being waste and useless.

*Animals.*—Black cattle is the great article, from which the farmer principally derives his emolument, and the landlord his rent. There are generally about 3000 black cattle,  
small

small and great, in the parish. During the summer and harvest, they pasture upon the low grounds, which produces grass of a finer and more nourishing quality, than is to be found in any part of Sky, or the other adjacent islands. The cattle are for the most part coupled, *i. e.* have but one calf between every 2 cows; by these means the calf is better fed, a greater quantity of butter and cheese is manufactured, the bulling secured, and no superfluous stock kept on hand. Except in the district of Kishorn, the number of horses is very inconsiderable. The sheep are all of the smallest kind; their mutton is firm, fat, and juicy. Goats are kept for private use; their milk is the earliest supply to relieve the necessities of the indigent; and pasturing, among rocks and precipices, inaccessible to other cattle, their milk is thought to contain some medicinal virtues. The hills abound with deer; 30, 40, or 50 is no uncommon sight in a flock. Roes, badgers, and otters, are likewise to be found. The kingsfisher, cuckow, waterwagtail, swallow, and cornraick, are the migratory birds of the parish. There is some moor game; but the wetness of the moors, and the number of foxes in the neighbourhood, so noxious to the hatched young, prevent their increase.

*Fish.*—The haddock, cuddie, skate, whiting, and flounder, are to be got all along the coast of this parish; but not being used for exportation, and having no ready market at hand, they are only sought after, either to gratify the desire, or relieve the necessities, of the present moment. The herring occasionally frequents all our bays, creeks, and harbours, which are numerous, and being a favourite fish, not only for exportation, but for home consumption, it is in all seasons greedily pursued. From the middle of July to the 11th of September, it is in its greatest perfection; and from the beginning of November to the 11th of December, though not so good,

good, is thought richer than at any after period. Cod and ling are caught on different parts of the coast. The cod is in its best season from the middle of February to the end of March; but ling is caught from the middle of March to the end of July; yet those fished for the first two months are reckoned the best. Our rivers, though small, are very rapid; they abound with trout, and those of Firdon and the river of Applecrofs, produce some salmon. Fishing is a favourite occupation of the people of this parish; they derive much of their sustenance from the sea. Each principal farmer hath generally a boat of his own; and among the lower class, either two, three, or four, make a joint purchase, according as their circumstances will permit. There are besides five vessels, of from 20 to 40 tons, employed in the fishing, one of which belongs to a fishing company, founded at a considerable expence, by Mr M'Kenzie of Firdon, one of the heirs of this parish. The patriotic exertions of this gentleman merit much praise; and as such an establishment, by affording a ready market, and an example for improvement to our fishers, doth naturally quicken and improve their industry, the public is interested in its success.

*Exports and Imports.*—Black cattle, butter, cheese, fish and kelp, are the exports of this parish. All these articles, within the last 30 years, have nearly doubled their value. The number of cattle annually sold may amount to 300, which, of late years, at an average, draw about 2 l. 15 s. The price of fish varies according to the quantity caught. Herring, packed for home consumption, give from 11 s. to 15 s. the barrel; but, if repacked for exportation, 4 of these barrels go to make up 3. Cod and ling are sold, either by the dozen, or by the ton; when, by the dozen, the price depends on the size of the fish; if by the ton, it fetches from 12 l. to 15 l.

15 l. Sterling. Oban and Greenock are the markets most commonly frequented. Kelp, prior to the American war, fold at 3 l. 10 s. the ton; the price has since been fluctuating, nearly between 5 l. 5 s. and 4 l. 15 s. There will be about 50 tons annually brought to market. A greater quantity could be manufactured, but a considerable portion of the ware is appropriated for manure to the different farms. It may not be improper to observe, that close to the harbour of Poldown, there is a shelly sand, which, when used with discretion, not only meliorates the ground for corn; but after it is laid on, introduces, for a few years, excellent crops of white and red clover. Meal, and all other articles, (excepting these now specified), which either the necessities or conveniencies of life require, are imported into this parish.

*Proprietors and Rents.*—There are three proprietors. The principal heritor constantly resides in the parish, and pays four fifths of the stipend. The estate hath remained in the family for more than two centuries; nor hath there been an acre fold in the parish for some generations. The rents, inclusive of kelp, exceed 700 l. Sterling. The lands are greatly subdivided. There is only one farmer who pays upwards of 40 l.; the general run of rents being from 10 l. to 2 l. Sterling.

*Occupations and Wages.*—In a country destitute of trade and manufactures, distinct occupations are not to be expected. All the inhabitants of this parish are, in some degree, farmers and fishers. Every man is the architect of his own house; and though there be a few nominal shoemakers, scarcely a boy of fifteen but makes his own brogues. There are several boat-wrights and weavers, the former generally maintained by their employers, and paid by the piece; the latter, make their

their demand in money, but are paid in meal, at the conversion of half a merk Scotch the peck. There are 3 smiths (when no private stipulation takes place), for the farm work; they are paid in meal, by an immemorial assessment on the different farms. Antiently they had the head of every cow that was slaughtered in the parish, a privilege they still claim, but it is rarely complied with. There is but one miller, who, by means of the detached situation of his mill, can accommodate but a very inconsiderable district of the parish; all the rest of the corn is either carried to the mill of the neighbouring parish, or grinded by a hand mill called a quern. The wages of domestic servants, for the year, are from  $\frac{1}{2}$  l. to 3 l. Sterling, for men; and from 10 s. to 1 l. Sterling for women. There are no stipulated wages for day labourers; they generally exact, according to the exigencies of the employer, excepting in the few farms adjoining to the residence of the principal heritor, who, having abolished servitudes, has fixed the wages of men working at peats at 6 d. and of women, at 4 d. a day; both to furnish their own victuals.

*Character.*—Of that indolence and inquisitiveness, for which the Highlanders were formerly so remarkable, little is now to be found in this parish. The people in general are regular, and very industrious. The use of spirituous liquors is rather too prevalent, yet there are fewer instances of gross intoxication, than at any former period: Antiently they drank rarely, but always to excess; now frequently, but for the most part with moderation. There is not so much as a tradition of suicide in the parish, nor of murder, but one, during the present century. For 20 years past, only one person hath been imprisoned for theft, who soon afterwards enlisted for a soldier. In every country where leases are from year to year, and in which there is no independent occupation,

tion, in trade or manufactures, much of the character of the people must depend, either on the virtue or the caprice of their superiors; for though local jurisdictions be abolished, there is still a species of despotism remaining, by which the displeasure of the superior is equivalent, in its effects, to the punishments of the law.

*Population.*—From the account, published by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in the 1774, there were 1100 examinable persons in the parish. By an accurate enumeration, recently made, there are 1734 souls, of which number 897 are females. In Dr Webster's report, the number is only 835. At an average of four years, the number of births amount to 68, and of marriages to 9. There being five burial places in the parish, besides the parish church-yard, the number of burials cannot be ascertained with certainty. The increasing population of the parish is evident, to which the cultivation of potatoes, and the abolition of servitudes, greatly contributes: For, prior to the introduction of this useful root, a general scarcity pervaded the Highlands. By the abolition of servitudes, the tenant is put into possession of his own industry, which was formerly fettered by stipulated services, in the different seasons, to the superior, exacted with rigour, and only accepted of in the best weather, in an unsteady climate. Communicating the small-pox by inoculation, is of so very recent a date in this parish, that it could as yet have but little influence. Religious prejudice opposed it, but experience hath now established its utility. In the year 1789 the mortality was so great, that only 1 in 13, of those who caught the infection the natural way, recovered. Soon afterwards, a man in no respect noted for acquired knowledge, in this and 3 of the neighbouring parishes, inoculated about 700 persons, of which number only 8 died.

This

This hath so thoroughly removed all prepossessions, that upon the appearance of this pestilence of late in the parish, inoculation was generally adopted. How far these causes may be counteracted by a spirit for emigration, which hath revived in the neighbouring island of Sky, and hath formerly been found very generally to have been of an infectious nature, time will prove. The local attachment of the Highlanders, hath, for some time back, been gradually abating. The influx of money, and their communication with other countries, hath introduced a desire for better living; and the rapacity of the superiors, in applying all the advantages of the times to their own private interest, hath effectually relaxed those attachments. The increasing population of the country at large, is favourable to the interested views of the proprietors. For every farm, a multitude of candidates is ready to appear, and the culture of the ground, being the sole occupation of the inhabitants, the disappointed have no other option, but either to emigrate or beg. The inhabitants of this parish are not remarkable for longevity: There are, however, no local distempers. The palsy and dropfy, diseases little known to our forefathers, are now become common.

*Church.*—The parish is divided into three districts, each separated from the other by a ridge of hills, inaccessible in stormy weather. For the district of Lochs and Lirdon, containing 616 souls, the minister officiates once a quarter; and in the district of Kithorn, consisting of 518 souls, once a month. The skeleton of the parish church stands in the district of Applecross; it was condemned in 1788, but is still the only edifice for public worship in the parish. The living amounts to 56 l. 13 s. 3½ d. Sterling, and a small glebe. The patronage is in the Crown. The weekly collections, and incidental penalties for delinquencies, which are left to the dis-



posals of the kirk-session, are the only funds provided for the poor. All the inhabitants communicate with the Established Church, but one, who is of the Episcopal persuasion.

*School.*—By the local situation of the parish, one district only can be accommodated by the parochial school, which is fixed at Applecrofs. The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks Scotch; he hath no perquisites, but the quarter payments, of 1 s. 6 d. for English scholars, and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin and arithmetic; and the cock-fight dues, which are equal to one quarter's payment for each scholar. It is disgraceful, that a class of men, so usefully employed in the service of the public, should have so little of its countenance.

*Antiquities.*—There are several natural caves in the parish, some of them rendered more commodious by art; they seem to have been the habitations of the first plundering adventurers who came into the country. The Gaelic for cave is *uadh*, and the only vocable in that copious language for giant, is *uadher*, that is, the inhabitant of a cave. Fear magnifies objects; these savages, in all our old fables and poems, are mentioned as men of mighty stature, and represented as cannibals, who devoured all sorts of flesh raw. In the district of Applecrofs are the remains of a subterraneous house, of which there is still a part entire. It was of considerable length, four feet wide, and four feet deep, regularly faced with stone, and covered with flags, which were overlaid with turf, so as to be on a level with the surrounding ground. The passage was at one of the ends, which, if covered with a turf or bundle of heather, would elude all search. From the construction of these houses, it is more likely, that they were the receptacles of plunder, and the fences of real property, than the habitations of men. Near this house are the ruins of a  
Danish

**Danish Dun.** All of the same description along the coast, served as so many centinels to the Western Isles, (then under the dominion of Denmark), who, by the signal of a torch, could give an early intimation to their nearer insular friends, of any approaching danger, which being in like manner communicated from one Dun to another, the alarm would in a moment become general. There are trunks of trees found at a considerable depth under ground, in hills and meadows, where there is no vestige of any kind of wood remaining; many of them have visibly suffered by fire, which the traditional history of the country reports to have been occasioned, by the Danes burning the forests. Close by the parish church, are the remains of an old religious house, where the standard and soles of crucifixes are still to be seen. It was richly endowed with landed property, which tradition relates to have been conveyed, by the last Popish missionary, in the place known by the designation of the *Red Priest of Applecrofs*, to his daughter. Notwithstanding the pretended celibacy and chastity of the Romish clergy, there are several surnames in the Gaelic language, which clearly prove, that strict abstinence was not their favourite virtue, such as *Mac-an-tagird*, the priest's son; *Mac-vriar*, the prior's son; *Mac-ficker*, the vicar's son; *Mac-pherson*, the parson's son, &c. These names exactly correspond with the English surnames of *Priestly*, *Prior*, *Parson*, &c. and prove the character and practices of these primitive apostles, in both the kingdoms, to have been the same.

*Superstitions.*—There are none of the common calamities, or distressful accidents incident to man or beast, but hath had its particular charm or incantation; they are generally made up of a group of unconnected words, and an irregular address to the Deity, or to some one of the saints. The de-  
fire

fire of health, and the power of superstition, reconciled many to the use of them; nor are they, as yet, among the lower class, wholly fallen into disuse. With them the belief of the second sight is general, and the power of an evil eye is commonly credited; and though the faith in witchcraft be much enfeebled, the virtue of abstracting the substance from one milk, and adding it to another, is rarely questioned. The ghosts of the dying, called *tasks*, are said to be heard, their cry being a repetition of the moans of the sick. Some assume the sagacity of distinguishing the voice of their departed friends. The corps follow the tract led by the *tasks* to the place of interment; and the early or late completion of the prediction, is made to depend on the period of the night at which the *task* is heard. Credulity and ignorance are congenial; every country hath had its vulgar errors; opinions, early imbibed, and cherished for generations, are difficult to be eradicated. This parish, like some of the Western Isles, hath its characteristical expressions. The *Leabharfein* of Sky, *i. e.* by the *Book itself*, meaning the *Bible*; the Danish *Mboirc* of Lewes, *i. e.* by the *Great Sabbath*; and the *Ider* of Applecrofs, *i. e.* by *St. Iderius*, are so characteristical of the natives of these several places, that, when talking the Gaelic language, they can, with few exceptions, be easily distinguished in any part of the globe. They are the remnants of Popish oaths, which, having lost their original meaning, are now used merely as expletives in conversation.

*Language.*—Gaelic is the only language ordinarily preached in the parish. The names of places are principally derived from it, the rest from the Danish: Thus *Kisborn* is compounded of two Gaelic words, *Kisb*, a *tribute*, and *orn*, *bear*, the rents of that district having originally been paid in bear; *achadh còrk*, the *field of oats*, from *achadh*, *field*, and *còrk*,  
oats;

*cats*; *arenacrionuc*, is literally the *shealing of wheat*, which being nonsense in itself, is clearly a corruption of *arenan Drunich*, *i. e.* the *shealing of the Druids*, *ari* signifying a *shealing*, and *Drunich*, a *Druid*, in the Gaelic language; *Kilvoury*, a contraction for *Kilvourly*, from *kil*, *wood*, and *morladb* or *morluadb*, the *ashes of mur*. A solid body, fallen into ashes or small particles, is *mur*. History informs, that the Germans used the ashes of burnt wood, extinguished with salt or mineral water. It is probable, that from this practice *Kilvoury* or *Kilvourly* hath got its name; from which it would appear, that this kind of salt hath once been in general use. The ashes of sea ware are still used in St. Kilda, and other places, for curing cheese, and the cheese so cured is called *casb-mourly*, *i. e.* the *cheese of murluadb*. From the Danish are derived all those names which have *burgh* in the compound, as *Burghdale*. It is observable, that in all places of this designation, there hath antiently been a Danish Dun; and also, that all those places, whose names terminate in *ic*, which, in the Danish language, is said to signify a *bay*, as *Togic*, *Cuic*, *Dibic*, and *Shittic*, hath each of them an inlet of the sea.

*Mines and Woods.*—In the district of Kishorn there is a copper mine, which Williams, in his mineral kingdom, considers as equally rich with any in great Britain. On the south side of the bay of Applecrofs, in a line close by the shore, there is a lime-stone quarry of an excellent quality. There are some natural woods of fir, birch, and hazel, in different parts of the parish.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The vicinity of the sea, is the principal advantage of this parish. But the want of salt frequently deprives the inhabitants of any benefit from their  
local

local situation. Could this be remedied, by the establishment of store-houses, a reduction of the duty, and a small bounty to open boats, the condition of the Highlanders would be greatly meliorated, a new source of national wealth explored, and the current of emigration more effectually restrained, than by any other means which have hitherto been devised. The supernumeraries would be amply and independently provided for, as the new erected villages would afford an asylum to all such as could not retain their present habitations without visible disadvantages,

NUM-

NUMBER LVII.

PARISH OF MANOR.

(County of Peebles.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MARSHALL.

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

FROM the old session records, the name of the parish appears to have been commonly written *Manor*, and sometimes *Mannor*, but never *Manner*, as has been supposed by some. It probably received the name of Manor, as being, during the time of Episcopacy, the occasional residence of the rector of Peebles, from which circumstance, he was called the Parson of the Manor. Manor is situated within the county of Tweeddale, and the presbytery of Peebles, and belongs to the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The extent of the parish, from the south-west to the north-east, is about 9 miles in length, and 3 miles in breadth. The number of acres is said to be 18,110.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—This part of the country, like the other parishes in Tweeddale, is mountainous; but towards the bottom, where it is more open, there is excellent arable ground, which produces grain inferior to none in the county. The hills in the upper part of the parish, on both sides of the Water of Manor, are very high, and so closely adjoining to each other, as to occasion very sudden inundations,

tions, when the rainy season sets in, on the approach of winter. The winds most prevalent here, are the south and south west, which are chiefly owing to the narrow strath; there being a continued chain of hills, on both sides the water, for 6 miles. The air, though in some of the higher grounds intense, is both pure and wholesome, and fewer epidemical diseases prevail here, than in most parts of Scotland. The arable land bears but a very small proportion to the pasture ground, and lies mostly at the bottom of the hills, along the river Manor, and partly on the banks of the Tweed. It is naturally fertile, and of a sharp soil; and the harvest is fully earlier than in the neighbouring parishes. There is indeed part of the arable ground of a wet, tilly substance; but it has lately undergone a material change, by means of drains and ditches carried on by the proprietors.

*Produce, &c.*—Pease, oats, bear, and potatoes, are the common produce of the arable farms. A few years ago turnips were introduced into this parish, for fattening cattle, and have succeeded as well as could be wished. There is, however, one great hindrance towards carrying on this species of improvement, which is, the want of inclosures; otherwise the raising of this most useful vegetable, would be still more general among the farmers. It is not easy to ascertain the real value of the arable ground, as it is commonly laid out in sheep pasture: At an average it may be worth 10s. the acre. The mode of cultivation, observed here, in the rotation of crops, is the same as in other places of Tweeddale. It may likewise be observed, that the wages of servants vary almost nothing throughout the whole county; the men getting about 6l. and the women 3l. *per annum*. Provisions are the same as at Peebles.

*Cattle.*

*Cattle.*—The number of horses cannot well be ascertained, as the farmers very seldom keep more than what is necessary for labouring their land. The number may be betwixt 80 and 90. A few black cattle are bred for sale, especially year olds; but, in general, they content themselves with as many milk cows as they can conveniently keep, finding this equally profitable. The number of black cattle may be about 190. Sheep being the staple commodity of this country, the store-masters appropriate most of their time to that employment: And as other parts of Scotland, similar to this, have improved their breed of sheep, they are not behind their neighbours in this respect. Accordingly, within these 10 years, the sheep farms have greatly increased in value, at the same time that the tenants appear to be doing well. The breed of sheep is the same with those in other parts of Tweeddale, which are too well known to need description. Their number may amount to 8700. The wool, for several years past, has sold from 7 s. to 9 s. the stone.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The valued rent is 3301 l. 18 s. 2 d. Scots; the present rent may be about 1685 l. Sterling. There are five heritors, two of whom occasionally reside, and are improving their lands with much spirit and success. There is one tenant who pays about 100 guineas *per annum*, but does not reside in the parish; there is another who pays 220 l.; two others pay 150 l. and five 100 l. a year each. The other seven pay from 20 l. to 60 l. of yearly rent.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants appears to have greatly decreased since the beginning of this century. About 50 years ago, there were 35 tenants, whereas at present there are only 16, as above enumerated. The population, in 1755, amounted to 320; at present, it is only 229. This diminution is difficult to be accounted for, as it can hardly be ascribed to



the junction of many small farms, like that of some other parishes; and it appears the more surprising, when it is considered, that upon the most exact average, taken from the session records, for these last 30 years, the number of births has been more than double the number of deaths. This will be evident from inspecting the following table:

*Population Table for the Parish of Manor.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of souls in 1755,			320
— — — — in 1791,	123	106	229
Decrease, - - - -	-	-	91
Number of births, from 1760 to			
1790, inclusive, - - -	140	136	276
— — — — deaths, from do. to do.	56	67	123
— — — — marriages, from do. to do.	47	47	94
Average of births during that period,	-	-	9
— — — — of deaths, ditto, - - -	-	-	4
— — — — of marriages, - - - -	-	-	3
Number of persons under 10 years of age, in 1791,			49
— — — — from 10 to 20,	-	-	52
— — — — from 20 to 30,	-	-	54
— — — — from 30 to 40,	-	-	28
— — — — from 40 to 60,	-	-	28
— — — — from 60 to 80,	-	-	17
— — — — from 80 to 90,	-	-	1
Number of families, 42		Number of schoolmasters,	1
— — — — married couples, 17		— — — — wrights, -	4
— — — — widows, - 8		— — — — masons, -	2
— — — — widowers, - 3		— — — — millers, -	1
— — — — heritors, - 5		— — — — weavers, -	1
— — — — tenants, - 16		— — — — smiths, - -	1
— — — — servants, - 76		— — — — poor, -	3
— — — — clergymen, - 1			

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—There are only 3 pensioners upon the parish list, 2 of whom are partly supported by the residing heritors, and principal farmers. When these two heritors are mentioned, it is but doing them justice to say, that they are uncommonly attentive to the poor, and extend their charity to those, who, though once comfortably situated, are now reduced in their circumstances. There is no parochial fund, but what arises from the Sunday collections, which, at an average, do not exceed 2 s. weekly; and the interest of 40 l. Sterling, which, together with occasional charities, answer every reasonable demand,

*General Character.*—The people are, in general, sober, industrious, and well disposed; attentive to their several situations in life, and uncommonly charitable and humane. They are all of the Established Church, except one family, and a few servants, who are partly Burghers, and partly Anti-burghers; the whole not exceeding 16.

*School.*—The parish school has not been well attended for many years past. This was greatly owing to the want of a proper school-house; but, though the heritors have lately built a commodious one, it is set down in such a part of the parish, that there never will be a numerous school in it. At present there are not above 12 at the day school, and about 8 at the night school. The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks, and 12 s. as session clerk.

*State of the Church.*—During the time of Episcopacy, the church was situated 4 miles distant from the present one, where it was perhaps more central. It bore the name of St. Gordian's Kirk. It was removed, about the middle of the last century, to the bottom of the parish, where it now stands.

stands. For many years it remained in a ruinous state, till, upon an application to the heritors, both it and the manse were repaired. The present incumbent was admitted minister in 1788, upon the translation of Mr Welsh to Drummelzier. His Grace the Duke of Queensberry is patron. The stipend is paid in money, and amounts to about 70 l. 18 s. The glebe measures  $23\frac{1}{2}$  Scottish acres.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are two very high hills in the parish, called Scrape and Dollarburn, from whence there is an extensive view of the Lothians, Berwickshire, and the English Borders. The latter of these is supposed to be 2840 feet above the level of the sea. No antiquities are to be found in this parish, but a Roman camp, which is pretty entire; in the neighbourhood of which were found, some years ago, a Roman urn, and some antient coins, upon digging up a piece of ground, with a view to till it. At a small distance from this camp, there is a tower raised upon an eminence, and commanding the best view in the parish. It appears to have been built several hundred years ago, and to have served as a watch tower, to give signals of alarm, when the enemy made inroads upon the country, and committed depredations. This parish, like others in the neighbourhood, labours under great disadvantages, by being about 18 miles distant from coals. They are generally bought in summer, and cost about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. the stone. The greater part of the inhabitants, however, use peats.

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## NUMBER LVIII.

## PARISH OF TAIN.

(County of Ross.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE DOUGLAS.

*Situation, &c.*

THE parish of Tain is situated in the county and synod of Ross. It extends, from east to west, 8 miles, and from north to south 2, along an arm of the sea, which, running from the Moray Frith, divides the shires of Ross and Sutherland. The royal burgh of Tain, the capital of the county, lies near the center of the parish. The name is antient, and, originally, perhaps, was written *Thane*. It is certain that the lands adjacent belonged to the thanes of Ross, and there is a district of the parish still called *Thanesom*. The name in Gaelic is *Balduich*, which signifies the town of St. Duthas, or Duthac. The ground, in general, is flat, but, towards the west, rather hilly. The hills are partly covered with heath, and partly planted with Scottish pines. The air is dry and salubrious. The soil is various; some deep, and some light, some fertile, and some barren. The sea shore, the whole length of the parish, is flat and sandy.

*Fishing and Coast.*—At the eastern extremity of the parish, there is a village called *Inver*, having 4 boats and 24 men wholly employed in fishing, by which the town and neighbourhood

bourhood are chiefly supplied with various kinds of fish, such as cod, skait, flounders, and particularly haddocks. Tain, 20 or 30 years ago, was reckoned an exceeding good fish-market; but, for some years past, there has been a scarcity of fish on the coast. This occasions a rise in the price, so that, instead of 20 haddocks, (as was the case about 20 years ago), for 1 d. only one can now be got; and of other kinds in proportion. The present haddocks are much larger than the old ones. It is a great disadvantage to the fishing, that, with an easterly or northerly wind, there is a swelling on the shore at Inver, which prevents the boats going to sea. There is a sand bank, called the *Gizzin Briggs*, about 3 miles below the town, extending from the Rofs to the Sutherland side. On it there is a violent surge, with a loud noise, when the north or east winds blow, and sometimes during a calm in frosty weather, or the approach of frost. This bank is wholly covered at high water, during neap as well as spring tides; but is exposed when the sea is out. There is a channel near the middle, through which vessels can, in moderate weather, be conducted safe, by persons acquainted with the ground; but strangers dread it, and it hath been fatal to vessels, particularly about 7 years ago, to a Swedish ship, loaded with wood. This bank, and the shallowness of the water between it and the shore, prevent the fishing boats from coming nearer the town than Inver, which is 4 miles distant. And in consequence of the badness of the navigation, merchant goods for Tain are often landed at Cromarty, which occasions a land carriage of 7 miles. At the Meikle Ferry, (the western extremity of the parish), where the passage boat between Rofs and Sutherland lies, there is, at high water, depth sufficient for ships to come close to the land. When the sea ebbs, it leaves below the town, and to the east, a large tract of sand exposed, in some places a mile,  
and

and in some two. On this sand, during the spring and part of summer, there are found quantities of muscles, which the people gather and make use of. About the middle of the Frith, 2 miles above the Gizzen Briggs, there is a small bank, the property of the burgh, richly covered with this species of shell fish. Not only do the inhabitants here find a plentiful supply, but also many boats, perhaps 50 or 60 in a season, are loaded for other places. It is remarkable, though cockles be not usually found on this bank, that, in 1783, when there was great scarcity of bread, it afforded, in April, May, and June, immense quantities of them, of an excellent quality, which contributed to the support of multitudes, not only in this parish, but in the neighbourhood. The water has, of late years, made some small encroachments on the land below the town; but, in a plain to the eastward, there are more alarming encroachments made, and yearly making, by sand blowing. Many acres of pasture and arable ground have been thus covered within the last 10 years; and, where some old people remember dwelling houses and growing corn, nothing is now to be seen but sand banks.

*Population, &c.*—There is no access now to know particularly the antient state of the population of the parish. There are no registers extant farther back than the beginning of the present century. In 1755, the return to Dr Webster was 1870 souls. The number of catechizable persons, counting from 6 years old, is 1800, of which a list is annually taken. Children under 6 years are left out, but it is supposed there may be of such 300; consequently the total population is about 2100 souls, and the increase, since 1755, about 230. The average of births, for the last 10 years, is 70. The variation is very small, taking any 10 years of the century. The lowest number, during this century, is

42, *an.* 1783; the highest is 84, in 1769. It was 82 in 1721. In no other year of the century does the number amount to 80. The average of marriages is 15. There was no register of deaths kept before 1783, when the act of Parliament, imposing a tax upon burials, was thought to require it. The average, since that period, is 28; but, as only those interred in the parish are recorded, and many are carried to neighbouring parishes for burial, the number of deaths might be reckoned from 34 to 36. All the people, with the exception of 2 or 3, are, by profession, of the Established Church. A few years ago, there were 2 or 3 died here past 90. There are none now quite 90, and few from 80 to 88. There have been no emigrations from the parish; but several young people go yearly to London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, the West Indies, and North America, some of whom have prospered well, and been of service to their relations. A good many go to the army, chiefly to regiments who wear the Highland dress. Hardly any go to the navy. There are 12 merchants and shopkeepers in the town, and 80 tradesmen and artificers.

*Agriculture.*—There is a good deal of flax and potatoes raised, many acres sown with grasses, and some wheat and rye; but the principal crops are, barley, oats, and pease. The two last are sown in March and April; barley, from the last week of April to the last week of May. In a year ordinarily favourable, harvest begins about the middle of August, and ends about the middle of October. The corns raised might be sufficient for bread to the inhabitants; but often gentlemen export all their victual rents, and the people of the town get supplies from neighbouring parishes.

*Price*

*Price of Provisions.*—Beef, mutton, veal, pork, butter, and cheese, are imported, and the prices of them double of what they were 40, or even 30 years ago. Butcher meat sells now 2 d. to 3 d. sometimes higher, *per pound*; butter, from 10 s. to 12 s. *per stone*; cheese, from 4 s. to 6 s.; hens, cocks, and ducks, from 3 d. to 6 d. each. There is less variation in the prices of victual. Barley and oat meal fell now from 14 s. to 16 s. and have been generally at the same rates for the last seven years, and indeed from 1770 to 1780. Twelve shillings is reckoned no bad contract price for 7 or more years; the highest given is 13 s. 4 d. About 40 years ago, fish were plentiful and cheap; but now they are scarce, and advanced in the price.

*Language.*—The inhabitants of the town speak the English, and also the Gaelic or Erse. Both languages are preached in the church. Few of the older people, in the country part of the parish, understand the English language; but the children are now generally sent to school, and taught to read English. The names of places are, partly Scottish, partly Gaelic; some expressive of the local situation, as being on an eminence, or in a hollow, or on a muir; by the wood, or by the water side; and some indicating the names of antient possessors.

*Rent.*—The land rent is about 1200 bolls, and 800 l. Sterling. The rent of houses in the town is about 650 l. Sterling.

*Stipend, &c.*—The benefice is 120 bolls of victual, half barley, half oat meal, with 4 l. 15 s. Sterling, as fixed in 1718; besides a glebe, manse, and garden, worth about 12 l. *per annum*. There are 15 heritors in the parish. The Crown



is patron. The church was built about 400 years ago. The mason work, being all ashler, is still entire and firm. It had a new roof about 40 years ago. There is a statue of St. Duthus in the west gabel. A little below the town, there are the remains of a chapel called by his name, having the gabels, the north side wall, and part of the south, standing. To this place it is reported, that King James IV. in the way of penance, travelled on foot from Falkland, with uncommon expedition, resting only a short while at the monastery of Plufcardine, near Elgin. There is a tradition, that soon after this royal visit, the edifice was burnt by a party of the M'Kays, who were in pursuit of some persons obnoxious to them, that fled for shelter to this sanctuary. There are no other vestiges of religious houses in the parish, except about 3 miles to the east of the town, at Lochflich, where there are some remains of a small chapel. The manse was built in 1720, and has had some reparations several times since.

*Landed Property and Farms.*—The number of heritors is 15, of whom Mr M'Leod of Cadboll is the principal, in point of property, and Lord Ankerville the greatest resident proprietor, at least occasionally\*. Property has been rather fluctuating. There are not above three, whose family predecessors had land here a century ago. Thirty years purchase is reckoned a good price for lands; but there are instances of small

\* Mr Baillie of Little Tarrel, one of the heritors who resides near the town, has a farm particularly well inclosed, and in good order. This farm was naturally unfertile, and when in the hands of tenants, gave poor returns; but Mr Baillie having resided on it for near 30 years, and paid attention to its improvement, by draining, sowing grasses, and a rotation of other meliorating crops, it now produces excellent crops of every kind.

small parcels near the town, fold for 50 years purchafe, and upwards. The farms in the parifh are generally fmall. There are 60 farmers, befides 150 mailers or cotters. Moft of the lands near the town are inclofed, fome with ftones, fome with ditch and hawthorn. Thefe lands let at from 20 s. to 30 s. *per acre*. Open fields, at a diftance from the town, let at from 10 s. to 15 s.

*State of the Poor.*—There are about 130 names on the poor's lift, of feeble, aged perfons, among whom there is annually diftributed about 20 l. Sterling, collected in the church, there being no other funds for their fupport, except a fmall croft, mortified by a gentleman about the beginning of this century, that pays 3 bolls of yearly rent, and the intereft of 40 l. Sterling lent by the kirk-feffion. The poor of this parifh do not, as is customary in other places of the country, receive any benefit from bells and mort cloths ufed at funerals, the magiftrates and town council, for time immemorial, referving to themfelves thefe emoluments.

*Situation of the Parifh in 1783.*—In 1783, befides victual fent by government for fupply to the poor, the gentlemen in the town and neighbourhood contributed liberally. With the money collected, there was bought a quantity of excellent peafe, of which a cargo, through the kind attention of a north country gentleman in Glasgow, was brought from the Baltic, and fold at the Meikle Ferry in this parifh. Thefe peafe, and the government bounty, were given not only to the poor, who ordinarily receive alms, but likewise to farmers, cottagers, and tradefmen. Through favourable fucceeding feafons, and the indulgence of landlords, the people are recovered from the calamitous effects of  
that

that disastrous period, and none of its arrears now remain unpaid\*.

*Building.*—Of late, several old houses that were ruinous have been rebuilt in the town, and several new ones built. The humour for building is prevailing. Mr M'Leod of Geanies, 3 years ago, feued several acres of ground, lying to the east of the town, on which several houses have been built, and are now building. This ground was separated from the town by a deep hollow, through which a rivulet runs; over it there is a handsome bridge, of one large arch, erected, which cost about 80 l. Sterling, the expence being defrayed by the burgh, and Mr M'Leod. The entrance to the town, by this new bridge, from the east and south, is much more commodious now than formerly. Of an extensive muir, lying to the south-west of the town, the property of the burgh, several hundred acres have of late years been given in feu, paying, for a limited time, 6 d. and afterward 1 s. the acre. Some of this ground hath been plowed and trenched, so as to produce corn and grass. The greatest part is planted with pines, of which there is a thriving appearance.

*Schools.*—There is a flourishing school in the town of Tain. Mr George M'Kenzie is master, and the number of scholars is 52. He teaches English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and geography. Besides a dwelling house, he has 300 merks salary, and the quarter fees, which are good, and vary

\* It is remarkable, that in spring and summer 1783, there were cockles, a species of shell fish, found on the sea shore here, in greater quantities, and of superior quality, than ever were known before or since, which contributed not a little to the support of the poor.

vary according to the different branches of education. The magistrates give 50 merks annually, to a man who teaches English and writing to the lower sort. He hath likewise the perquisites belonging to the offices of precentor and session clerk. Besides, he gets 6l. Sterling for teaching a Sunday evening school, founded 3 years ago by Lady Rofs-Baillie of Lamington and Balnagowan. Her Ladyship not only pays the master's salary, but hath furnished the scholars, whose number is between 70 and 80, with proper books. There is one of the Society's schools for propagating Christian Knowledge in the eastern part of the parish. The teacher is allowed 12 l. *per annum* from the Society, and is furnished by the parish, with a house, a garden, and a cow's grafs. About 30 scholars attend him.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are six dealers in the town, licensed to sell spiritous liquors and ale, and one of them has a wine licence. The people, in general, are sober. About 30 cottages have been built in the country part of the parish, within these 10 years, and 20 houses in the town, some of them 2 and 3 stories high. There is also an elegant mason lodge, the building of which cost 500 l. Sterling. The roads and bridges are kept in good repair. The statute labour is exacted in kind. There are 12 merchants and shopkeepers in the town, and 80 tradesmen and artificers; besides 20 in the landward part of the parish. Masons and wrights receive from 10 d. to 16 d. *per day*; taylors rather less; labourers in husbandry, from 6 d. to 1 s. according to the occasion. A man, in harvest, receives 1 s. *per day*, a woman 6 d. without victuals. Men servants, maintained in the family, receive, *per annum*, from 50 s. to 3 l. for wages; women about half as much, besides shoes. About 40 years ago, the men did not get above 30 s. a year, and the women  
in

in proportion. At that period, labourers in agriculture and manufactures, got only from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* day, without victuals. Peats, turf, wood, heath, and whins, (or furze), which are all found in the parish, are chiefly used for fuel. Coals, mostly imported from England, have also been used of late. The only manufactures carried on here, are the spinning of flax, and the tanning of leather. It is generally believed that a thread factory might succeed.

N U M.

## NUMBER LIX.

## PARISH OF NEWTYLE.

*(County of Forfar.)**By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER SMALL.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish was formerly written *Newtyld*, but is now spelt *Newtyle*. It is situated in the county of Forfar, in the presbytery of Meigle, and synod of Angus and Mearns. Its extent is about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles in length, from east to west, along the Sidlie Hills, on the east of the Glack of Newtyle, (an opening in the Sidlie Hills, affording a passage from Strathmore to Dundee); it is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from south to north, over the Sidlie hills, and one mile broad; the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile, along the hill, being pretty nigh square.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The country is hilly on the south, and flat on the north. The soil is a mixture of black earth and clay; and, in some places, of sand and gravel. In general it is fertile and well cultivated. Horses and cattle, of a good size and value, are raised here. There is but one flock of sheep. The air is dry and healthy, excepting in some marshy places toward the north. Slow fevers are frequent here, and scrophulous complaints not rare; which last are very severe in the spring.

*Population*

*Population Table for the Parish of Newtyle.*

Number of inhabitants, in 1755,	-	-	913
Population in 1791,	-	-	594
Decrease,	-	-	319
Number of males,	-	-	306
— females,	-	-	288
Inhabitants of the village, chiefly weavers,	-	-	230
— in the country,	-	-	364
Annual average of births,	-	-	15
— of deaths,	-	-	12
— of marriages,	-	-	5
Number of persons under 10 years of age,	-	-	104
— from 10 to 20,	-	-	131
— from 20 to 50,	-	-	257
— from 50 to 70,	-	-	84
— from 70 to 100,	-	-	18
Number of merchants,	-	-	3
— notaries public,	-	-	1
— farmers,	-	-	21
— persons in their families, about	-	-	112
— their servants, about	-	-	80
— manufacturers, about	-	-	230
— taylors,	-	-	3
— shoemakers,	-	-	3
— wrights,	-	-	3
— lintdreffers,	-	-	3
— persons born in other parishes,	-	-	300
— inhabited houses (4 in each at an average)	-	-	149

There is only one family of Seceders, and no other sectaries. The proportion between the annual births, and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 39. The proportion between

tween the annual marriages and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 118. The proportion between the annual deaths, and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 49.

*Rent, Agriculture, &c.*—There are about 1600 acres of arable land in the parish. These are divided into 15 large farms, which are let at from 80l. to near 200l.; and 6 small, which draw from 6l. to 12l. a year. The average rent of the best arable land is from 17s. 6d. to 20s.; and of inferior land, 10s. or 12s. *per* acre. Some of the farms might draw 3l. or 4l. *per* acre, if they were near a town. What is esteemed the best plan of farming here, is to have a farm divided into four parts, and to lay down one fourth in clover and rye-grass, another in oats, another in turnips, potatoes, and pease; and another in barley, and grass sown with it; and so in rotation. Very little wheat, and scarcely any hemp, are raised. There are 59 ploughs, many of which labour but small portions; and there are 106 carts. The parish supplies itself with provisions, and exports a considerable quantity of grain, particularly barley. Wheat is sown in September and October, oats in March and April, and barley generally in May. Harvest, for the most part, is in September and October. There are more than 800 acres of hills, morasses, &c. all divided among the tenants. Some good marl is found in the parish. No land has been sold in it for a considerable number of years past.

*Language.*—English is spoken here in the Scotch dialect. Names of places are chiefly derived from the English; but there are also instances of derivation from the Gaelic. Auchtertyre, the name of a farm here, seems to be Gaelic; *Uachdair Tir*, i. e. *the head or the upper part of the good land*; its situation being at the foot of the Sidlie hills. Kinpurney,



(another farm), is Gaelic; *Ceann Buerne*, is the head of the small streams, the land being spouty, and many streams issuing from it. *Balmaiv*, in Gaelic, signifies a good town.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The living, including the glebe, is from 80 l. to 100 l. at an average. The stipend is chiefly paid in victual, viz. two thirds meal, and one third barley. The Right Hon. James Stewart M'Kenzie, Lord Privy Seal for Scotland, (proprietor of the whole parish, excepting three farms), is patron. The manse and offices were built in 1771, and the church in 1767.

*State of the Poor.*—There are 5 pensioners, who receive alms monthly; besides 2 or 3 who get occasional charity. The annual contributions amount to 13 l. or 14 l. which would not answer the exigencies of the poor, if there were not some stock laid out upon interest.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—Beef, mutton, veal, pork, &c. are sold at 3 d. 3½ d. and 4 d. per pound. Geese are sold at from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. 6 d.; chickens at 4 d.; hens, 1 s. and 1 s. 4 d. which is triple the price they cost formerly. Butter is sold at 8 d. or 9 d. per pound; cheese at 4 s. 6 d. per stone; eggs at 4 d. per dozen, which used to be sold at 1½ d. about 20 years ago. &c. Wheat is sold from 1 l. to 1 l. 4 s. per boll; oats, from 12 s. to 14 s.; and barley, 8 l. Scotch, at an average. The wages of day labourers are 6 d. in winter, and 8 d. in summer, besides their victuals. Wrights or carpenters get 8 d. in winter, and 1 s. in summer, with their maintainance. Mafons, who commonly board themselves, get 1 s. 8 d. in summer. Day labourers, at public works, such as roads, &c. have 1 s. 3 d. per day, when they board themselves. The annual wages of a married servant,  
including

including his house, croft of land, meal, &c. may be worth 15 l. a sum rather small for the support of a family. Those of male servants, are from 7 l. to 10 l. *per annum*, and of female servants about 3 l. which is near 4 times the value of what they were about 30 years ago; and yet the servants save no more money now than formerly, owing chiefly to their extravagance in dress.

*Antiquities.*—Near the Kirktown of Newtyle are the ruins of the Castle of Hatten, built by Laurence Lord Oliphant, in 1575. Near the Castle of Hatten, some traces are discernible of what is called the Castle of Balcraig, (*Baille Craig*, i. e. *the town of a rock, situated at the foot of a hill.*) There are some traces of a camp at Auchtertyre, about a quarter of a mile from the Kirktown of Newtyle, where Montrose's army is said to have taken their station for some nights, while the Marquis himself lodged at a neighbouring castle, after burning the house of Newton of Blairgowrie, then the property of the father of the late Provost Drummond of Edinburgh. There is a tower built by the Lord Privy Seal, on the top of Kinfurney's hill, (a part of the Sidlie Hills), which serves as a land mark. From this tower St. Abbe's head is seen, and some parts of 10 or 11 adjacent counties. This hill appears to have been anciently made use of as a proper place for kindling fires, to warn this and the neighbouring counties of the approach of enemies.

*Description of the People*—The general size of the people, in this parish, is about 5 feet 6 inches: A few individuals have attained the height of 6 feet. They are very industrious, in general, and more than one half of the householders are weavers, and possess a small portion of land. They are not fond of a military life, and few enlist in any corps.

corps. They are in general sober and economical; enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and, on the whole, seem pretty well satisfied with their condition. Their situation, however, might be meliorated, by greater exertions of industry, and by superior knowledge of agriculture, and the other arts of civil life.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Coals are the fuel used here. They cost from 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. *per* boll at Dundee. There are some peats, of a bad quality, and dearer than coal, used for kindling fires. Roads were kept in tolerable repair by the statute labour, till last summer, when it was commuted. Now there are turnpikes, of whose utility many are not yet satisfied, though it is hoped they will be so, when the roads are completed. The general scarcity, in 1782-3, was felt here. The kirk session bought meal for the poor, and sold it at a reduced price. Oat meal sold, in summer 1783, at 1 s. 3 d.; pease and bear meal, at 11 d. the peck. The poor, in some of the hilly countries, bought coarse flour, and mixed it with bran, of which they made bread. Hence the miserable state of the country may easily be conceived.

NUM-

## NUMBER LX.

## PARISH OF KILDONAN.

(County of Sutherland.)

By the Rev. Mr SAGE.

*Origin of the Name.*

**K**ILDONAN, the name of this parish, seems to be of Gaelic etymology: It is a compound of *Cil* (equivalent to the Latin noun *Cella*, a cell or chapel), and *Donan*, the tutelary saint of the parish, in Popish times\*. Similar to this term, are some other names of places, as *Kilearnan*, *Kilpheder*, and *Kilmuir*; which may be translated St. Ierne's, St. Peter's, and St. Martha's chapels; the last has the annexation of *Coil Chilmbuir*, i. e. St. Martha's Chapel and Wood. Antiquarians

\* As an evidence of the high veneration, in which St. Donan was formerly held here, there was a large hollow stone, situated about 3 miles from the church, and about mid way between it and Helmsdale, which was called *Suigh Donan* by some, and *Cathair Donan* by others, i. e. St. Donan's Seat, or Resting Place. The tradition is, that the saint sat down in it, to rest himself, when passing through the Strath of Kildonan. The stone had a cavity, so very capacious, as to hold any person in the front of it, who, through fatigue or curiosity, chose to sit down in it. But an ignorant fellow, from the coast of Sutherland, wishing to display his muscular strength by lifting it, let it fall from his hands with such force, that it was dashed to pieces. There are some old people still alive, who have seen it entire, and the incumbent was shewn a fragment of it as a precious relic.

tiquarians are of opinion, that the original names of many parishes, towns, and places, have been changed; and, in compliment to Popish saints, as already mentioned, modernised, in different parts of the Highlands. As this parish, therefore, is chiefly situated on the banks of the river of Helmsdale, and the inhabitants dwell near it on both sides, the name Kildonan does not seem to have been its original name, but substituted for it. The river of Helmsdale, which passes through the Strath, is called *Abbin Iligh*; the Strath, more frequently, if not altogether, called *Strath Iligh*, and the Gaelic name of Helmsdale, in the country language, is called *Bun Iligh*, that is, the mouth or lower part of the water, where it issues into the Moray Frith. If, then, the name of the parish has been changed from Iligh to Kildonan, as a few have called it *Scir Iligh*, the parish of Iligh or Ilie must be the original name and designation; and indeed this is rendered still more probable, by the Roman geographers, who place the river Ilie in this neighbourhood, which must evidently have been the Helmsdale.

*Extent, Rivers, and Lakes.*—The appearance of the parish is mountainous, extending on both sides of the river of Helmsdale, for the space of 13 miles; and 7 miles beyond that, at the farthest extremity of the parish, the inhabitants are situated along both sides of 6 lochs or lakes, which are the general source of the river. The length of the parish is computed to be 20 miles, and only 8 miles broad in one end, and scarcely a quarter of a mile in the other. It resembles the form of a tree, stretching out at the top, or height of the parish, into branches. These branches, which are thus formed, are the districts of Strathtilney, Frigh, and Strathbeg, whose respective small rivulets run into the river of Helmsdale.

Helmfdale. The number of lochs amount to 10, which contain plenty of trout, and some falmon.

*Mountains.*—There are six mountains, not very high, but covered with heath. Across one of these hills, called *Sterfil*, there is a road, (the *Crafg*), which leads from Badfluich, at the foot of Bein Uarigh, to Lothbeghoufe, through a deep valley, (*Glenloth*), about 5 miles in length, being a course about half way shorter in distance, than round Helmfdale to the coast. Towards the north-west, in the height of the parish, in the straight course to that of Farr, there is a place called *Bealach-nan-Creach*; and another leading to Strath-haladale, in the parish of Reay, *Bealach Chnoiefhim*, both of which can only be travelled on horseback, with proper guides. It would be of vast utility, that the tract in the *Crafg* was made a patent good road, and a road cut out in *Bealach-nan-Creach*, and *Cnockfin*, where there is not so much as the vestige of one for a number of miles. The hill road called *Bealach-nan-Creach*, on the west side of Bein Mhadugh, signifies the *Pafs* or *Streight of Spoils*, depredation, or booty. During the establishment of the feudal system, when the M'Kays were proprietors of Strathnaver, in the parish of Farr, great numbers of cattle were carried away from the Highlands of Sutherland, on this side of the county, through this pass, from which it derived its name. Such depredations were not considered as acts of spuiizie or theft, but the effects of bravery and reprisals. Near the foot of Bein Ghrim-mor, and not far from the *Bealach*, there is an extensive green field, (now used for a shieling), called *Inis Chombraig*, or *the Field of Contest*; where there are many small hillocks, covered with moss and heath; and also a larger cairn, called *Carn-an-Teichigh*, the *Cairn of Retreat*. In this place, it is supposed, the people of Sutherland engaged

gaged with the M'Kays, to get their cattle brought out of their hands, before they had time to cross the Bealach, and could get them landed on the Strathnaver side, where, to risk an engagement, would have been attended with greater danger.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1433 souls. In April 1791, the population amounted to 1365, of whom 244 were men, 295 women, 756 children, and 70 servants. The number of births, from 4th June 1790, to 4th May 1791, were 40, and that of deaths 60. There are only 2 old men, the one 80, and the other 96 years of age.

*Cattle and Provisions.*—The number of horses, in April 1791, were computed at 812; cows, 2479; sheep, 5041; and goats, 570. For these different kinds of cattle, of late years, good prices have been got at the markets. Horses, of the best kind, draw from 4 l. to 6 l. Sterling; cows, from 50 s. to 4 l. 10 s.; sheep and widders, from 4 s. to 6 s.; goats with kid, 5 s.; yell goats, from 3 s. to 4 s.; avers, *i. e.* gelded he-goats, from 5 s. 6 d. to 6 s. 6 d.; lambs, in mid-summer, after being taken from their dams, draw, in the Caithness markets, and at Dornock, from 2 s. to 3 s. Sterling. The produce of cattle has lately risen considerably in value. A stone of butter or tallow, which sold, about 10 years ago, at 8 s. now draws from 9 s. 6 d. to 12 s. Sterling. Cow's milk cheese, formerly 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. is now sold at 4 s. and 4 s. 6 d. Sterling; and goats ditto, at 5 s. *per* stone.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are 4 heritors, including wadsetters, but none of them reside in the parish. The rental is only 400 l. Sterling, consisting of money and teind victual, which was converted at 10 s. *per* boll last Martinmas.

*Church.*

*Church and Schools.*—The Countess of Sutherland is patron. The minister's stipend is paid, partly in victual belonging to the parish of Loth, viz. 40 bolls;—(32 bolls bear, and 8 bolls oat meal;) and partly in cash, the money stipend being 30 l. 10 s. 1½ d. amounting in all to 50 l. Sterling. The church was built in 1786, and the manse in 1766; it became very ruinous since, and is repairing this season. There are two schools established in this parish, for the instruction of youth, a parochial school, and a Society school; the master of the former has only 100 merks Scotch, common quarter fees, from such scholars as can afford them, and 1 l. 5 s. from the kirk-session, as session clerk and precentor. The number of the scholars is very few during the busy seasons; but in winter, he has upwards of 30. The Society school, when last visited, had rather more. The master's salary is 9 l. Sterling. He receives few payments from the scholars, as they are in general very poor.

*Antiquities.*—In Suinachugh, or Kinbrace, 4 miles above the church of Kildonan, a battle was fought about the middle of the 12th century, between two chieftains, originally of Danish extraction, named Suenus and Aulver Rosta. Tradition informs us, that, from the number of large cairns which surround the town, and are called *Cairn-Suin*, or *Old Cairns*, the town itself was named *Suinachugh*, or *Old Field*: But the Danish historian, Torfaeus, who relates the story of the battle between Suenus and Aulver Rosta, seems to give a better account of the etymology of the name, in the 23d and 26th chapters of the first book of his *History of the Orkneys*; from which it is more than probable, that it was originally called *Suenus Field*. There are 3 subterraneous passages, or tumuli, in this parish, which, it is said, lead from one cairn, under the bed of the river of Helmsdale, to an-



other on the opposite side. They are covered at the top with large flags, above a trench of 3 feet broad, and 5 or 6 feet high. From their construction and direction, they seem to have been places of retreat for the inhabitants, with their effects and cattle, from the pursuit of invading enemies, in troublesome times; or sally ports, for facilitating their escape from a victorious enemy. Monsieur du Moulin mentions, in his history, that the Albigenes often made good their escape from their bloody enemies, who besieged them, by a subterraneous passage, in Carcasson in the south of France, which was 6 miles in length. There are upwards of 9 Pictish cairns or towers interspersed through the parish, the greatest number, if not all of which, are in ruins. Some of them are round, and others oblong. They are situated near rivers and forests, as most commodious for sustenance, which, in those days, consisted chiefly of fish, fowls, and venison. Those of the round kind are erected on eminences, contiguous to, or in sight of each other; for the purpose, as some suppose, of making signals with smoke or fire, on the alarm of an enemy approaching any particular district. The oblong low kind are generally believed to have been repositories for the dead slain in battle.

*Inundations.*—In Breinchoel, a shieling or grazing in this parish, happened the fall of a dreadful water spout about 40 years ago. The Bowman, with his family, and the produce of the dairy, were all carried away in one heap, in the hut or booth where they slept that night, and were found dead after the flood was over. The course, which the tremendous stream marked out, may be computed at 60 or 80 feet deep, which appears like an awful cavern, whence large pieces of solid moss, and trunks of trees were driven down to the plain at the foot of the hill. About 14 years ago, a similar pheno-

phenomenon happened at Tuary, though not so very fatal, but the marks of which still remain discernible. Inundations of the river of Helmsdale, with floods in summer and harvest, often become fatal and destructive in the strath of Kildonan; and the tenantry, whose lands lie flat and low along the water, have their corn and hay carried down by the stream. They are obliged to carry home these articles with all convenient speed, and season them nigh their dwelling places. Their lands are commonly in good heart, by the frequent overflowings of the river, and produce good rich crops of bear, oats, and potatoes. By means of these inundations, the river has changed its original course, and detached several fields on each side, from the farms to which they formerly belonged.

*Language.*—The language spoken in this parish is Gaelic, and the greatest number of the names of places is of Gaelic extraction. For example, Knochn, *Fingal's Hill*, from *Knoc*, a hill, and *Fin*, the contraction of *Fingal*; *Grimachcorigh*, the valley of *Rein Gbrim*; *Coftaligh*, a tower's hollow, the name of the remains of a Pictish tower in the bottom of the town. The places beginning with *Cil*, seem to be a mixed competition of Gaelic and Latin, as *Kildonan*, *Kilearnan*, &c.

*Disadvantages.*—There is as yet no proper house of accommodation for strangers in the parish. There are, indeed, 8 whisky houses, in which much tippling is carried on, and of consequence, several immoral practices have been thereby introduced among the people. But as there is no regular inn, travellers above the common rank cannot be accommodated, unless they lodge in the minister's house. This renders the road from the coast of Sutherland to the north coast, very inconvenient to strangers of that description. This parish  
labours

labours under another disadvantage. No gentleman resides in it, who can act in a judicial capacity. There are 2 or 3 sheriff officers; but no judge warranted to decide any cause of a civil nature. Hence, some disputes of the most trifling nature cannot be determined, till application is made to one of the justices of peace on the coast side, or to the sheriff of Dornock.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the lower part of the parish, the people, in favourable years, can raise crops, which not only supply themselves with provisions, but enable them to dispose of bear, oat meal, and potatoes, for seed to the Highlanders in the heights of the district, where the lands are bad, and more subject to blasting and mildew. But the cattle on the higher grounds are far better, larger in size, and more valuable in every respect. Accordingly, as much dependence is placed on them, as the inhabitants of the strath have on the quantity and quality of their crops. A great deal of hay is likewise raised in their meadows; but this crop is exposed to much hazard, and requires much labour, as it must be carried off the field as soon as cut, to prevent the risk of inundations. In the years 1782, and 1783, and some of the subsequent years, the crops were often blasted and destroyed with frosts and mildews, which set in early in autumn. Such lands as lay nearest still bodies of water, as large ponds, were most subject to this calamity; and consequently, such lands as were farthest removed from them, or were contiguous to the most rapid streams of the river, escaped much better. There is a little Highland place, north of the Strath of Kildonan, called *Cofstaly*, which yielded some sound wholesome corn, when there was scarcely a peck of good meal in all the rest of the parish. In these years, the guardians of the Countess of Sutherland, then a minor, supplied her tenants with

with foreign victual, which was imported at the Little Ferry, and sold very high; meal, bear, and pease, at 20 s. and 22 s. *per* boll. Many Highlanders, who, at this enormous price, bought great quantities to support their families, have yet been scarcely able to get their arrears paid up, notwithstanding every possible indulgence.

N U M.

## NUMBER LXI.

## PARISH OF LERWICK.

(County of Shetland.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES SANDS,

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HIS parish in general, and more particularly that part of it on which the town is built, derives its name from the Norse or Norwegian language \*. It is situated in the lordship and presbytery of Shetland, and, like the other parishes in that part of the country, unconnected with any particular synod. It extends, from north to south, about 6 miles along the sea coast, and is no where above a mile in breadth. On the east and north-east, it is bounded by the sea, which separates it from the island and parish of Braffa, and forms that excellent harbour commonly called Braffa Sound.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The parish, and country around it, are rocky and mountainous. The soil, on the mountains, is generally peat or moss, and is deep to their very summit. The arable land lies in spots along the sea coast; the soil is light and sandy, but as fertile and productive

as

\* Probably from the sea-port town of Lerwick or Larwick in Norway.

as can well be supposed, from the situation and climate. The highest hill in the parish rises little more than 300 feet above the level of the sea. The air, though moist, is far from being unhealthy. The most destructive disorders known in this parish are fevers, introduced by frequent intercourse with strangers. Formerly, the ravages made by the small-pox here, and indeed through the whole country, were truly dreadful; but, for some years past, inoculation has been practised among all ranks, with very remarkable success.

*Mineral Springs and Lakes.*—There is one chalybeate spring in the vicinity of the town, generally believed to be good; its water, however, is very little used. There are 4 small lakes in the parish; 2 of them produce excellent trout, but not in such quantities as to render them an object of merchandize.

*Fisheries.*—The principal fishery, carried on by the inhabitants of Shetland, is that of ling and tusk, which are sold fresh to the landholders, or their tacksmen, at various prices. They are generally caught in the months of June and July, on long lines, set at the distance of 10, and sometimes 12 leagues from all land, by six-oared boats, from 2 to 3 tons burden. The yearly export of this article, to foreign markets, particularly those of Spain and Italy, is, at an average, 800 tons from all the islands. There is a very considerable herring fishery on the coast, carried on wholly by foreigners; 200 buffes from Holland, 50 from Denmark, 40 from Prussia, 20 from Dunkirk, and about the same number from the Austrian Netherlands, are employed every summer in this fishery. They generally put into Breffay Sound before the fishery, which, with the Dutch in particular, does not commence until the 24th of June. The Dutch formerly carried

carried on this fishery far more extensively than now. It has been on the decline with them ever since the year 1703. They had then about 500 buffes in Shetland, under the convoy of 4 ships of war, commanded by an admiral; but a French fleet of 6 ships of war, sent out for the purpose, fell in with the Dutch ships of war off Fair island; and an engagement taking place, the Dutch Admiral's ship was sunk, on which the remaining 3 run away, and made their escape. Whereupon the French fleet failed for the entry of Brassa Sound, sent their boats into the Bay, and burnt and destroyed about 400 of the Dutch fishing vessels, sparing only a number barely sufficient to carry home the crews of the whole. Bressay Sound abounds with a variety of flounders; but it is imagined, that there is no fishing in the country more univervally beneficial, than that of a small fish called *fellocks*. The bays, during the winter season, generally abound with these, and they occasion a very considerable saving of the small crops of grain. The quantity of oil made in Shetland from fellocks, from October 1790 to April 1791, must have considerably exceeded 2000 barrels; this, however, is more than is commonly obtained.

*Kelp*.—This parish does not produce above 6 tons of kelp yearly; and the annual export of this article, from the whole country, does not much exceed 200 tons. Doubtless more might be made; but the quantity must still be inconsiderable, the shores being steep, and the fall of water not exceeding 6 or 7 feet of perpendicular height, even with spring tides.

*Tides, Shipwrecks, &c.*—The ebb tides here run north, and the flood tides to the southward, unless on the north and south extremities of the country, where they run east and west; their rapidity is inconsiderable, at least when compar-  
ed

ed to that of the firths of Orkney. There is no light-house in Shetland; nor is there any chart of the country extant that can be depended on. A light-house erected on Nofs, a small island east from Bressay, might be of essential service; as many ships have been lost on the east coast of Shetland, especially within these last 16 years, that such a light-house, in all probability, might have saved. Some of the most remarkable of these are the following: In 1775, a Liverpool ship, 2 men only saved out of 24. In 1776, the Ceres of London, Greenland ship, was lost with her whole crew. In 1779, a Dutch Greenland ship lost, one of the crew saved. In 1780, a Russian man of war of 36 guns, on her way from Archangel to the Baltic, lost, and of her whole crew only 5 saved. In 1786, the Concordia, a Danish East India ship, with a valuable cargo, outward bound, lost, and only 15 of her crew saved. In 1789, a Dutch Greenland ship lost, of her crew only 5 saved.

*Harbours.*—The only harbour in this parish is that of Lerwick, or Bressay Sound, a capacious bay, in which vessels, well found, may ride at all seasons in perfect safety; and what renders this harbour particularly commodious, is, its having two entries, one from the south, and another from the north. On the outside of the north entry, lies a sunk rock, called the *Unicorn*. When the Earl of Bothwell fled to Shetland; the Unicorn man of war was despatched in pursuit of him. On the appearance of the Unicorn, his ship, then lying in Bressay Sound, was got immediately under way, and sailed out at the north entry, followed hard by the other; and, having a pilot on board, got to sea, by which means he made his escape, and was landed at Norway; while the chasing ship was wrecked on that rock, which has ever since been called the Unicorn.



*Population.*—The population of the parish of Lerwick has not increased much since its first erection. The number of families in the country part of the parish is nearly the same; and it appears, from the decret of disjunctions, that, in the year 1701, the number of inhabitants in the town amounted to 700. From an enumeration now made, (*anno* 1791), there are living in the town 903, and in the country part of the parish, 356; total, 1259. Of these there are,

Under 10 years of age,	294	Brought over,	1212
Between 10 and 20,	193	Between 70 and 80,	41
——— 20 and 30,	127	——— 80 and 90,	6
——— 30 and 40,	169		———
——— 40 and 50,	144		1259
——— 50 and 60,	187	Return to Dr Webster,	
——— 60 and 70,	98	in 1755, - -	1193
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Carried over,	1212	Increase,	66
Annual average of births,	-	-	28
——— ———— deaths,	-	-	17
——— ———— marriages,	-	-	8

*Manufactures, Professions, and General Character.*—All the proprietors of land reside in the parish, except Sir Thomas Dundas. There are about 40 families in the country part of the parish employed in agriculture: The men, indeed, during the summer season, are generally engaged in the ling and tusk fishery. Their farms are small, and almost altogether dug with the spade.—The only manufacture, carried on in the parish, is the knitting of woollen stockings, and in this almost all the women are more or less engaged.

engaged. There are, indeed, in the town, a few employed in making woollen bed covers, commonly called *rugs*. The number of handicraftsmen and apprentices in Lerwick is very considerable. The men of the lower rank are almost all seamen and fishermen, the rest merchants and shopkeepers. Lerwick being the seat of justice, and the place of the sheriff-substitute's residence, is not without a few practitioners in the law: Two licenced procurators reside in it. There are two surgeons in the parish, regularly bred to the business. The inhabitants are all of the Established Church. They are generally sober, inoffensive, and obliging; and such is the humanity and attention of those in easy circumstances, that, even in times of the greatest scarcity, none have been known to die for want.

*Poor.*—There are above 30 who receive a monthly allowance from the poor's funds, such as can be afforded. This provision arises from the Sabbath day's collections, and from the interest of a little money, lodged for them in different hands. They have also 50 s. yearly, arising from the share of the church, which was humanely and generously purchased for them, by Mr Andrew Bolt, merchant in Lerwick.

*Church*—The minister's stipend consists of 500 merks, payable according to charter, granted by King William, out of the Bishop's rents of Orkney; 300 merks from the stent of the town; 200 merks from the tythes of the country part of the parish, and 100 merks allowed for communion elements. And, about 3 years ago, the town, in consideration of the incumbent's numerous family, and expensive situation, added 15 l. Sterling to his yearly income. He has no manse or glebe, and lives in a hired house, the rent of which is paid  
by

by the town. The church was built in 1782, on a very handsome and commodious plan.

*Education.*—There has not, as yet, been any established school in the parish; but there are always one or two teachers of English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and navigation, in it, who depend entirely on the quarterly payments. Those, therefore, who wish to give their sons a grammatical education, are under the necessity of bringing teachers from the continent of Scotland, upon salaries paid according to their respective subscriptions.

*Rents and Cattle.*—No valuation of lands has as yet taken place in Shetland. The yearly rent of the country part of the parish may be about 50 l. Sterling; and that of the town 400 l. The houses in both are all inhabited. The parish contains about 250 merks of arable land, besides very extensive grass, meadow, and pasture grounds. A *merk of land* is a term perfectly indefinite: In this parish it is not nearly a Scottish acre. There are about 200 cows, 1500 sheep, and many small horses in the parish.

*Antiquities.*—In the country part of the parish, the ruins of two Popish chapels, and two Pictish castles are to be seen. At a rising ground, near the north end of the town, there is a fort, said to have been built in the days of Oliver Cromwell. In the year 1781, it was repaired, under the direction of Captain Frazer, Chief Engineer for Scotland, and called Fort Charlotte. It was garrisoned, until the peace of 1783. It is now committed to the care of a corporal and 4 privates of the train of artillery.

NUM-

N U M B E R LXII.

PARISH OF EAST KILBRIDE.

*(County of Lanark.)*

*By the Rev. DAVID URE, A. M.*

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**E**AST KILBRIDE, so called to distinguish it from West Kilbride in the shire of Ayr, is situated in the county of Lanark, presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is about 10 miles in length, from north to south, and from 2 to 5 in breadth. It consists of the united parishes of Torrance and Kilbride, and is subdivided into 446 horse-gangs, according to which the statute work for the roads is collected; each horse-gang being rated at 3 s. 9 d. Sterling.

*Heritors and Rent.*—The valuation, as it stands in the cess book of the county, is 7679 l. 13 s. 3 d. Scottish. The real rent, at 5 s. *per* acre, on an average, amounts to 4800 l. Sterling. The parish belongs to about 135 proprietors, nearly 30 of whom are non-residents.

*Population.*—It is inhabited by 587 families, which contain 2359 persons, of whom 1065 are males, and 1294 females. Of these there are 488 under 6 years of age. The population, owing to the late increase of manufactures, is on the advance.

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The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was only 2029. The upper part of the parish, however, was some time ago greatly depopulated, by the accumulation of small farms into large ones. The number of births, at different periods, if the parochial records are to be trusted, will appear from the following table :

<i>Anno.</i>	<i>Baptised.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	
1688	27	20	47
1689	25	22	47
1700	21	16	37
1710	23	30	53
1720	17	31	48
1740	26	30	56
1770	30	25	55
1780	39	35	74
1785	29	42	71
1788	32	31	63

There is no register of burials kept in the parish ; therefore the proportion between these and the births cannot be ascertained.

*Agriculture and Roads.*—About four fifths of the parish is arable ; the rest consists of moors and peat mosses. The moors afford excellent pasture for sheep, and are stocked with about 110 score. Each of the moor-land farms contains several hundred acres of land ; but, in the lower part of the parish, they consist of about 60 or 70 acres. Both soil and climate are unfavourable for improvements in agriculture : The former is chiefly of a stiff wet clay, and incumbent mostly on schistus ; and the latter variable and cold, the

the greatest part of the parish being 700 feet above the level of the sea, and some of it so high as 1600. Oats, of all kinds of grain, give the best crops; but even these are rendered precarious, by the late seed-time and harvest. There is, however, much more grain produced in the parish, than is sufficient to supply the inhabitants. By far too much of the arable land is plowed, and very little of it is properly drained. Although the most part of the parish is inclosed, yet the fences, owing to various causes, are extremely insufficient. The roads in general, are in bad repair. Two turnpikes were, last year, drawn through the parish, the one leading from Glasgow to London, by way of Muirkirk, Dumfries, &c.; and the other, from Ayrshire to Edinburgh, by Bothwell Bridge, or Hamilton.

*Trees.*—There is little planting in the parish, except at Calderwood, Torrance, and Kittochside, where trees of various kinds thrive remarkably well. There are, however, few farm houses but what are sheltered by aged trees, most of which are considerably large. It is thought, that if the proprietors consulted their own interest, they would lay the tenth or twelfth part of the parish under planting properly disposed. The exposed situation of the greatest part of the land, would require to be well sheltered.

*Commerce.*—The farmers have of late paid great attention to the making of sweet milk cheese; and in this they have succeeded remarkably well. From every farm of a plough of land, there is brought, at an average, to the market, 100 stone of cheese annually, equal in quality to any made in Scotland; it goes under the name of Dunlop cheese, and sells, in retail, at 7 s. 8 d. or 8 s. *per* stone. The whey, produced in making the cheese, is used for feeding young swine,  
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for which purpose it answers extremely well: They are, a few weeks before slaughter, fed with potatoes, beans, or oatmeal, with a little water. Reared in this manner, their flesh is thought to be very clean and delicious; for which reason, they bring a good price in the Glasgow market.

*Mechanics and Manufactures.*—From the following list of artificers, it will appear, that the parish is well supplied with mechanics of different kinds:

Bakers,	-	-	2	Brewer,	-	1
Blacksmiths,	-	12	Masons,	-	21	
Clockmaker,	-	1	Shoemakers,	-	39	
Coopers,	-	-	2	Tailors,	-	20
Flaxdreffer,	-	1	Weavers,	-	63	
Gardeners	-	-	4	Wrights,	-	14
Hofiers,	-	-	5			

Most of the shoemakers, weavers, and hofiers, are employed by manufacturers in Glasgow. A cotton manufactory was, in 1783, established at the Kirktown or village of Kilbride, and employs about 60 hands. The yarn, which is all spun on plain or rolling jeanies, is mostly fold in Glasgow. The coarser kinds, however, are manufactured in Kilbride, into muslins, but chiefly into counterpane bed-covers, which are made here in great perfection.

*Minerals.*—Lime and iron stone are found in great plenty. The quarrying and burning of lime stone has, for time immemorial, given employment to many industrious labourers in this part of the country. There are, at present, 52 men employed in that branch: They sometimes work by the piece; but, in general, are paid in proportion to the quantity

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ty of stone they turn out. Each man gains about 9 s. *per* week, at a medium. The quantity of lime produced, in 1790, was 9845 chalders, which, at 6 s. 8 d. *per* chalders, amounts to 3281 l. 17 s. 4 d. Sterling. About 40 men are employed in the iron stone mines, of which there are many in the parish. The stone is consumed in the Clyde iron work. The mining of coal is not so extensive as that of iron stone. There are two coal-works in the parish; the one belongs to Alexander Stewart of Torrance, Esq; the other is in the lands of Lickprivick, the property of John Boyes, Esq. About 20 men are usually employed at both. The coals produced from these works are not sufficient to supply the inhabitants with fuel; the deficiency is made up with excellent peats, with which the parish abounds, and with coals of the best quality from Cambuslang, at the distance of a few miles.

*Wages, Provisions, and Education.*—Masons and wrights receive from 20 d. to 2 s. for their day's work; a common labourer 1 s. or 14 d.; a man servant, in the farming business, gets from 4 l. to 5 l. *per* half year; and a woman servant, 2 l. Marketable commodities find a ready sale in Glasgow, which is distant from the village of Kilbride 7 miles and a half. It is owing to this, that provisions of all kinds are nearly as dear as in Glasgow. The education of youth, however, is to be had on very easy terms. English is taught, at the public school, for 14 d. *per* quarter; writing and arithmetic, at 2 s.; and Latin at 2 s. 6 d.

*General Character.*—The people, in general, are industrious and frugal. They possess, from their forefathers, a courageous and independent spirit, which, as it enables them, on the one hand, to bear misfortunes with magnanimity, so it forbids them, on the other, to receive, with impunity, the



affronts that may be offered them. Being easy in their circumstances, they know not what it is to cringe or to flatter. They have suffered but few encroachments on their liberty, either civil or religious: Of course their spirits are not broken by measures hostile to the natural rights of men, or of Christians.

*Eminent Men.*—The parish of Kilbride has the honour of giving birth to a considerable number of individuals, who have added to the credit of their families by the splendor of their names, and the importance of the high stations which they have filled in life. The camp and the court are indebted to the families of Calderwood and Torrance, for men of distinguished abilities, who honourably supported leading characters in their several departments. An extensive benevolence to mankind; valour and courage, untainted by cowardice, and a deep penetration into the affairs of state, reflect a distinguished lustre on their names. Nor will the name of HUNTER ever be forgotten by the literati of Europe. The late Dr William Hunter, and his brother John Hunter, Esq; who are justly ranked among the first in the list of the learned of the present age, were born at Lang Calderwood, a little to the north-east of the church. So much has been said of the former, that it would be needless here to make a repetition; it needs only be observed, that for great abilities, and uncommon success, he was eminently distinguished, while alive, as a physician, and that his name will be immortalized, as a careful enquirer into the works of nature and art. His collection of antiquities and natural curiosities, is not equalled, perhaps, by any private museum in Europe. His brother, Mr John Hunter, who has arrived at the head of his profession as a skilful surgeon and anatomist, is, by his medical investigations,

investigations, &c. &c. daily adding honour to his name, and the place of his nativity.

*Diseases.*—There is no epidemical distemper peculiar to Kilbride. The disease, that carries off the greatest number of persons, about the middle period of life, is the consumption. Old people affirm, that, in their forefathers days, this disorder was extremely rare, and seldom mortal. The progress of the disease, in this country, is generally ascribed to the change of clothing, from the thick and warm Scottish plaiding, to the fine, but thin and cold English cloth, which now so much prevails. The small-pox sometimes rages with great fury. There were, in the year 1789, no fewer than 32 children in the parish seized with that loathsome disorder, and only 13, with difficulty, recovered. Inoculation, the best remedy for that mortal contagion, meets here with a bad reception. Rooted prejudices, founded upon arguments, some of which are trifling, and others absurd, influence the minds of the people so much against it, that they sit still, in fullen contentment, and see their children cut off in multitudes. It is to be hoped, however, that natural affection, and a sense of duty, will at length get the better of unreasonable prejudices; and that the period is approaching, when inoculation will be universally practised, by which the disease will be greatly meliorated, or, perhaps, altogether eradicated.

*Church.*—There are two places of worship in the parish; the church, which was rebuilt in the year 1774, and a Relief meeting house at present building. Mr French enjoys the living, which amounts, exclusive of manse and glebe, to 12 chalders of meal, paid in money, according to the fiars of the commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie. The teinds are paid to the University of Glasgow, who raise nearly 32 chalders.

chalders. The King is patron. As the Relief congregation is not yet properly formed, the number of dissenters belonging to it is not known. The Reformed Presbytery has, in the parish, 45 adherents; the Antiburghers, 42; and the Burghers, about 12 or 14.

*Poor.*—To the minister and elders is entrusted the sole management of the poor's funds in Kilbride. The method by which these funds are applied, is entirely agreeable to the true spirit of the Church of Scotland. Poor's rates, which, in some places, are the fertile source of corruption, and even of poverty itself, were never established here. There is no encouragement given to idleness, whilst none are allowed to starve. Though the number of poor is considerable, yet it is no greater than might be expected, in so populous a parish. There are usually about 17 who receive stated supplies, the greatest number of whom are aged women. The monthly allowance of each, is from 1 s. to 6 s. Sterling. A few are permitted to beg within the bounds of the parish. Besides the stated poor, there are a few indigent persons, most of whom are heads of families, who get occasional supplies, as the session sees necessary. This, though small, added to what they can earn by any kind of labour, enables them to live more comfortably in their own houses, than they could possibly do in the best endowed hospitals. The funds for answering the above charitable purposes are very small. They amounted, from the 6th of May 1786, to the same day 1787, to 46 l. 17 s. 4 d.; of this, 38 l. 2 s. 11  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. were collected at the church door; the rest was made up of 2 l. 8 s. 10 d. of proclamation money, with the interest, first, of 1000 merks, mortgaged by the Calderwood family, to the poor of the parish, and, secondly, of a small sum, that has, for some years, been given out on loan. The annual amount  
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of the poor's money is seldom so much as it was at the above mentioned period. The deficiency, owing to the present divided state of the parish, must daily increase. In all secessions from the Establishment, the poor, from certain motives, remain but too firmly attached to the church; whilst the contributions of the people are directed into another channel.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The parish contains several subjects of antiquity, if old castles, sepulchral tumuli, &c. may be received amongst the number. Here, also, a wide field is opened to the lovers of natural history. A great variety of curious fossils present themselves to view. Petrifications abound in almost every part of the parish. They are divided into two kinds, viz. recent and antient. The recent comprehend mosses, &c. petrified by water, containing calcareous particles. The antient, or extraneous, divide themselves into two kinds, as they once belonged to the vegetable or animal kingdom. Of the former, there are various kinds of pine, &c. now known by the name of the coal-stalk; of the latter are varieties of shells, entrochi, fishes teeth, and corralloides, which are supposed to have originally inhabited the antediluvian ocean\*.

\* Descriptions and drawings of more than a hundred varieties of these petrifications, along with the subterraneous geography of the parish, and an account of its antiquities, &c. may be seen in the History of Rutherglen and Kilbride, published at Glasgow, by David Ure.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXIII.

## PARISH OF ARROQUHAR.

*(County of Dumbarton.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN GILLESPIE, Minister of that Parish.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**A** RROQUHAR is a Celtic word, which signifies a high or hilly country. It is generally pronounced, in the Gaelic language, *Arrar*, which is a contraction of *Ardthìr*, *ard* signifying high, and *thìr* a country. The name is very descriptive of the place, which is high and mountainous, having very little flat or arable ground in it. The extent of the parish is near 14 miles long, exclusive of 4 farms, which lie on the east side of Lochlomond, near the north end of it. The mean breadth may be computed at 3 miles. It is situated in the county and presbytery of Dumbarton, and in the synod of Glasgow and Ayr.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The surface of some of the farms is smooth, and clothed with a beautiful verdure, intermixed with heath and bent; of others rocky, but the intermediate spaces afford excellent pasture for sheep. When the pasturing of black cattle prevailed here, the surface was mostly covered with heath, and had a dismal appearance; but since the introduction of sheep, the country has assumed a different aspect. The climate is very temperate in this place,  
it

it being screened by the mountains from the northerly and easterly winds, the cold in winter is not so intense as in the low country; but there are frequent and heavy falls of rain from the south and south-west, accompanied with high winds. There are no local distempers prevalent here, except fevers, to which the poorer people are subject in the latter end of winter and beginning of spring. With respect to the small pox, the people begin now to see the advantages of inoculation, and to be more reconciled to it, though it is not yet much practised among the lower class.

*Sheep, Horses, &c.*—The number of sheep in the parish amounts to about 10,600; horses, 60; black cattle, 460. The sheep, in general, are black faced, and of the Linton kind. The white wool has sold here, these two years past, at about 7 s. per stone of 24 lib. English weight, and the laid at 5 s. On an average, 8 or 9 fleeces of the white, and 5 or 6 of the laid wool go to the stone. If a premium were given annually for the best tups, there would be a competition, and consequently a considerable improvement made both on the sheep and wool. It is expected, that the Hon. Board of Trustees in Edinburgh, will give the same encouragement to this district of the county of Dumbarton, for the improvement of the breed of sheep, that they give to some other counties in the Highlands of Scotland.

*Trees.*—There is a considerable deal of oak growing in this parish, on the banks of Lochlomond. But as the woods are generally cut about 20 or 24 years of age, there is no great timber in them, except some standards left at last cutting.

*Population.*

*Population.*—In the month of March 1791, there were living in the parish of Arroquhar 379 persons, of whom there were,

Under 10 years of age,	-	105
Above 10,	-	274
		<hr/>
Total,		379

*Abstract of Births and Marriages for the last six Years, as entered in the Parish Register.*

	Births.	Marriages.
1785	11	8
1786	10	6
1787	11	5
1788	19	4
1789	9	4
1790	18	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78	30

From the above it appears, that there are, upon an average, 13 baptisms, and 5 marriages annually. From the year 1769, to 1775, the average of baptisms is nearly 12; but the marriages do not amount to 1 yearly. Hence it appears, that the population of this parish, since 1769, has increased, which is owing, probably, to the high price of labour, and the encouragement given to tradesmen and day labourers to reside in it. There has been, however, a decrease of 87 upon the whole, within these 40 years, as the return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 466. There is no register of burials kept in the parish.

*Heritors,*

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—There are only two heritors, one of whom is proprietor of nearly the whole parish, but does not reside in it. The rent, after Whitsunday next, will be near 1200 l. Sterling. The farms, which were let in lease about 7 years ago, and, since that time, pay, on an average, double the former rent, and are still increasing in value. After the introduction of sheep into this country, the proprietors found it their interest, to let as much ground to one man as he could stock, so that the principal farms in this parish and neighbourhood are in the hands of a few. One man possesses now what was formerly thought sufficient for 5 or 6 tenants, and yet the condition of the lower class is not rendered worse. About 40 years ago, some of the tenants could afford to pay very little more than the public burdens for these farms, which now pay a high rent to the proprietor. Formerly, every tacksmen was bound to perform work with men and horses, a certain number of days yearly, or to pay so much in lieu thereof, in the option of the master; but in most of the leases, which have been granted of late, these personal services, and the other casualties payable by the tenants, are converted into cash, and included in the rent.

*Occupations.*—The small tenants and cottagers find employment, either in repairing the high roads along with the military, building dykes, manufacturing timber and barks in woods, or at the herring fishing, which they generally attend, from the beginning of harvest till New Year's day.

*Prices of Labour.*—On an average, the wages of a man servant are 1 s. a day, from the beginning of February till the beginning of November, without victuals. The day's wages of a wright are 1 s.; of a taylor 8 d.; of a carpenter 1 s. 6 d.; of a shoemaker 8 d.; and of a mower of hay 1 s. 6 d.



sides their maintenance. The wages of women servants, in general, are 3 d. a day; but in harvest 6 d. exclusive of their victuals. When they eat in their master's house, they receive, on an average 3 l. a year, and the men servants, about 6 l. In this parish they all eat in the house, except shepherds, who live at a distant corner of the farm. These have a benefit from the master, that is to say, a house, 52 stones of meal, 2 cows grass, ground for potatoes, and grass for 60 sheep in the hill, which may amount in all to 14 l. or 15 l. Sterling *per annum*.

*Church.*—The parish of Arroquhar was originally an appendage of the parish of Lufs, and was disjoined from it in the year 1658. The stipend, including the glebe, is below the *minimum*. The manse, which is in bad repair, was built in the year 1754. Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, Bart. is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor, upon the roll at present, is 9. The weekly collections amount to about 7 l. Sterling a year, which are distributed, together with the interest of 50 l. Sterling, left to the poor of the parish, by the late Robert Carmichael of Broomly, and the interest of another small sum appropriated for their benefit.

*Fish.*—The fish, which frequent Lochlong, are cod, haddocks, feath, lythe, whittings, flounders, mackarel, trouts, and herrings. Nobody in this place, a few individuals excepted, give themselves the trouble of fishing any of these species, but the latter, which are sometimes got in abundance. For these two seasons past, each man employed in the herring fishing, has cleared 8 l. on an average, between the middle of harvest and the 1st of January.

*Fuel.*

*Fuel.*—The common fuel is peats, which are got in abundance in the hills. But it sometimes happens, that after all the expence and trouble of casting and fitting them up, the feason may be so wet as to put it out of the power of the tenants to get them home. The better sort of farmers, who live near Lochlong, make use of coals, which cost about 5 s. 6 d. the Glasgow cart, including freight, &c. It is believed, upon the whole, every thing being considered, that they are cheaper than peats.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The average price of oat meal may be estimated at 1 s. *per* peck. Sometimes Irish meal is imported into Lochlong, and sold under that price; but meal manufactured in the country is often above it. The average price of butter is 9 d. *per* lib.; of common cheefe, 5 s. the stone tron weight; of a hen 1 s.; and of eggs, 3 d. the dozen. The price of beef is regulated by the Glasgow and Dumbarton markets.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The principal roads and bridges in this parish are kept in repair at the expence of government. The line of road, which leads to Inverary, being the most public, is kept in good order; but the line from Tarbert, leading to Tyndrum, is much neglected. In several places, particularly at the point of *Farkin*, and at *Craig-an-aren*, the road has been ill planned. Instead of bringing it up a steep hill, it should have been brought, at both places, round the point along the side of the loch, which would not have been much longer, and might have been executed at nearly as little expence as the present line. It is much wished, that the roads in these places may be soon altered, and the pulls taken off, which are so inconvenient for travellers, and so oppressive to horses. The other roads are kept in repair at the expence

pence of the tenants and cottagers. Last year the former were assessed at the rate of 11 s. for every 30 l. of real rent. This assessment varies according to circumstances. The *ultimatum* is 12 s. for every ploughgate, or 30 l. Sterling of rent, which the commissioners of supply cannot exceed. The latter pay from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. according to their abilities. The bye-roads in Arroquhar might be kept in good repair with the one half of the money levied in it, or perhaps with less; notwithstanding, the assessment is as high as it is in these parishes within the district, where the roads are bad, (the trustees having it in their power, to appropriate the surplus money to any other part of the district, where they think it necessary), which is considered as a grievance.

*Posts.*—Every night, about 8 o'clock, (Wednesday excepted), a post arrives from Inverary, and another, at the same time, from Dumbarton. These are succeeded by other two, who wait their arrival, and set out soon after with the mails. They meet near the head of Lochlong, where they are all stationed, (which is half way between the post towns, or 22 miles distant from each), and succeed one another alternately. There being no allowance made for horses, they are obliged to travel on foot, which is a laborious task in winter. It very rarely happens, however, that the snow is so deep on the road as to stop travellers. In March 1782, the communication between Dumbarton and Inverary was interrupted for a few days; but such a fall of snow, so uncommon at that season, may not happen again in a century.

*Language.*—Both the Gaelic and English languages are spoken here. The former is most prevalent, and is best understood, particularly by the old people. The names of places are Gaelic, and descriptive of their local situation.

*General*

*General Character.*—The greater part of the people in the parish are *Macfarlanes*, who have always had, till of late, a strong attachment to the laird, as their chief; and while this subsisted, misanthropy and ferocity of manners were prominent features in their character. Several circumstances, however have occurred, to destroy the influence of the feudal system in this place. The military roads, which were made after the year 1745, opened a free communication with other parts of the kingdom, and an intercourse with strangers. The consequence of this was, that the mind expanded by degrees, to embrace, within its grasp, people of other denominations, and to weaken that prejudice which it conceived in favour of an individual, and a particular clan. The settlement of some graziers here, from the low country, contributed likewise to produce those happy effects. They were at first considered by the natives as aliens, and invaders of property, to which they had no natural right, being neither lineal descendents, nor collateral branches of the Macfarlane race. Such was their antipathy to their new neighbours, that they made several abortive attempts to extirpate them. This, however, gradually subsided, and they lived together afterwards in habits of friendship. The sale of the estate of Arroquhar, which happened some years ago, contributed also not a little to extinguish the remains of that system of barbarity, which so long retarded the progress of civilization in Europe. In proportion as it lost its influence, the manners of the people changed to the better. They are now civil, well bred, honest, industrious, and not addicted to an immoderate use of spirituous liquors.

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## NUMBER LXIV.

## PARISH OF FERN.

*(County of Angus.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN GILLANDERS.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish is supposed to take its name from a Gaelic word which signifies *farm*; probably in allusion to the quality of the soil, which is, in general, very good, and which might then be superior in fertility to the neighbouring districts. Others derive it from a word in the same language, signifying *the den*; and if it was meant to apply to that part where the church stands, it is very characteristic, as it is situated in a low place, of an elliptical form. The extent of this parish is about 2 miles from east to west, and 5 from south to north. It is situated 6 miles from Brechin, (the seat of the presbytery), and lies in the county of Angus or Forfar.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The greater part of the surface is a light loam, and has a good exposure; the rest, which may comprehend a farm or two, has a clay bottom. In the hilly parts there are 5 sheep farms. The sheep walks are wholesome, few dying of the rot, or by any hurtful herbs. The climate, for this northern latitude, is mild and temperate, particularly towards the south; in the hilly parts, somewhat

more

more sharp, and cold; yet the whole is accounted falubrious, there being no standing lakes or marshes, which are often fatal to health. Of course, diseases arising from colds and damps are not frequent, and the people, in general, live to a good old age.

*Rivers, Hills, and Trees.*—There are two burns or rivulets in the parish, the *Cruick* and the *Noram*. The former has its source in it, and both abound with black trouts. The hills abound with the ordinary game of the Grampians. About 25 years ago, it had a very naked appearance: There was no timber of any sort, but a few planes and ashes, in the old taste, round the garden dykes; but now there are several hundred acres laid out in plantations of Scottish fir, and hard timber, all in a thriving state.

*Cattle.*—There are about 120 or 130 horses employed in husbandry, from 2 to 4 in a plough. On the sheep farms above 800 sheep are kept, of different breeds; and their wool fells, one year with another, from 14s. to 20s. *per* stone.

*Fuel and Fossils.*—The tenants have peat and furze from the hills, and drive some coals from the nearest sea-port towns, Montrose and Arbroath. Within these few years, there has been discovered, in the grounds, of the principal proprietor, a slate quarry, of a light blue colour, and pretty hard. A few cart loads have been taken out of it, but no farther trial has been as yet made.

*Population.*—For these 30 years past the population has been on the decrease. Many petty farms being converted into one, numbers of families have been driven into the towns; and farms that formerly supported 5 or 6 families,

lies, are possessed only by one. The whole number of souls, young and old included, is about 490. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 500, but the amount was probably more considerable. The marriages last year amounted to 4, the births to 9, and the deaths to 7. There are 3 shoemakers in the parish, 4 taylor, and 4 weavers.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are only 4 heritors; two occupy their own lands, a third has only one farm, all the rest of the parish is the property of one gentleman. The lands let at from 5 s. to 25 s. *per acre*. The valued rent is 23 l. 3 s. 4 d. Scots, or 192 l. 16 s. 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. Sterling. The real rent, as now paid, has not been ascertained.

*Agriculture.*—The crops chiefly raised are oats, pease, barley, lint, and grasses; for the most part clover and rye-grass. The feed time commences the 1st of March, and the harvest commonly in August. The principal proprietor has bound his tenants to a certain rotation of crops, and to inclose about two thirds of their farms with stone dykes, the value, of which is to be paid for, at the end of their leases, by the landlord. They are also *thirled* to the mill for what corn they consume in their families.

*Church and Poor.*—The stipend is 1000 merks Scots paid in victual, besides an allowance for communion elements in money. The manse has been lately repaired, and the offices rebuilt. The poor are supported by the weekly collections, the interest of their funds, and some grain from a mortification.

*Wages.*

*Wages.*—A taylor's wages is from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* day, with victuals. Farm servants get from 6 l. to 8 l. a year; household servants, nearly as much. Cottagers, who work daily to their masters, have, for wages, some land laid down with grass for a cow or mare, or permission to feed with the farmer's own cattle; their fuel led, with a house and yard free.



## NUMBER LXV.

## PARISH OF BONHIL.

*(County of Dumbarton.)**By the Rev. Mr GORDON STEWART, Minister of that Parish.**Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Bonhil is situated in the county and presbytery of Dumbarton. It is 4 and one half miles in length, and about 4 miles in breadth, forming nearly a square. The ancient mode of spelling the name of the parish was *Buneil*, which, in the opinion of some judges of the Gaelic language, means a *bottom* or *hollow*. Others imagine, that it signifies the *surgeon's residence*, as the antient family of Lennox had a mansion house in the parish, and several places derive their names from their servants and dependants. Bonhil was erected into a parish by that family\*. The original district was very small, and, about the middle of the last century, lands were disjoined from the parishes of Lufs and Kilmarnock, and annexed to that of Bonhil.

The

\* The time of its erection is mentioned either in Keith's History of the Bishops, or in Duncan Stewart's History of the Stewarts, vol. 2d. The three Tullicheum, Stockragent, Cameron, and Auchindinnans, were disjoined from the parish of Lufs; the lands of Balloch, Ledreftbeg, Bellagan, and Blurhich, were disjoined from the parish of Kilmarnock.

The south end of Loch-Lomond is surrounded by part of it; but a description of that lake will more properly belong to another parish. This part of the lake, with the Leven which issues from it, divide the parish nearly into two equal parts.

*River.*—The Leven, though not so large as the Tweed or the Tay, may be reckoned amongst the large rivers in Scotland. It is remarkable for the softness of its water, and the clearness of its stream. Those who are judges of the Gaelic language, derive its name from the words *Le*, which signifies *smooth* or *soft*, and *Avon*, a *river*. It issues from Loch-Lomond at Balloch, and falls into the Frith of Clyde at Dumbarton Castle. In a straight line from the lake to the Clyde, it will measure about 5 miles; but the course of the Leven, owing to its windings, will be more than 9 miles. The fall from the lake to the Clyde is 22 feet. The river is notwithstanding navigable for one half of the year. The tide comes up the river more than a third of its length; and where the tide fails, the vessels are drawn up the river with horses. These vessels are constructed long and narrow, on purpose for the navigation of the Leven, in order to draw little water. They are chiefly employed in bringing coals and lime, and other heavy articles, to the manufacturers, and to the gentlemen who reside upon the banks of the Leven and of the lake; and in carrying down the wood and barks that grow upon the banks, with slates from the slate quarries in the parish of Lufs.

*Fish.*—The Leven produces salmon, parr, and a variety of trout, and other small fish. The salmon it produces are reckoned among the best in Scotland. Whether this is owing to the shortness of the run from the sea, or their coming

ing into the river early in the season, is uncertain. When the season is mild, there are salmon in the river in the end of December. The greatest number is taken in the months of March and April. The largest salmon ever taken in the Leven weighed 45 lib. troy weight. The salmon fishing in that part of the Leven which lies in the parish of Bonhil, rented, about 50 years ago, at 300 merks. The last lease was at the rate of 150l. Sterling. This rise of rent has not been owing to the increase of salmon in the river; but has principally arisen from two causes, the great rise in the price of salmon, and the greater attention that has been paid to the fishery, with the improved methods which have been adopted. The price of salmon here depends upon the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets. In the beginning of the season, or before the first of May, a considerable quantity are sent over land to Perth, and from thence to London.

There is at present a law suit depending about the right to the trout fishings in the Leven. The question is, whether a charter from the Crown, granting the salmon and *other* fishings in the Leven, gives an exclusive right to the trout fishings? Or whether trouts are to be reckoned among the *res nullius*, or to be considered as annexed to land, and that every proprietor has a right to the trout fishing opposite to his property?

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 901 souls. From a list of the inhabitants, taken in January 1791, it appears that they amounted to 2310 in all. Of that number there were 562 under 10 years of age. In the year 1790, there were 82 births, 47 burials, and 21 marriages, whereof there were only 9 instances, in which both parties belonged to the parish. There is an imperfect record of births, as far back as the year 1677, from which it appears, that there were

were

were 38 births that year. The population of the parish has been since decreasing, until 1768, when the first printfield was erected. There were only 27 births that year, and, by a list of the inhabitants, taken in 1769, the population was about 640 above 6 years of age. It has varied since 1768, according to the briskness or dulness of manufactures; and therefore, if the list of the inhabitants had been taken during the summer, the population would have been about 100 souls more than are above stated.

*Professions.*—Of the above number there are 993 employed by the three printfields, whereof 507 are women; besides 67 boys and girls under 10 years of age. It is not easy to state the number employed at the bleachfields, as it varies so much at different seasons of the year. Besides these, there are 7 smiths, 15 shoemakers, 12 taylors, 21 wrights, and 6 millers of different kinds; 2 distillers, 4 excise officers, 8 shopkeepers, and 14 keepers of alehouses.

*Manufactures.*—Some peculiar excellencies in the water of Leven, have encouraged several manufacturers to settle in this parish. The Leven is remarkable for the softness of its water, which fits it, in a peculiar manner, for the purposes of bleaching. It is seldom or never muddy, as the rivers and burns, from the Highland hills, fall first into Loch-Lomond, where the mud they carry along with them subsides. It is not, therefore, subject to the sudden risings and fallings which most other rivers are liable to. By gradually rising and falling, it is fitted for the different kinds of machinery, which are so convenient and necessary for carrying on the manufactures. There are at present 3 printfields, and 4 bleachfields in the parish. The duties paid to government from them for one year, ending 5th July 1790, amounted to  
8971l.

8971 l. 9 s.; those of this last year, ending 5th July 1791, to 13,296 l. 8 s. 4 d.; from which it is evident, that the trade has increased rapidly. From these duties a calculation may be made of the value of the goods manufactured. By a statement laid before the House of Commons, a few years ago, the duties upon printed linens and muslins were supposed to be equal to 10 *per cent.* of the whole value. There can be no calculation made of the value of the goods bleached on the banks of the river.

The first printfield on the Leven was begun about the year 1768; the other two were erected a few years ago. At first, the printing business was almost wholly confined to handkerchiefs, and in these no great variety of colours was attempted; it was all done by what is called block printing. They afterwards erected copperplate presses. These presses were at first driven by the hand; but as they required great force, the man who drove the press was obliged to rest frequently: This kept the other 2 idle, for there were 3 men employed about every press. To remedy this, they have constructed some presses to be driven by water, one of which, driven by 2 men, can print from 20 to 30 dozen of handkerchiefs in one hour. These presses, at first, were almost wholly employed in printing handkerchiefs; but of late they have improved them, so as to print two or more colours upon their finest linens and muslins, leaving the sprigs and flowers to be put on afterwards by the block printers. At the printfields upon the Leven, they have contrived, of late, to do a great deal of work by machinery driven by water, which formerly was done by the hand, and at great expence. Their calicoes, for variety and fineness of colour, are reckoned the first in Britain; the neighbourhood of London itself can scarcely be excepted.

*Wages.*

*Wages.*—For some years after the first printfield was erected, the business was conducted upon a small scale, and that part of it, which is properly called the printing, was almost wholly done by apprentices, bound for the term of 7 years, at the rate of 3 s. *per* week for the first 3 years, and 4 s. for the last 4 years. The common labourers had, in general, 10 d. *per* day. Some years ago, several new printfields were erected in Scotland, and the trade came to be greatly extended and improved by the old ones, which occasioning a great demand for journeymen, their wages rose amazingly. For some years past, the wages of a journeyman may be stated at 18 s. *per* week; and those of a common labourer at the printfields, may be reckoned at 6 s. *per* week. Those who have acquired any degree of skill in bleaching or dying, may get about 7 s. weekly.

Of the hands employed at the printfields, there is nearly an equal number of both sexes. The wages given to the women, at first, were generally at the rate of 3 s. *per* week. They are now in general paid by the piece, and they may be said to earn 14 s. *per* month, at an average. The greater part of the women are employed in pencilling. A great variety of colours cannot be put upon the printed cloth without the assistance of the pencil. The boys and girls have, in general, 6 s. 8 d. *per* month; a very few of them have 8 s.

Formerly, the operative manufacturers were employed by their masters at day's wages; but the masters, for some time past, have found it their interest to give so much money for the piece of work, and to leave it to the operative hands to do much or little as they choose. As soon as the trade came to be put upon this footing, some of the operative people discovered

discovered amazing industry, and made very great wages; although the masters had the same quantity of work done for less money, than formerly when the men were at days wages. For these two years past, however, there have been violent disputes between the masters and servants, about the prices for the different pieces of work; the masters, on the one hand endeavouring to reduce the prices, and to lower the wages, to what they thought the trade could bear; and the servants, on the other, endeavouring to keep up the prices, and entering into those illegal combinations, that are now become so common among the manufacturers of this country. Among other manoeuvres, they appointed a committee of their number, from the different printfields in the west of Scotland, to meet and to regulate the prices, which they were to oblige their masters to give for the different pieces of work. They were to allow no persons to be employed, but such as came under certain regulations which they had framed; and, that the number of hands might not increase too fast, the masters were not to be allowed to take in more apprentices, than the operative servants thought proper. These measures obliged the masters to commence prosecutions, and to imprison some of their hands last summer, and a kind of compromise has been made between the masters and servants for a time; but it will be easily foreseen, that one of the parties must be in complete subjection to the other, before the trade can be upon a proper or sure footing. The apprentices to the printing business are, after the first or second year, generally employed at piece work; and, from the prices that are allowed them, they can make from 8 s. to 10 s. *per week*.

*Manners.*—From this change in the wages of the manufacturers upon the banks of the Leven, it will be easily supposed, that their manners and mode of living has undergone  
some

some change. At first they were remarkable for sobriety: Their principal food was porridge and potatoes; even milk and bread was considered as a luxury. They displayed their zeal and their learning in declaiming against patronage and Arminian preaching; and the man who was able to spare some money to support a dissenting clergyman, came to consider himself as a man of consequence. In process of time religious disputes came in some measure to be neglected or forgotten; and then, like most other manufacturers, they came to be extravagant in the articles of dress, tea, and spiritous liquors, &c. They are only beginning, however, to use butcher meat. It may appear paradoxical, but it is a fact, that among the common labourers, who receive moderate wages, there are many who save a little money; whereas, among those who receive great wages, such instances are more rare.

*Villages.*—There are two villages built in the parish, besides several houses built upon feus, or long leases, by the manufacturers adjoining the printfields. In one of the villages, the houses are built upon feus, at the rate of 8 l. *per* acre; in the other, upon a lease of 99 years, at the rate of 6 l. *per* acre. The grounds occupied by the printfields and bleachfields, are feued at the rate of 2 l. 10 s. *per* acre. Some of the ground, adjacent to the villages and printfields, is rented at 2 l. *per* acre.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 2180 l. 9 s. 2 d. Scotch. It is impossible to say exactly what the real rent may be, as a great deal of the land is in the proprietor's own hands; but it is supposed to be about 2500 l. Sterling.

*Soil and Produce.*—The parish is all inclosed and subdivided. The soil, as in most others, is various. The low ground,



upon the banks of the Leven and the lake, is partly a rich loam, and partly a light gravel. The rising ground is more wet, and tilly, and some part of it covered with heath. The produce of the ground is barley or bear, oats, pease, potatoes, and turnips, with a small quantity of wheat and flax; but the greater part of the land is either under hay, or in pasture.

*Wood.*—There are about 250 acres planted with Scotch firs and larix. A cutting of the natural wood, at 20 years of age, is worth about 2350 l. Sterling. The ash tree, in the church yard of Bonhill, deserves a particular description, being no less remarkable for its uncommon size, than for its extensive spreading, and the regularity of its branches. The trunk is 9 feet in length, the girth, immediately above the surface of the ground, is 25 feet; about 3 feet above the surface it measures 19½ feet; and, at the narrowest part, 18 feet. It divides into 3 great branches; the girth of the largest is 11 feet; of the second, 10; and of the third, 9 feet 2 inches. The branches hang down to within a few feet of the ground, and, from the extremity of the branches on the one side, to that of those on the other, it measures no less than 94 feet. There is another large ash tree in the parish, though it is greatly decayed, only the trunk, and part of some of the branches remaining. The trunk is about 11 feet in length; the girth, immediately above the surface of the ground, is 33 feet; at the narrowest part it measures 19 feet 10 inches. The proprietor has lately fitted up a room in the inside of it, with benches around, and 3 glass windows. The diameter of the room is 8 feet 5 inches, and from 10 to 11 feet high.

*Mills.*

*Mills.*—There are 3 corn mills in the parish; at one of which they have erected machinery for making pearl barley, and for grinding wheat and madder. There is likewise a mill for dressing flax, and they are erecting machinery for grinding logwood.

*Cattle.*—There are about 160 horses, and about 100 sheep in the parish; but it is impossible to say any thing with certainty respecting the number of black cattle, as it varies so much at the different seasons of the year, many being brought from the Highlands in the beginning of summer, and slaughtered in the end of the season.

*Ecclesiastical State and School.*—The stipend is  $82\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of victual, and about 27 l. in money, paid by a decret in the year 1654. The kirk was built in the year 1747, and the manse in the 1758. The Duke of Montrose is patron. The schoolmaster's salary is 200 merks. There is no dissenting meeting house in the parish; but there is a kirk of relief in the neighbouring parish of Kilmarnock, which is attended by 210 persons, above 6 years of age, from this parish. There is also a Burgher Seceding meeting house in the parish of Cardross, which is frequented by 180 persons from that of Bonhill. There are likewise a few Antiburgher Seceders, and 6 or 7 Covenanters.

*Heritors.*—The number of heritors is 27, the greater part of whom have but small properties; the rest being divided among 9 or 10, who generally reside, the greater part of the year, in the parish.

*Poor.*—The number of poor is from 30 to 35. The funds for supporting them are, a capital of something above 300 l. Sterling,

Sterling, which is lent out at interest; and the ordinary collections in church, with the mort-cloth dues, and the fines for fornication, which amount in all to 40 l. or 50 l. Sterling a year.

*Fuel.*—The companies get their coals by water. A cart, weighing 12 cwt. costs 5 s. Sterling. The operatives, who get them in small quantities, and by land, from Dumbarton, pay 6 s. *per* cart. The farmers carry their coals in carts about 13 or 14 miles, and pay 2 s. 6 d. at the pit. Coals are also got some miles nearer, but of an inferior quality, at 18 d. *per* cart at the pit.

*Antiquities.*—The antient family of Lennox had a mansion house at the south end of Loch-Lomond; but nothing remains at present but the fossé, which is still entire. The tradition is, that the materials of the mansion were carried from this place to one of the islands of the lake, to build a castle there, as a place of greater safety, and where a considerable part of the building still remains, though in ruins. They had another house in the parish, which is entire, and is at present possessed by Mr Yule of Darleith. From its situation, and from the smallness of its size, it is supposed to have been kept as a hunting seat. There is no inscription to ascertain the date; but it is believed to have been built by the antient family of Lennox, before the estate came into the possession of the Stewarts. The whole lands in the parish formerly belonged to the family of Lennox; but in the 15th century, the Darnly family, by marriage, got one half of the estate, and the titles. The other half went to the Rusky family. This last half was afterwards divided between the families of Napier and Gleneagles. The Darnly family got the greatest part of this parish. That of Gleneagles got  
some

some farms, whereof they are still in possession of the superiority, along with considerable feu duties.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The oldest inhabitant at present in this parish, is a man of 87 years of age.—There are two licenced distillers in it.—The woods are famous for the number of woodcocks that frequent them during winter; and the river and lake for a great variety of sea fowl. In severe seasons swans frequent the lake.—Inchmarin, one of the islands in Lochlomond, is at an equal distance from the parishes of Bonhill, Lufs, Kilmarnock, and Buchanan. Some parts of Lennoxshire, now Dumbartonshire, were formerly annexed to Stirlingshire. From this circumstance, it is not determined to what county it belongs; and as it pays no stipend, it is equally undetermined to what parish. It is the largest island in the lake; is about 2 miles long, and from half a mile to one mile broad. It is beautiful, and finely wooded. The Montrose family use it as a deer park, where they keep about 200 fallow deer. The ruins of the castle, formerly belonging to the Lennox family, are still upon this Island. The person, who has the charge of the woods and the deer, resides with his family upon it. Some years ago, many persons disordered in their senses, were sent to it as to a place of confinement; and those of the fair sex, who were so unfortunate as to give *pregnant* proofs of their frailty, were sent here to avoid the reproach of the world. At that time the neighbouring clergyman, who happened to be a strict disciplinarian, and very zealous against fornicators, claimed Inchmarin as belonging to his charge: But owing to complaints of abuse, the proprietor, for some time past, has not allowed his forrester to take lodgers.

## NUMBER LXVI.

## PARISH OF DALZIEL.

(County of Lanark.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT CLAWSON.

*Etymology of the Name.*

**T**HIS parish is supposed, by some, to have got its name from the ancestors of the Dalziels, Earls of Carnwath. Others say the name is of Celtic origin, and signifies *white field* in the Gaelic language, which they suppose it has obtained from a kind of white vegetable scurf, which grows over the clay soil, before it is sweetened by cultivation. But whether the parish has given the surname to that family, or derived its name from them, it is certain that the barony was vested in them by a charter from King Robert III. in the year 1395. It appears, by an old charter still extant, that it had before been in the hands of a family of the name of Sandilands, in the reign of Malcolm Canmore, and had afterwards come to be in the gift of the Crown, whether from failure of heirs, or forfeiture, is not known. There is a tradition, that at an early period, a baron of the name of Nisbit also held some part of the parish. The Dalziels retained these lands till the year 1600, when they were sold to James Hamilton, the brother of Sir John Hamilton of Orbiston, who was Lord Justice Clerk in the reign of Charles I.; and a descendant of that gentleman is the present proprietor.

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Mr Hamilton holds the whole parish immediately of the Crown, and is proprietor of about eleven-twelfths of it. The remainder is held of him in feu. He is also patron of the parish, and titular of the tythes.

*Situation and Extent.*—This parish is situated in the middle ward of the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is of an oblong figure, and would be pretty regular, if it were not for a part of the parish of Hamilton, lying on the same side of the Clyde, indented in it, and almost intersecting it. There is a tradition, that this part was disjoined from the parish of Dalziel, on account of the misdemeanours of a curate, who was then incumbent. Why it was not restored to his successors is not known. It would have been convenient that it had been so, for the living is very small. The whole length, from south east to north west, is about 4 miles, and the breadth about 2. Mr Hamilton's estate, including roads, &c. contains 2113 Scotch acres, and the other properties being about a twelfth more, makes the whole 2289 acres. The distance from Glasgow is about 13 miles, from Lanark about 12, and no part of the parish is above 4 from Hamilton.

*Surface, Soil, &c.*—The land is low, and the surface even and regular, being varied only here and there by gentle inequalities. It rises moderately from the two rivers Clyde and Calder, by which it is bounded, to a kind of flat ridge, having always sufficient declivity to carry off the water. There is scarcely any part of it much more than 150 feet above the level of the sea. On account of this, and the nature of the soil, snow seldom lies here. It frequently happens, that while the neighbouring fields lie buried under a  
white

white covering, here alone a mild verdure appears. The banks of the Clyde, all along this parish, are low, with fine vallies or meadows along the side of the river, except in one place, where there is a bold rocky bank for about 300 or 400 yards. Upon the top of this bank, the father of the present proprietor, apprehended, from the vestige of a trench, inclosing a spot of an oblong figure, about the fourth part of an acre, that he discovered something like the remains of a Roman Castellum or outpost, and built a little temple or summer house, as well to perpetuate that circumstance, as for the sake of the variety of magnificent landscapes to be seen from the spot; as it commands a view of Hamilton house, the town of Hamilton, and the finely diversified fields around them; and also an extensive prospect both up and down the river, taking in a great number of grand and beautiful objects. This commanding situation seemed to favour the conjecture, that it had been an outpost belonging to a *pretorium*, or Roman camp, in another part of this parish to be after mentioned. When the ditch was cleared out, nothing was discovered but a quantity of vitrified cinders resembling the dross of a smith's forge. Mr Hamilton also cleared the face of the rock of the furze and brambles, with which it was covered, and cut a number of terrace walks along it, placing seats at advantageous situations, and planting various kinds of fruit and forest trees, where ever they could be admitted; and in the year 1789, the fruit on this hitherto unprofitable spot, was sold for 30 l. Sterling.

The banks of the Calder are beautifully diversified with coppices and sloping glades; and upon the east corner of the parish, become boldly rocky and romantic. On these banks Mr Hamilton of Wisshaw, who has a farm here, has many  
acres

acres of thriving forest trees planted, which tend greatly to heighten the scenery.

The soil of the vallies is a rich loam; the rest is almost all of a strong marly clay, some of it of a peculiar good quality, lying in a natural state in thin horizontal layers, which easily separate in working. It appears naturally sterile, but, by the effects of cultivation, produces good crops; and there is perhaps no part of the neighbouring country capable of higher improvement. Even the bottom, though mostly of that kind of blue till which is prevalent in this clay country, seems to be more favourable, particularly for the growth of wood, than most of the neighbourhood; which perhaps may be owing to its being divided also into thin laminae, through the fissures of which the superfluous moisture filters off.

*Springs and Rivulets.*—From the evenness of the surface, and density of the soil, springs of water are not numerous, and this, no doubt, has made those that appear more valued, the most considerable being dignified with the names of particular fountains, such as, the Well of our Lady, St. Patrick's Well, St. Catharine's Well, &c. For the same reasons there are few brooks, and those but small ones. The most considerable is that formed by the conjunction of St. Catharine's spring, with another little rill, which runs through the inclosures around Dalziel house. In one part of its course, it has obtained a deep bed, with pretty bold banks, and falls, in a few fine cascades, over the rocks which lie in its bottom.

*Antiquities.*—On the north side of this brook, upon the most picturesque part of the banks, stands the mansion house of Dalziel, attached to the old tower or chateau of the ma-



nor, which has been spared, and kept in repair, by the proprietor, solely on account of its antiquity. It is a high Gothic building, with battlements and loop-holes on the top, and a foot path around within them; but its age is not known. The great Roman highway, commonly called Watling Street, went along the summit of this parish from east to west, but its course is now much defaced by modern improvements, much of it being dug up, and its bottom ploughed, and for some length, the modern turnpike road is laid upon the top of it. In one place, however, near the center of the parish, it has been preserved entire, so as to point out the line to after times, the cross stone, the emblem of the baron's jurisdiction, being placed upon it, and that fenced and secured by a large clump of trees planted around. At this place lies a large heap of the cinders of the Roman forges still untouched. Along this antient road, at the western boundary of the parish, upon a steep bank over the river Calder, is the remains of a *pretorium*, or Roman encampment. Little more than 20 years ago it was pretty entire; but cultivation has now greatly encroached upon it. At the foot of the bank there is a semicircular arch over the river, of good masonry, and very uncommon construction, which has been supposed to be the work of the Romans. By this bridge Watling Street seems to have entered the parish of Bothwell. In the hall of the old tower, or chateau above mentioned, an iron chain from the ceiling suspends a lustre composed of large stag horns, connected with iron work, and having sockets for the candles of the same metal. Where the gallows stood, on which the antient barons ordered transgressors to be executed, there is a small column raised, to perpetuate that mark of feudal dignity, and the power annexed to it. The old church of Dalziel, lately deserted, is mentioned by Sir James Dalrymple, in his *Historical Church Collections*, as a chaplainry

chaplainry, dependent on the abbacy of Paisley, dedicated to St. Patrick. The font for holy water still remains fixed in the wall. In the foundation of the west gable, which was rebuilt in the year 1718, was found a handsome stone coffin, large enough to contain the body of a full grown man, but empty, and seeming as if nothing had ever been in it. In the inside, the upper part is hollowed out to suit the shape of the head and neck; and there was a hewn stone cover for the face, with a star or cinque foil carved upon it. Upon the bank, opposite to that on which the present manor house stands, may still be traced the foundation of a square building, said to have been the residence of the Baron Nisbit above mentioned. By him the cross, spoken of above, is said to have been set up.

*Church and School.*—The present parish church was built in the year 1789. It is a handsome edifice, with a fine spire, and being placed near the centre of the parish, upon the summit of the ridge, is seen at a good distance, and makes an agreeable object. The stipend, in whole, is near 50 l. Sterling, with a house, garden, orchard, and a glebe of between 5 and 6 acres. The salary of the schoolmaster is the smallest legal one, with a dwelling house and garden. There being no other school in the parish, the scholars are very numerous.

*Cultivation.*—The late Archibald Hamilton, Esq; the father of the present proprietor, enjoyed the estate during the course of a long life. His father had begun to plant a little, and this branch of cultivation he prosecuted for a good part of his life, with great judgment and perseverance, planting all kinds of trees known in this country, adapting each to its proper situation and exposure, and covering and adorning a  
country

country, which before was sterile and naked, with extensive forefts. His fuccefs was equal to his attention. His plantations were extended to 150 acres of foreft trees, which are the admiration of all who have feen them; to which his fucceffor has added about 10 acres more, beautifying the country, and fheltering the neighbouring fields from the cutting blafts, by which alone the fertility of many of them is greatly increafed. He had the good fortune to live to fee trees, which he had planted after he appeared as a lawyer at the bar, grown to 12 feet in girth. He pleafed himfelf with having the furniture of his dining room made of his own wood. And for feveral years fince his death, more timber of his planting has been fold in one year, than the value of the yearly rent of the eftate, when he entered into the poffeffion of it; and yet the trees are ftill fo crouded, as to want room to expand their branches.

He was no lefs attentive to the orchard, than to the foreft. Upon floping banks by the fides of brooks, &c. he planted apple, pear, and plumb trees, from time to time, to the extent of 20 acres; and for a long time paff, fince thefe have grown up, the fruit has been fold, in good years, from 100 l. to 167 l. Of all thefe 20 acres, not 6 were worth 6d. an acre, except for planting foreft trees; but from the variety of expofures which thefe orchards enjoy, and the tall forefts which embofom them, fo many of them are fecured from the injury of blights and mildews, as always to enfore a crop of fruit, if there be fruit any where in the country.

Nor was he lefs fucceffful in promoting improvement in agriculture, by cherifhing and prompting the induftry of his tenants. He convinced them, by the whole of his conduct, that he took an intereft in their welfare. He and his family  
made

made themselves intimately acquainted with their condition, were ever ready to hear their tale, to take part in their trouble, or to rejoice in their prosperity. If any of his husbandmen were born down with the pressure of incidental misfortunes, he raised them again by his bounty and forbearance, never dismissing any of them who were willing to continue in their possessions; but, at the end of every lease, preferring them or their posterity to a new one, at a reasonable rent; and this has been so uniformly the practice of his family, that there are tenants who can reckon their ancestors in the possession of the same farm, previous to the period at which this family became proprietors. He inclosed the fields with hedges, and sheltered them with planting. He abolished the feudal custom of exacting carriages and other services from his tenants; and, in short, did every thing to turn their attention solely to the cultivation of their own farms. Under this mild and benevolent treatment, the peasantry, finding their industry tended as much to their own and their posterity's permanent advantage, as to that of an indulgent landlord, profited by every lesson and example. They began to summer fallow their fields, to freight their crooked ridges, to carry lime, and make composts; and the benevolent spirit of their landlord spreading among them, every one is ready to assist his neighbour on all emergencies. And thus has the value of the estate risen to nearly five times the yearly rent, which it yielded when the same gentleman first succeeded to it; and at the same time the condition of the tenants, with their moderate farms, and plain manner of life, is perhaps as happy as any to be met with.

The Scottish plough, drawn by 3 or 4 horses, is generally used in this heavy soil; lighter ploughs, drawn by 2 horses, being only applied to the latter plowings of fallows.

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This parish is indebted to its late proprietor for another important improvement. All along the high ways, he gave leases and fees of spots of little value, for building. On these there are now upwards of 50 handsome cottages erected, filled with industrious inhabitants, having neat little kitchen gardens around them; by which he not only improved and beautified his own estate, but set an example, which has since been followed by others.

*Produce.*—The land here produces principally wheat, beans, pease, oats, butter, cheese, and hay from artificial grasses. There is not much barley cultivated here; and, from the strength of the land, flax and turnips are not raised without much trouble, and the return is uncertain. All the inhabitants cultivate potatoes for domestic use. The average quantity of wheat sown, may be about 500 bolls a year, each boll being a little more than 4 Winchester bushels. Before this year, there have not been good crops of pease and beans for several years past; but in tolerable seasons there may be about 600 bolls sown annually. There is generally also a considerable quantity of oat meal sown out of the parish, besides what is consumed at home; so that the produce exceeds the consumption of the inhabitants. The hay, butter, and cheese is mostly sown to Glasgow, and the quantity of hay is some years considerable; but it is difficult to form an average of it.

It has been already observed, that trees of all kinds succeed well in this parish. The Weymouth pine has come to a great size in sheltered places. The balsam and berry-bearing poplars seem also to thrive greatly. Thorn hedges, on the most stiff and sterile parts, grow stunted a little, after a few

few years; but in general thrive better here, than in much of the clay soil in the neighbourhood.

*Cattle.*—There are about 66 labouring horses in the parish, besides a few young ones, and about 200 milk cows, the young ones of which, annually reared, may be between 40 and 50. Few sheep are reared in the parish; but in the parks around the manor house, there are always a number fed for slaughter, and no where is better mutton to be found. It deserves here to be remarked, that an experiment was made a few years ago, of smearing some of these sheep with tar. But it seems, in these warm sheltered fields, it was improper to continue such a practice, the smeared sheep turning out inferior both in mutton and wool. As this experiment, however, was never repeated, it is doubtful if it ought to be laid down as a general rule.

*Fish.*—The proprietor has a salmon fishing on the river Clyde, of which he avails himself only for family use, giving away, to friends and neighbours, what fish are caught more than necessary for his own table. The other fish found in the river, besides salmon and their progeny of gauls, fry, and pars, are trouts, lampreys, silver eels, pike, perch, roach, minnows, and a few horse or pearl mussels. In the river Calder, near its mouth, salmon are also found, and farther up, a good deal of small trouts, silver eels, &c.

*Roads and Bridges.*—A turnpike road, from Lanark to Glasgow, runs, from south east to north west, through the parish; and upon the west boundary, there is a bridge over the Calder. The turnpike road from Edinburgh, through Hamilton, which crosses this parish from north east to south west, enters it by another bridge over the same river. Besides

fides the Roman bridge above mentioned, there is still another bridge over the Calder, upon a less public road.

*Climate, &c.*—The air here is pretty dry and clear, fogs of any continuance never being remembered, except in the year 1783: It is mild, compared with that on the higher lands around, and surely very healthy, no disease being prevalent but fevers and the small pox, at distant periods. Agues are not known here. Inoculation for the small pox has not taken place. It is not uncommon to find people arrived at the age of 80 and upwards. There are at present 2 persons of one family, whose ages together make 179; and some years ago, there were 3 more persons of the same family alive; when the ages of the 5 were added, the sum was 387. It was well ascertained, that William Morton, an old servant about the house of Dalziel, who died there within these 16 years, was at least 104.

*Minerals.*—Large beds of excellent pit coal have been found in this parish, lying at different distances under one another, which are believed to be continued under the greatest part of it; but none of them are wrought at present, as coal is cheap and plenty in the neighbourhood. Free stone quarries, of a good quality, abound here; in one of them there is a stratum which produces good mill stones for making pearl barley, some of which are carried to a great distance.

*Population.*—The population of this parish is considerably increased of late, owing to the number of new cottages before mentioned. These are not collected into a village, but stand detached along the road. In two places only there are clusters nearly together, which may be called small villages, there being 15 houses in the one, and 12 in the other. The  
number

number of inhabited houses, or families in the parish, is 78 ;  
the number of souls is as follows :

Males above the age of 10,	-	183
Ditto under 10,	-	72
		<hr/> 255
Females above the age of 10,	-	171
Ditto under 10,	-	52
		<hr/> 223
Total number of souls in the parish,		478
The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was		<hr/> 351
		<hr/>
Increase,		127

*Professions.*—Of the above number there are 23 farmers, besides their families, and male and female servants ; 30 male adults, cottagers, mostly employed in field labour ; 7 masons, 7 joiners and carpenters, 42 weavers of fine and coarse fabrics, 9 stockingsmakers, 8 shoemakers, 3 blacksmiths, and 1 retailer of liquors, the keeper of a country inn on the road. All the women were formerly employed in spinning fine yarn, except when occupied in the different offices of husbandry, which fall to the share of that sex ; but of late the young girls belonging to the cottages have learned to flower muslin, in large frames made for the purpose, which they find more profitable. The greatest luxury which prevails among them, is drinking tea and smoking tobacco, in which they all indulge. Their dress is also more showy and expensive than formerly.

*General Character* — The people, in general, are quiet, orderly, and industrious, their being no instance of any of



them being convicted of crimes ; or even of one inhabitant of the parish having recourse to the degrading practice of begging. Claims on the public charity are not numerous. At present they are greater than common, there being 3 infirm people upon the parish ; but these are supported by the collections at the church door, &c. without any assessment.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXVII.

## PARISH OF ARBIRLOT.

(County of Forfar.)

By the Rev. Mr RICHARD WATSON.

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**A**RBIRLOT is termed, in old writings, *Aberelliot*. The name seems to be of Gaelic original, in which language *aber* signifies *above*, and *Elliot* is the name of the water. *Aberelliot*, therefore, is expressive of the local situation of the village. The parish of Arbirlot lies in the county of Forfar, in the presbytery of Aberbrothock, and synod of Angus and Mearns. It is about 4 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. The extent of sea coast is about 3 miles, and, for the most part, flat and sandy.

*Soil and Climate.*—The greater part of this parish is hilly; yet the hills are neither very high nor rocky. They are in general green, and capable of cultivation. The air is considered as healthy, and there are no peculiar diseases. The soil is various. Along the coast there is a thin dry soil, which, in a wet season, yields a tolerable crop; but in a dry season, a very scanty one. The soil, contiguous to this, consists of a light rich loam, on a gravelly bottom, which becomes fertile in proportion to the season, and the care bestowed on its cultivation. In fields adjoining to each other,

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we have soils very different ; some shallow, others deep. The deep soils have generally an under stratum of clay, which renders them hard to plough ; but when proper care is taken of their culture, and the season favourable, they produce weighty crops. In the hilly parts of the parish, there are various qualities of soil, some cold and wet, some moorish and spongy, some dry and gravelly. In a word, the variety of soil is so great, that often, in the same field, different soils are to be found. This inequality of soils, which, at first sight, seems a defect, is in reality a remarkable proof of the wisdom of providence ; for there is no soil so ungrateful, as not to reward the labourer's toil, if he will only bestow proper care on its culture, and each soil has a season, in which it is peculiarly productive. The ground, in this parish, has, for the most part, a good exposure, and grows fruitful, in proportion to its state of cultivation. This has encouraged the farmers of late years to improve tracts of it, which formerly lay waste and uncultivated.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—Such of the tenants as border on the shore, use sea ware for manure. But the principal manure here used is lime, which is brought partly from the Frith of Forth, and partly from Sunderland in England, at a very considerable expence ; yet the farmers value it so much, that they look upon it as an essential requisite in carrying forward their improvements. The times of plowing, sowing, and reaping, are determined by the seasons, and the general rules laid down by the most experienced farmers. The principal crops raised in this parish are oats and barley. Of the former there is only a small quantity, but of the latter a great deal is annually exported. Of late years, a considerable quantity of wheat and turnips has been sown, and, in general, succeeded well. For some years past, the farmers have paid due attention to the raising of flax ; and, from the  
premiums

premiums they have received, it appears that their labour has not been in vain. In the year 1790, there were 97 acres of ground, within the bounds of this parish, sown with lint-feed, which in general succeeded well, and procured the premiums given by the Society for raising of flax in this county. There are from 40 to 50 ploughs in this parish, of different constructions. Some of them are drawn by 4 horses, and others by 2. When 4 horses are yoked, 2 servants are requisite; but when two do the work, one man is sufficient, as he both holds the plough, and drives the horses. This last mode of plowing has been introduced, partly from the improved state of the farm, and partly from the increase of servants wages. It will be admitted by the candid, that improvements in husbandry, as in the fine arts, arrive at maturity by degrees. Encouraged by success, the farmers in this parish have, within these 20 years, made rapid progress in the cultivation of their lands. And as their farms are not over-rented, they are enabled to go on with their improvements.

*Cattle.*—It may not be improper to observe, that great attention is paid to the breeding of cattle; but little to the feeding of them. They are, for the most part, brought to the market about 3 years of age. There is only one grazier in the parish. It is remarkable, that there is not within the bounds of this parish one flock of sheep, especially when we consider, that the greater part of it is hilly. Perhaps the period is not far distant, when the farmers may see their interest in this particular, and take the benefit which their local situation evidently points out.

*Wages.*—The yearly wages of men servants, in the different branches of husbandry, are from 7*l.* to 8*l.* Sterling; and

and of women servants, from 3 l. to 4 l. Sterling, including the perquisites. The wages of a day labourer are 6 d. when the employer furnishes him with provisions. But when the labourer victuals himself, his wages are from 1 s. to 15 d. *per* day.

*Population.*—The return to the inquiry made by Dr Webster, in 1755, respecting the population of this parish, was 865. No particular enumeration has been made since that period, until about 12 months ago, (September 1790), when an exact list of the inhabitants was made up; and their number amounted to 1055, of whom there were 550 males, and 505 females. By a register, well attested, it appears, that the marriages, births, and deaths in this parish, from the beginning of the year 1780, to the end of the year 1790, were as follows:

A. D.	Marriages.	Births.			Deaths.
		<i>mal.</i>	<i>fem.</i>	<i>in all.</i>	
1780	5	14	7	21	17
1781	3	17	13	30	4
1782	1	11	5	16	12
1783	5	11	11	22	11
1784	4	16	9	25	3
1785	11	8	7	15	12
1786	6	16	9	25	9
1787	3	18	9	27	10
1788	6	17	15	32	3
1789	5	11	10	21	6
1790	4	28	10	38	7
	—	—	—	—	—
	53	167	105	272	94

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The above account of births, corresponds with an observation made by the Baron de Montesquieu, in his *Spirit of Laws*, that there are born, in several parts of Europe, more boys than girls.

*Manufactures.*—The inhabitants of this parish enjoy the advantages of raising, watering, dressing, and spinning of flax, in a high degree, which might surely be an object of great importance, both to flax dealers and manufacturers; though, as yet, there is no established linen manufactory in the parish. For some years past, there has been a small brick-work carried on; but it does not appear, that this branch of manufacture has either enriched its proprietors, or much benefited the parishioners. Several houses have been built within these last 10 years for tradesmen, especially weavers, who have met with due encouragement from the farmers. They are allowed a piece of ground nigh to their houses, on reasonable terms; and are bound to perform no services, except a few day's labour, at different seasons of the year, during which time they receive, from their respective masters, 6 d. *per* day, and their victuals. It is probable that these persons, from their industry, economy, and attention to business, will increase the produce, the wealth, and the population of the parish. There is one brewer in this parish, and 4 persons who sell ale and spirituous liquors, and are known by the name of *tapsfers*. These alehouses are rather for the accommodation of strangers, than for the use of the parishioners, who look upon idleness, debauchery, and intemperance, as the principal sources of human misery.

*Fuel.*—The fuel, commonly used by the inhabitants in the lower part of the parish, is coal, and by those in the higher part, peats and turf.

*Roads*

*Roads and Bridges.*—The bridges in the parish are good. The roads were exceeding bad, but have been altered for the better within the last two years; and at present there are several favourable circumstances, which induce us to hope, that they will soon be repaired to our wishes. By a late act of Parliament, the statute labour has been commuted; and the conversion money raised in this parish has been laid out by the gentlemen of the district to great advantage. Being furnished with every qualification requisite for the improvement of the roads, we may justly be confident, that they will take the most effectual measures in order to complete a scheme, so consonant to friendly intercourse, sympathetic aid, and sound policy. A turnpike road is now making between Dundee and Arbroath, which runs through this parish; and though the tolls charged are considerable, yet the advantages are so visible, both in speculation and in fact, that very much good is expected from it.

*River and Fish.*—The water Elliot, which runs through this parish, from north to south, hath its source in the parish of Carmylie, about the distance of 3 miles from the town of Arbirlot. It was noted, some time past, for trouts of a peculiar relish. At present there are very few in the water. It may be observed, that our young men, instead of using the well dissembled fly to catch the finny race, have of late tried the gun to kill the springing game. This new fashion will, probably, soon be over. For some years past, there has been, at the mouth of the Elliot, a salmon fishery; but, either through the negligence of the person who has the management, or from the different run which that species of fish have taken, very few are caught. By the variety of trees and shrubs on the banks of Elliot, which invite the several kinds of singing birds, and the Castle of Kelly, built upon a rock, by the  
water

water edge, though in a half ruined state, a very beautiful and delightful romantic scene is formed, which is to be seen to great advantage on the road betwixt Arbroath and Arbirlot. The Elliot is not only an object of beauty, but of utility. There are 5 mills upon it; one for cleaning flax, another for dressing yarn, and 3 for grinding corn. A few years ago, the greatest part of this parish was under thirlage to some of the corn mills in the neighbourhood, and payed a very high multure. But the present tenants, desirous of obtaining freedom from this thralldom, agreed among themselves to pay the rents of the several mills to which they were thirled; and the late factor or steward on the estate of Panmure accepted of their proposal; in consequence whereof, they can carry their corn to any mill they please.

*Heritor and Rent.*—The whole parish of Arbirlot, at present, is the property of the Hon. William Maule, brother of the Earl of Dalhousie, by a deed of the late William Maule, Earl Panmure. The valued rent is 4266 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scotch. The real rent is 22 bolls 2 pecks wheat, 454 bolls bear, 519 bolls 8 pecks meal, and 935 l. 11 s. 5 d. Sterling. The rent paid by the tenants varies from 5 s. to 30 s. *per* acre. But ground, in proper culture for flax, is frequently let for one crop, by the farmer, at 5 guineas the acre. There are instances of individuals renting lands, formerly possessed by several tenants, and of removing those people known by the name of cottagers; but whether this has turned out to the advantage or disadvantage of the farmer, is doubtful.

*Church*—The living consists of 57 bolls 4 pecks meal, Linlithgow measure, 44 bolls bear, 10 bolls 12 pecks wheat, and 16 l. 6 s. 11  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. in money, with the addition of a manse, a garden, and a glebe of 4 acres. The value of the living,

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therefore, cannot be estimated above 85 l. Sterling a year. The King is patron. The kirk was repaired in the year 1785, and the manse in the year 1790. There are only a few Seceders in the parish, and no Roman Catholics.

*School.*—The parochial schoolmaster has no legal salary paid him by the heritor. His income consists of 8 bolls of meal, which was mortified in the year 1628, by Alexander Irvine of Drum, then proprietor of Kelly, in favour of the schoolmaster of Arbirlot; and confirmed by his son, Sir Alexander Irvine, Knight, in the year 1637; and 5 bolls 8 pecks of oats, collected from the several tenants in the parish, at the rate of 2 pecks for each plough; which, together with a house, garden, session-clerk's dues, and school fees, may be estimated about 20 l. Sterling *per annum*. The number of children, educated at this school, varies according to the different seasons of the year. In winter, they may be reckoned from 40 to 50; in summer, from 30 to 40; in spring and autumn, from 20 to 30. The presbytery have appointed every parochial school, within their bounds, to be examined once a year, by a committee of their number.

*Poor.*—The poor, being few in number, are tolerably well provided for. In the year 1629, Alexander Irvine of Drum, a gentleman of fortune, then proprietor of Kelly, mortified 12 bolls of meal to the poor in the lands of Kelly, which have been of very great advantage to indigent persons in that part of the parish, especially in the years 1782 and 1783. There are, besides, of certain annual income, 10 l. Sterling, belonging to the poor's fund, being the interest of 4000 merks, lent at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  *per cent.* which, together with the collections in the church on Sundays, and at the celebration of the Lord's supper, produce about 35 l. Sterling a year.—The distribution

tion of this money is considered as a branch of duty belonging to the minister and kirk elders, who meet at various times in the year for that purpose. Part of it is employed in buying coals, coats, and shoes, for indigent persons in the winter season; part in supplying those who need a certain weekly, monthly, or quarterly allowance, according to their necessities; part in teaching poor children of the parish; and part, in relieving such other occasional objects of compassion as make application to them. Of all these disbursements an exact account is kept, for the satisfaction of every fair inquirer who is entitled to ask it. As the kirk session has advantages, both for knowing and supplying the wants of the poor, so its members are extremely attentive to distribute to every one according to his exigencies, inasmuch that there is not at present one beggar belonging to this parish. Vagrants, however, to whom begging is sweet, infect it from week to week, and from day to day, through the revolving year. It were to be wished, that work houses, in every county, were erected for the dissolute and idle.

*Longevity.*—We have several instances of great longevity. There was a man in this parish, who died a few months ago, at the advanced age of 99. About eight days previous to his death, he seemed to have lost all his senses; he neither saw, heard, spoke, felt, nor moved; but received food, when it was put into his mouth.

*Mineral Waters.*—Propitious nature has kindly provided several mineral springs near Arbirlot, one of which had a high character some years ago; and it is to be regretted, that for want of proper accommodation, persons of high rank have declined coming to it. The well is about half a mile distant from Arbirlot, and not exceeding 100 yards from the  
high

high road betwixt Arbroath and Dundee. It is called *Wormy-hills Well*, probably from the formation of the hills about it, which very much resemble worms, especially when they twist themselves. The water of this well has been used with success, both in scorbutic, and in rheumatic disorders. It is deservedly esteemed on account of its medicinal virtue; and being within 200 yards of the sea, persons attending it have the benefit of sea bathing, which, of late years, has been much recommended by our best physicians.

*Antiquities.*—A few years ago, the remains of a religious house in the parish, whose ruins had been revered for ages, were taken down. And though we cannot say at what time, or by what person, it was built, yet from the accounts given of it, we have reason to believe, that it had been a Druidical temple. The province of the Druids, properly so called, was religion; yet they managed matters so dextrously, that they engrossed all power, civil as well as religious; and under the character of either priests, magistrates, philosophers, or physicians, took every thing under their cognizance. In this parish, there are many heaps of stones, which the people call *cairns*. But whether they were at first designed as monuments, raised over the dead, or signs of memorable events, or altars of the druids, is uncertain.

Among the Greeks, there were many heaps of stones, consecrated to Mercury; and among the Latins, there were numberless rude pillars, consecrated to the same divinity, under the denomination of Faunus. It is also certain, that in Gaul and Britain, there were many heaps and pillars exactly similar to these. But we cannot affirm, that the natives of this country performed any religious ceremonies on these cairns, or considered them in any other point of view, than as objects of grateful

grateful remembrance, of mutual confidence, and of future fame.

It is reported, with much confidence, that a crown of one of the kings of the Picts, was found in the Black-den of this parish, by a quarryman, about the beginning of the present century, who sold part of it in the neighbourhood, for 20 l. Scotch; and sent the remainder to London, with a view to procure its real value. But by some unforeseen occurrence, he and his family were prevented from reaping that advantage, which might have been expected from so valuable a curiosity.—It is confidentially reported, that a road was made through part of this parish, by Hector Boethius, the Scotch historian, which still bears his name, though somewhat corrupted. It is called *Heckenbois-path*.

*Castle of Kelly*.—Neither the period when the Castle of Kelly was built, nor the proprietors, through a long series of ages, can now be traced. Tradition, however, has handed down a circumstance, which deserves notice, viz. that one Ouchterlony, laird of Kelly, was violently active in demolishing the Abbey at Aberbrothock. Nor is it unlikely that he considered every religious fabric as a relic of idolatry. And being remarkable for the activity of his zeal, he was appointed by the Convention to carry this barbarous deed into execution.—To describe, at large, the beauties of Kelly, and do justice to Nature's varied charms, would require uncommon descriptive powers. The soil does not refuse nourishment to trees of foreign birth. At present there is in the garden, a tree called the *Dall-bound-holly*, remarkable for its beauty. Then exposed to the sun, and sheltered from the chilly blast, it has grown up to full maturity.

*Migratory*

*Migratory Birds.*—The migratory birds are the swallow, the cuckoo, the lapwing, the dotterel, and corn-craick or rail. The sea-gulls are considered as ominous. When they appear in the fields, a storm from the south-east generally follows; and when the storm begins to abate, they fly back to the shore.

*General Character.*—The inhabitants of this parish are sober, industrious, and regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. Sensible of the advantages which they enjoy, both of a civil and religious nature, they wish to relieve the miseries, and promote the happiness of their fellow creatures. They are just in their dealings, true to their promises, liberal to the poor, and mutually helpful to one another.

NUM-

## NUMBER LXVIII.

## PARISH OF DORES.

*(County of Inverness.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN M'KILICAN.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**D**ORES, anciently called *Durris*, is supposed to be derived from the compound word in the Gaelic language, *Tur-ri-ibh*, which, translated into English, signifies, *a rising ground near a water*. Such a rising ground there is in the parish, whose sides are washed by Lochness. It lies within the county and presbytery of Inverness, and synod of Moray; and is about 20 miles in length, and 3 or 4 in breadth.

*Soil and Climate.*—The soil is generally light, but not much cultivated, as the ground is occupied by a number of small tenants, who have but short leases of their farms, and consequently no encouragement to improve them, either for their own or their masters advantage. The mountains, which inclose the valley on the north and south, protect it from all winds, except those from the west and east; whereby, in hot seasons, the summer heat is increased so much, that the corn and grass would be in danger of being quite parched, were it not for the night dews, that frequently fall in great quantities. In the high ground there are several lakes and mountains, to the extent of which the arable land bears but a very

very small proportion. The soil, in some of these, has greatly the advantage over that of the low ground, and is very productive in seasons free from frost, or much rain. The parish, in general, though better calculated for pasturage than for raising corn, produces as much grain as is sufficient for the subsistence of its inhabitants. The air is esteemed salubrious, and many live to a good age, though there are no instances of great longevity. There are, however, in the neighbourhood, 3 men and their wives, whose ages, added together, amount to 510 years.

*Cultivation and Produce.*—The crops chiefly produced here are oats, barley, and potatoes, on the latter of which the poorer sort chiefly depend for subsistence. The new mode of farming can hardly be said to be introduced into this parish, except at Gortuleg, the property of James Fraser, Esq; writer to the signet, who spares no pains nor expence to improve it. His tenants have also got good leases; and his patriotic example, in both these respects, is deserving of imitation. The season of sowing oats is from the 20th of March to the middle of April. The sowing of barley begins about the 12th May, and continues to the end of that month. The reaping of the crop, unless the season is wet and cold, as happened last year, is from the beginning of September to the middle of October.

*Wages.*—Male servants receive from 3 l. to 5 l. Sterling *per annum*; and the females from 30 s. to 35 s. There are few day labourers, (as many of the young lads go out of the county for work, in the summer and harvest), which obliges the tenants to keep more domestic servants, especially in harvest, than their farms can well afford to support. On this account, more than from unskilfulness in husbandry, some discover

discover an inclination to abandon tillage, and throw their lands into pasturage. A married servant, with 3 or 4 children, if he and his wife are sober and industrious, can live more comfortably than many of the farmers. Besides his wages, he has ground from his master for planting as many potatoes as he can gather manure fit to raise them. Tradesmen, such as masons, wrights, taylors, &c. unless they work by the piece, are allowed 18 d. a day, or 1 s. and their maintainance. Day labourers, employed in casting peats, receive 9 d. a man, and 6 d. a woman.

*Population.*—The population, of late years, if a conclusion may be drawn from the births entered in the parish register, has rather decreased. By a survey lately taken, (in April 1791), the number of souls amounted to 1365; of whom 610 were males, and 755 females. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1520. There appears to be, therefore, a decrease, on the whole, of 155. The births and marriages, for the last 10 years, as recorded in the parish register, are as follows:

	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1781	46	24	22	6
1782	44	19	25	3
1783	37	22	15	5
1784	19	11	8	9
1785	23	14	9	10
1786	29	17	12	8
1787	23	12	11	7
1788	30	16	14	12
1789	34	19	15	15
1790	33	17	16	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	318	171	147	80
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Average,	32	17	15	8



*Heritors.*—There are 8 heritors, only one of whom, viz. Mr Frazer of Gortuleg, occasionally resides in the parish. The non-residence of heritors may, in the opinion of some, be an advantage, as hereby that degree of luxury is prevented, which excites particular persons to aim at making a higher figure than is consistent with their circumstances; but perhaps it would be for the general good of the tenants, that they were like a family, under the immediate eye and observation of their master, so that his care might extend, as much as possible, to every individual residing upon his property. Indeed while the rents and produce of almost all the estates in a parish are spent out of it, no great improvement can be expected to take place.

*Roads.*—The roads of communication are properly attended to by the gentlemen concerned, and annually repaired. The statute labour is converted into money. The sheriff of the county, who is an heritor, takes an active concern in every thing that regards the police of the county in general, and of this parish in particular. He is ever labouring at the suppression of vices in general, especially such as are the most likely to affect the welfare of the community.

*Church and School.*—The stipend is 40 l. Sterling, and 3 chalders of victual, half bear, half meal. It has not been augmented since the year 1740. The glebe contains exactly 4 acres. The manse was built upwards of 50 years ago, and has since undergone various reparations.—The parochial school is far from being in a flourishing condition. The number of scholars has not, at any time, at least since the admission of the present incumbent, in 1785, exceeded 20. The salary is only 100 merks.

*Poor.*

*Poor.*—There are 60 on the poor's roll; but there is no fund established, as the law directs, by assessment on the landed property, for their maintenance. The only parochial fund for their relief, is the annual interest arising from 70 l. Sterling, mortgaged by gentlemen who were heritors of the parish, and the weekly collections at the church, which amount to about 4 l. a year. The poor here, as is the case with most of the poor in the northern counties of Scotland, ask alms, not only at the dwelling houses of the inhabitants of their own, but of other parishes. It is much to be wished, that every parish would enter into a resolution to observe the law for maintaining their own poor, when they cannot work, as vagrants and sturdy beggars, who are the pests of society, and may well be called the public robbers of the poor, would thus be effectually detected and discountenanced.

*Lakes.*—Lochness and its environs furnish excellent materials for a beautiful landscape. It lies E. N. E. and W. S. W. and is 22 miles in length, and from 1 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. The depth, in the middle, is from 60 to 135 fathoms. The flowing, occasioned by continued rains, and melting of snow, is from 8 to 10 feet perpendicular from the low water mark. The loch is so deep at the sides, that, except at the points of Torr and Foyers, a ship of the line might sail within her length of the shore, from end to end, on either side. The wind being confined, by the great height of the hills, on both sides, as it were in a funnel, blows almost always either straight up or down the loch, a circumstance much against the navigation of it; as is likewise that of the heavy squalls which blow from all the glens and gullies, when the wind inclines either to the north or south. A decked vessel may turn to windward, from one end to the other, in moderate weather in 3 days, but must anchor every night. There is  
good

good anchoring ground at both ends, and at Urquhart Bay, Alt Say, and Port Clair, on the north side; and Inverfarigach and Foyers on the south. There is also a safe creek at the Horse Shoe.

The lake never freezes, which is supposed to be owing to its great depth, and sulphureous bottom; and the high hills, with which it is inclosed on the south and north, present to one sailing on the lake, a pleasant view of wood, pasture, rivers and rivulets, corn fields, broken fleeps, and irregular precipices. In this large body of water there are many trouts of 3 or 4 pounds weight, and some salmon, which pass the cruives in the river Ness, when it is high. There is no regular salmon fishing on the lake, as the expence of fishing, on an average, exceeded the profits. Fort Augustus, which lies at the farther extremity of the lake, is well situated for an woollen manufacture, as it is in the mouth of the Highlands, where many, who were distressed by the extension of sheep farms, still continue to reside, from an invincible attachment to their native country, though they have scarce sufficient employment to maintain them. There are several other lakes, besides Lochness, in this parish, which abound with small trout; but the inhabitants near them fish more for their amusement than for subsistence, and never for sale. It is remarkable, that one of these lakes never freezes in winter, but frequently does in spring.

*Wood and Animals.*—There are several extensive fir plantations in the parish, which are in a thriving condition, and conveniently situated for the market.—Besides the common animals for domestic use, there are deer, roes, badgers, foxes, hares, pole-cats, wild cats, and weasels.

*Antiquities.*

*Antiquities*.—At the distance of 3 miles from the lake, are to be seen the vestiges of a fort, called *Castal Dunriachan*, which some reckon a corruption of *Castal Dun Ri-chuan*, or *the Castle of the King of the Ocean*, a name which it is supposed to have got, at the period when the king of Norway and Denmark was master of the sea. A little to the east of that fort, there are several cairns or heaps of stones, and one almost equal in size to all the rest. Tradition reports that FINGAL, so much celebrated in Ossian's poems, here engaged in battle *Asbi*, the son of the Norwegian king, and killed him, which gave the name of *Drumashbi*, or *Asbi's Hill*, to the scene where this event happened. The inhabitants point out the chair where Fingal rested on the occasion, and which is still called *Sheir Finn*, or Fingal's Chair. About 9 miles distant there is another fort called *Dundardell*, which is said to have been one of the many forts in the great valley, extending from the German Ocean at Inverness, to the Atlantic at Fort William, that were intended for making signals, by fire, of the enemy's approach, during the times of the Danish and Norwegian incursions; and indeed they are so situated, with respect to each other, as to be very well calculated for such a purpose.

*General Character*.—The people, in general, are sober, quiet, and industrious. There are, however, some exceptions. The tenants would be better pleased with their condition, if they obtained longer leases than are commonly granted them, and their servants were more moderate in regard to wages.

NUM-

## NUMBER LXIX.

## PARISH OF AIRTH.

(County of Stirling.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT URE.

*Origin of the Name.*

THE name *Airth*, is of Gaelic extraction, and is derived from the word *ard* or *ardbé*, which, in that language, signifies a high or eminent place. Probably it bears that name, because the hill of Airth, on the south-east corner of which the church and mansion-house are built, rises considerably higher than the grounds immediately adjacent. The perpendicular height of this hill is upwards of 70 feet. From the mansion house of Airth, and every part of the Hill, there is a delightful and extensive prospect, over a country rich, populous, and beautifully diversified. In this prospect, part of 10 or 12 counties are to be seen.

*Situation and Extent.*—Airth lies in the county and presbytery of Stirling, and in the synod of Perth and Stirling. The extent of the parish, upon the side of the river, is about 6 miles, its medium length 5, and its breadth fully 2 miles. The figure is irregular, and approaches nearest to the parallelogram. The whole parish is a plain, the hills of Airth and Dunmore excepted. This last hill is termed, by some writers, *Airth-beg*, or Little Airth.

*Soil.*

*Soil.*—The soil is, in general, a strong deep clay, but the Hill of Airth is a very rich mould. It is believed, a great part of the low ground, near the river, once made part of its bed, as many sea shells are mingled with the earth; and a few years ago, an anchor was found upon Dunmore hill, by the Earl of Dunmore, about half a mile from the present course of the river, when digging a few feet below the surface. At a small distance from the same place, there is a large stone, called *Carling Stone*, to which the cables of ships are supposed to have been fastened, and of which there are still evident marks. On the west side of the parish, there are part of two mosses, called the Mosses of Dunmore and Letham. Within these 25 years, 100 acres of ground have been gained from that part of the Moss of Dunmore which belongs to the Earl, and added to the arable land. Here are settled 30 families, called *Moss Lairds*, as the ground is given them for a certain number of years, at a very low rent, in recompence for their labour in clearing away the moss. The settlers are industrious and healthy. The moss is from 5 to 10 feet deep, and when removed, the soil under it is not inferior to that of the neighbouring Carse.

*Climate, &c.*—The air is pretty dry, and free from fogs; and, though mists are frequently seen on the distant hills and high grounds, yet they are seldom experienced here. The people, in general, are healthy and laborious. The sea breezes, doubtless, contribute to the health of the inhabitants on the river side. Though the people in the Carse are said to be much subject to the ague, of late years instances of that disease have been few.

*Rivers and Fish.*—There is a small river, which runs through the parish, from west to east; it takes its rise in St. Ninian's

Ninian's parish, and discharges itself into the Forth, at *Higgin's Neuck*. Stream tides flow in this rivulet a mile or more from its mouth. In time of great rains, it overflows its banks; if these fall in harvest, it is hurtful to the farmers in its immediate neighbourhood. This small river is between 20 and 30 feet in breadth in many places, and has 5 stone bridges over it. One of these is on the public road, leading from the villages of Dunmore and Airth, to Carron and Falkirk. It is called the Abbey-town Bridge, which name corroborates an opinion many have entertained, of there having been formerly an abbacy at Airth, belonging to the Abbey of Holyroodhouse; and that this bridge had that name, from its being the direct road to the abbey town. It also appears, from several old writs, that the parish of Airth belonged to the Bishop of Edinburgh, during the times of Episcopacy. The fish caught in the river Forth are salmon, herrings, flounders, and trouts. Cod and turbot are also sometimes taken. Salmon are chiefly caught in July and August, with staff-nets, at the time of low water, and are all consumed by the parishioners. Within these 25 years, 300 acres have been gained from the river Forth, and made good arable ground. It is defended from the river by a strong dike of fods.

*Hills, Coal, &c.*—The hills of Airth and Dunmore abound with free-stone, and the rock, in many places, is within a few feet of the surface. The stones are used for building walls and houses. There is a fine coal under the rock in both hills, and in the flat fields around. The greatest part of the level free coal of the former was wrought some time ago; at present there is no work carrying on, although there is a great deal of coal still in the ground, which might be wrought to advantage. The latter, viz. Dunmore, has been wrought

wrought, to considerable extent, for many years past, and the work is still carrying on. This coal consists of 3 or 4 seams; a great deal of the parish, and adjacent places, are supplied from it, and a considerable quantity is exported. The fire engine at these coal works, is the second that was built in Scotland.

*Ferries.*—There are two well known and much frequented ferries in the parish, viz. the ferries of Kerrie and Higgin's Neuck. The former is about half a mile in breadth. The proprietor, John Francis Erskine, Esq; of Mar, lately built a pier upon each side of the river, which renders it commodious for passengers, and all kinds of carriages, with or without horses, either at high or low water. The latter, viz. Higgin's Neuck, is about a mile in breadth. There is a passage boat once a day, from Airth and Dunmore to Alva, and the places opposite; its time of departure varies according to the tide. There are three harbours, viz. Airth, Dunmore, and Newmiln, all of which are within the precincts of the customhouse at Alloa. At each of them vessels are occasionally built.

*Wood.*—There is a wood of considerable extent upon the Hill of Dunmore, which consists of birch, oak, ash, elm, beech, and fir. On the side of the hill, contiguous to the moor, upwards of 40 acres have lately been planted with oaks and firs, most of which are at present in a very thriving condition. There are a great number of fallow trees planted about many farmers houses, and interspersed through the fields, which add greatly to the beauty of the country.



*Orchards.*—There are 9 in the parish, which let annually at from 10 l. to 20 l. each. The fruits which they produce are, apples, pears, cherries, and plumbs.

*Rent.*—The rents are paid chiefly in meal and barley, at the rate of 10 firlots *per* acre; which, when converted, are, at an average, for the last 20 years, from 1 l. 14 s. to 1 l. 18 s. *per* acre, and upwards. When the rent is paid all in money, it is from 1 l. 14 s. to 2 l. 2 s. according to the quality of the soil. The valued rent of the parish is 8638 l. 16 s. Scotch.

*Farms.*—The farms are mostly small; few exceed 50 or 60 acres, and the greatest number are from 20 to 30. The farmers generally put 3 horses into their ploughs; but of late, the mode of using only 2 horses, which are driven by the ploughman, has taken place, and, it is hoped, will soon universally prevail throughout the parish.

*Produce.*—The crops are wheat, barley, oats, beans, pease, and potatoes. The wheat is sown after fallow or potatoes. Those who sow no wheat, divide their farms nearly into 3 parts, one of which is sown with barley, another with oats, and a third with pease and beans. Of these the barley crop is by far the most expensive, as it requires most manure and labour. There is more grain produced in the parish than is sufficient to maintain its inhabitants. Many bolls of beans and pease are sent to Falkirk every Thursday, and sold there. Barley is sold to distillers and brewers in the neighbourhood; but most of the oatmeal is consumed in the parish.

*Mode of Agriculture, and Expence of Labour.*—The barley fields must be three times plowed. The first plowing is in  
November,

November, the second in March, and the last in the end of April or beginning of May. Previous to the last, a quantity of lime and dung is spread upon the fields. The effects of the lime are particularly beneficial; in hard clay ground, it separates the stiff particles from each other; and, if the soil is soft and wet, it sucks up the exuberant moisture. The farmer should be very attentive, as to the time and manner of putting lime on his barley fields. Perhaps the best time is the beginning of November, when the ground should be plowed with a very thin and flight furrow, as the lime naturally sinks into it. By its being put on at this season, the saline particles, and hot burning quality of the lime, are absorbed by the earth, and incorporated with it through the winter; whereas, if it be deferred till after the second or third plowing, little advantage is derived from it that season; and in case of much drought, it is often found to be hurtful. There is a prejudice entertained by many farmers, that lime is not beneficial to light sandy ground. This opinion may be presumed to proceed from the want of a fair trial; for it is well known, that lime incorporates with sand, and tends to consolidate its small particles, and to give the ground a peculiar strength and firmness. The farmers often roll their barley fields with a heavy wooden or stone roller: This, in a dry season, is of great use, as it tends to preserve the moisture in the ground, and hinders the drought from penetrating into it; but if heavy rains fall soon after the rolling, it is necessary to open the surface with the harrow. It may be observed, that the barley sown in April is the strongest grain; but that sown in the middle of May is the most prolific. Beans and pease are sown in the beginning of March, the oats immediately after. Ploughmen's wages, at present, are from 8*l.* to 10*l.* *per annum*. Those of servant maids,  
from

from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. About 20 years ago, the former had from 5 l. to 6 l. ; and the latter, from 30 s. to 40 s.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants, in 1755, was 2316. The population has not since decreased. The families in the parish are 508 ; these families, by the nearest computation, exceed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in each family at an average ; and the whole population may be stated at about 2350. The villagers are about 1200 ; tradesmen and seamen about 140. The annual average of births, for the last 10 years, is 66 ; of deaths, 54 ; and of marriages, 20.

*Decline of Trade.*—The trade in Airth, prior to the year 1745, was very considerable, but has since been on the decline, owing to a number of vessels being burnt at that period. The occasion of this was, that the rebels, having seized a small vessel at a narrow part of the river, called Fallin, by means of it transported a number of small brass cannon to the harbours of Airth and Dunmore, near each of which they erected batteries, and placed their cannon. Upon the King's vessels coming from Leith to dislodge them, a reciprocal firing took place. The commanders of the King's vessels, finding their efforts ineffectual, failed down the river with the tide, and gave orders to burn all the vessels lying on the river side, to prevent them falling into the hands of the rebels, who might have used them as transports, and harassed the people on both sides of the river. The loss of these vessels were severely felt by the trading people in Airth, and trade has since removed to Carronshore and Grangemouth.

*Shipping.*

*Shipping*.—There are at present 8 vessels belonging to the parish. Some of these are employed in the Baltic, others in the coal and lime trade.

*Church and Schools*.—The stipend is 69 bolls of meal and barley, and about 1000 merks of money, with a manse, and glebe of 10 acres of good arable ground. The patron of the parish is James Graham, Esq; of Airth.—There is an established school in it, and a schoolmaster, who has a dwelling house and legal salary allowed him by the heritors. The number of scholars, taught in it, is between 70 and 80. There are some other schools of lesser note; but the masters of these have no allowance, except what is given them by the parents of those children whom they instruct.

*Heritors*.—There are 5 heritors, who reside constantly or occasionally in the parish, and 6 who do not reside in it. Besides these, there are several lesser heritors and feuers.

*Poor*.—The number of poor supplied weekly is 30; and of occasional poor, there are about 12. They are supplied by an annual assessment, which the heritors voluntarily impose upon themselves, the one half of which is paid by them, and the other by their tenants. By the interest of money, the assessment, and the weekly collections, the sum given annually to the poor is between 80 l. and 90 l. Sterling.

*Antiquities*.—There are 3 antient towers in the parish, one at Airth, another at Dunmore, and a third at Powfouls. The tower at Airth was built before Sir William Wallace's time, who lived at the beginning of the 14th century. If credit can be given to Blind Harry's poetical history of that hero, he says, that Wallace came privily into this tower, slew the captain

captain and 100 men, and relieved his uncle, who was a prisoner in it. This tower is in good repair; it makes part of the house of Airth, and bears the name of *Wallace's Tower*. The antiquity of the other two is not accurately ascertained. In one of the aisles of Airth church, belonging to the family of Airth, there is a black marble stone built in the wall, with the *Bruce's* arms elegantly engraved above it, bearing the following inscription in very neat legible characters.

M. S.

ALEXANDRO BRUSSIO,  
 EX ROBERTI BRUSSII SCOTORUM REGIS  
 FILIO NATU SECUNDO, PROGENITO,  
 BARONI AIRTHENSI.  
 PRIMUM IN BELGIO PER ANNOS XLII.  
 DEIN IN ANGLIA PRO TRIBUNO REGIO.  
 Viro cum strenuo tum pientissimo,  
 Ætatis, anno LVI. vitæque simul defuncto,  
 A. D. XVII. Kal. Oct. CIO DC XLII.  
 G. LAUDERUS AFFINIS, M. P.

BRUSSIVS hic fitvs est; pietate an clarior armis,  
 Incertum est; certum regibus ortus avis.

Heer lyes a branche of Bruffe's noble stemm,  
 Airth's Baron, whose high worth did fvtè that name.  
 Holland his courage, honovred Spain did feare,  
 The Sweeds in Fvnen bought the trial deare.  
 At last his Prince's fervice called him home,  
 To die on Thames his bank, and leave this tombe,  
 To bear his name unto posteritie,  
 And make all braue men loue his memorie.

*Mineral*

*Mineral Springs.*—There is a well, near Abbeytown Bridge, called *Lady-Well*, which is thought to be medicinal. Numbers have used it, and still use it, as such. It is supposed to have obtained that name, from the holy water, in the time of Popery, being taken from it, to supply the abbacy, or Catholic chapel, then at Airth.

*General Character of the People.*—The morals of the people are, in general, good; and most of them are sober, industrious, and attentive to their respective employments. They are particularly regular in attending Divine worship every Sunday, at the parochial church, and are, upon the whole, a well-behaved and respectable set of people.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXX.

## PARISH OF KINNELLAR.

*(County of Aberdeen.)**By the Rev. Mr GAVIN MITCHELL.**Situation and Extent.*

**T**HE parish of Kinnellar is situated in the presbytery, synod, and shire of Aberdeen. It forms an area of 4000 acres, and is of narrow extent; consisting chiefly of an irregular assemblage of hills, none of which, however, rise to any considerable elevation, or display any thing very wild or dreary in their aspect.

*Soil and Cultivation.*—The whole parish is either actually cultivated, or at least susceptible of cultivation. Even the hills are partly cultivated, both upon the sides and the summit. Their tops are partly covered with thriving plantations of firs. In other places, where they produce heath, or a strong coarse species of grass, they are still reserved for pasture. The low ground dividing the hills, is, for the most part, swampy. The soil of the hills, wherever they discover any appearance of heath, is warm, kindly, and, in some degree, sandy.

*Cattle, &c.*—Great numbers of sheep were formerly fed here; but these have decreased, and do not now exceed 447,  
more

more advantageous modes of farming having been introduced. Black cattle are more numerous, being at present no fewer than 534; and even these are only the winter stock, kept for labour, and for breeding. In summer, many fields are rented by strangers for grazing cattle, which they introduce from different places; and even the farmers of the parish purchase additional stock, when the grass springs up. These are again sold off, as the year advances. Until January, however, a number continue to be fed in the stalls upon turnips, which are then also driven to Aberdeen, and there sold. Horses are less numerous than they would be, if the practice of plowing with oxen did not prevail. Of these, however, there are in the parish 87. A few swine are fed here; but the greater part are annually fattened, and killed in December or January. In the beginning of spring 1791, there were 39 bee-hives in the parish, which would, no doubt, produce many additional swarms in the course of the summer.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture has been gradually improved to a state of considerable perfection. Grass feeds had not been sown in this parish, in any considerable quantity, before the year 1750; till about that time they were not kept for sale by the merchants in Aberdeen, and consequently could not be much known among our farmers. The culture of turnips was equally unknown at the settlement of the present incumbent. A few only were raised by some gentlemen in their gardens, for kitchen use. In the year 1758, the minister, unwilling to be at great pains in weeding a bed which he had sown in his garden, and which he did not expect to succeed well, tore out the greater part with a hoe, leaving only a few scattered here and there upon the bed; but was much surprised, to find his crop of turnips turn out much



superior to any of the same plant, that he had ever before seen. After this, he continued to hoe and thin all his subsequent growths of turnips in the same manner. In the next year, a neighbouring gentleman sowed some turnips in a field, and although he did not use a hoe in weeding them, yet thinned them so as to leave about a hand-breadth of ground open around each plant. His crops answered equally well. In 1760 or 1761, the practice of hoeing was generally adopted, by all who sowed turnips through the parish. The culture of this plant has, since that time, become gradually more common; and it has contributed greatly to clear the ground of wild oats, and other weeds, which used before to choke the corn; and the turnips have been very profitably made use of, in feeding and fattening cattle. The introduction of grass seeds has been no less favourable in its influence upon agriculture. Before the use of these was known, those parts of our lands which were cultivated, were, (however much exhausted), kept almost continually in crop, the farmers being unwilling to suffer them to rest; because, for the first two years, scarcely any other vegetable but the stinking May weed appeared upon them. The constant succession of crops then was, one crop of barley immediately after the land had been manured; then two crops of oats; after which the manure was again laid on. This succession is still in some measure continued, notwithstanding the improvements which have taken place; but the land is always very much exhausted by successive crops of oats. August and September are commonly the months of harvest labour. On the lands adjoining to the river Don, which passes through the parish, the crops ripen early. They are somewhat later towards the south. March is the seed time for oats; barley is sown in the end of April and beginning of May.

*Prices*

*Prices of Labour.*—Day labourers receive, for their labour, 8 d. a day; but are now beginning to ask more. Carpenters are paid from 10 d. to 1 s.; masons, 1 s. 5½ d.; taylor, 4 d. or 5 d. with victuals. Labourers, who have families, commonly rent a small piece of ground, the work upon which is performed chiefly by their children. The wages of servants, hired by the year or half year, have increased greatly within these 30 years. In 1758, a man servant might have been hired for 1 l. 16 s. 8 d. a year; at present, 5 l. a year are the common wages for men servants who can hold a plough, and perform all such farm work as requires the greatest strength and skill. Others, whose years and dexterity fit them only for work of a less robust nature, receive indeed smaller wages; but even the weakest and most unskilful man servant, cannot be hired for less than 2 l. a year. For the harvest labour alone, they get from 30 s. to 40 s. Women servants are paid at the rate of 2 l. or 2 l. 10 s. a year.

*Ploughs and Carts.*—For some time past, cows and oxen have been used, as well as horses, in drawing the ploughs. The whole number of ploughs, now used in the parish, are 25. Seven of these are drawn by oxen, and from 4 to 10 oxen are yoked in each plough; the other 18 are drawn by horses. Thirty-eight carts are employed in this parish; 6 drawn by a single horse; 28 by 2 horses; and 4, belonging to Mr Leys, a residing heritor, by a horse and an ox each. Cows are sometimes yoked in the plough, as well as oxen.

*Inclosures and Roads.*—The lands are, for the most part, well inclosed. A small part of the public road, which passes through this parish, with the other parish roads, are kept up, either by the statute labour, or by the money received  
from

from such as choofe to pay the commutation, at the rate of 1 s. 6 d. for 6 days.

*Trade and Fuel.*—Besides cattle, considerable quantities of meal and barley are fold at Aberdeen. Peats are the common and principal article of fuel. Coals are also brought from Aberdeen, which is 9 miles distant.

*Rents and Heritors.*—The whole rents of the lands in this parish amount to between 800 l. and 900 l. The heritors are, Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, the Dyer Company of Aberdeen, the managers of the funds of King's College in Aberdeen, Mr Wilson of Glasgow, Mr Leys of Glasgowforest, Mr Robertson of Strachry, and Mr Hog of Auchronie. Two chaises are kept by gentlemen residing in the parish.

*Church and Poor.*—The stipend is 70 bolls of meal, 10 of bear, and 340 merks Scotch in money. The glebe consists of about 5 acres of land, not the worst in the parish. The east end of the church was antiently a Popish chapel. Near the door still remains what seems to have been a font for holy water, inscribed with the date A. C. 1534. The west end of the church was built before the erection of the bell-fry, in 1615.—Four poor families are at present assisted from the funds of the parish, under the management of the kirk session. The weekly collections, making about 5 l. Sterling a year, and the interest of a mortified fund of 60 l. are the only sums which the session has to apply to their relief.

*School.*—The parochial school is far from being liberally endowed. The schoolmaster's yearly salary is 100 merks Scotch, paid by the heritors. He also receives, as session clerk,

clerk, 20 l. Scotch a year; with 6 s. 8 d. Scotch for each baptism, and 16 d. Sterling for each marriage. The wages paid by the scholars are, 1 s. 6 d. Sterling a quarter for English and writing; 1 s. for English alone; and 2 s. for Latin and arithmetic. The medium number of scholars is 30 in winter, and 16 in summer. The parish has at present an excellent schoolmaster.

*Population and Diseases.*—The great body of the inhabitants consists of farmers, with their families and servants. As no manufactures are carried on, there are few mechanics, and no villages. Too many cattle, indeed, are kept in this parish, to admit of its being a thriving nursery of the human species. Not that it is much afflicted with dangerous distempers; although inflammatory and putrid fevers appear occasionally. In autumn 1790, a complication of fever and rheumatism, which, on the third day, brought on a delirium, prevailed in the parish; but scarcely any died of it. The circumstance chiefly inimical to the increase of its population is, that, as a few hands are sufficient for the management of black cattle, the rest go elsewhere for employment, as they grow up. Even the inclosures, in many respects so beneficial, are, in one instance, unfriendly to population. Boys and girls were employed to tend cattle, while feeding in the open fields; but in grass parks, a cow-herd is hardly necessary. This is one cause of the great decrease of inhabitants within these 30 years, which amounts to nearly one fourth since 1765. The decrease since 1755, however, is not so great, being only 56, or about one seventh on the whole; as the return to Dr Webster, on that occasion, was 398. The table here subjoined, exhibits an accurate state of the population of Kinnellar, for these last 34 years.

POPULATION

**P O P U L A T I O N T A B L E.**  
*Containing a List of Dwelling Houses, Souls, Births, and Deaths, for the following Years, which the Minister knows to be exact.*

**EPIDEMICAL DISEASES.**

Years.	Dwelling houses.	Souls.	Births.		Deaths.
			Mal.	Fem. Tot.	
1758	96	411	7	5	12
1759	98	430	7	4	11
1760		430	2	8	10
1761	}	*	6	5	11
1762		*	8	3	11
1763	93	412	4	6	10
1764	102	442	5	9	14
1765	100	443	6	3	9
1766	102	443	6	5	11
1767	100	419	6	4	10
1768	102	428	5	8	13
1769	100	430	2	6	8
1770	97	411	4	7	11
1771	96	409	4	2	6
1772	93	424	2	11	13
1773	95	419	4	7	11
			78	93	171
					84

\*\* (Lifts only taken of examinable persons, and therefore not here stated.)

{ A fever, chiefly about Auchronie, where the ground is wet, and the habitations poor, was very prevalent, and a stranger.

{ A putrid fever cut off many in this parish, and in Skene: 33 burials within 3 weeks, in these two parishes. A stop was put to it, when it came near the manse, by the minister's sifter, who gave a bottle of strong beer warmed, in the beginning. This produced a great perspiration, and carried off the fever from all that took it, after severals had died who used the bark, and other medicines.

Small-pox and a fever.

POPULATION TABLE Continued.

Years.	Dwelling houses.	Souls.	Births.	
			Mal.	Fem. Tot
1774	92	402	78	93
1775	96	406	2	3
1776	91	412	11	5
1777	84	383	5	5
1778	85	392	9	6
1779	82	365	7	4
1780	85	387	2	6
1781	84	391	5	7
1782	82	364	7	1
1783	84	368		
1784	91	388	12	130
1785	78	353		257
1786	75	332		
1787	79	352		
1788				
1789				
1790	67	317		
1791	74	342		

There are two births in this list, which are not in the parish register, }  
 } two boys having been baptized by a Nonjurant clergyman.

In the 11 years, in which there is a list of deaths, the baptisms  
 were, 116  
 Deaths, 84

Increase of population by this parish in 11 years, - - - 32

The burials in the church-yard of Kinnellar, are generally more than  
 the deaths in the parish; there being several families, whose connections  
 are buried here from other parishes, particularly those of the name of Keith,  
 Biffet, Abel, Wood, Moir, Leith, and Fowler; but the above list contains  
 the number of deaths only.

The minister was indisposed and not able to go through the parish.

*Antiquities.*—Three cairns, with broad bases, still remain in this parish, monuments of a state of arts and manners long since forgotten. One of those cairns, called *Cairn-o-veil*, is placed upon the farm of Kinnellar; another, on the farm of Nether Auguhorsk; and the third, called the *Cairn of Semblings*, or the *Assembly Cairn*, on the top of the hill of Auchronie. Upon the farm of Blackhill were formerly several small cairns, which have been opened and dug to the bottom. In one of them were 3 concentric circles of stones, and within the innermost of these circles, some bones still perfect, but white, as if calcined, upon the surface, and black within. Upon the farm of Upper Auguhorsk there is a large stone, called *Drum Stone*, within sight both of Drum and Harlaw, upon which, tradition says, the Laird of Drum made his testament, immediately before he went to the battle of Harlaw. In the wall of the church-yard, there are some great stones, 10 feet in length, and 4 in thickness, and resting upon the side, which appear to be the remains of a circle of large stones, that once stood in this situation. Another smaller circle, of the same sort, appears to have been placed on the summit of the adjacent hill of Benachard.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A storm of thunder and hail, which happened on the 30th of July 1790, did considerable damage to the turnips. A meteor was observed, on the evening of the 5th of October, passing, at a small distance, eastward from this place, in a direction between south and north. It seemed, when observed, to be low and falling.

## NUMBER LXXI.

## PARISH OF KINCARDINE.

(Counties of Ross and Cromarty.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW GALLIE.

*Origin of the Name.*

IT is well known, that the Highlanders of Scotland were formerly divided into many different clans or tribes, and these again subdivided into families. The clan Ross, as far back as tradition goes, were the proprietors and inhabitants of this district. They still retain three fourths of the property, and are by much the most prevalent name in it. Vestiges of the most antient residence of their chiefs, are still to be seen in a beautiful field, between the church and the sea side. The field terminates in a steep bank, hanging over the sea at high water, called the *Bank of the Gate*, and at the bottom, there is a spring of excellent water, called the *Lady's Well*. The chief of the clan, and his most powerful and confidential friends dwelling here, fixed the name Kincardine, or the *Heads of the Friends*, to the place where they resided. Here pasture for cattle, with fishing and hunting, the favourite employment of the Highlanders, could be had in the greatest variety. The place, therefore, suited their genius, and gave them the easiest access to those exercises, which, requiring coolness, patience, and stratagem, subjecting them, at the same time, to hunger and cold, and obliging them to pass



through deep and rapid rivers, to run over extended heaths, and to climb rocks and mountains, formed at once, both the body and mind, for the toils and arts of war. As they had but a precarious subsistence from their herds, from fishing, and hunting, certain of their numbers were sent to the inviting plains of Easter Ross, for the purposes of agriculture, and when there, looking up towards the country they had left, they would naturally think on the place where the heads of their tribes resided, which they emphatically called *Kincardine*.

The chief of the clan Ross, is mentioned at a very remote period, in the neighbourhood of St. Duthus. This must have happened, when he was invested with the power and jurisdiction of thane; for the town, then a village, close by Duthus's sanctuary, retains the name of that saint in Gaelic, and yet, in English, it is called Tain. The illiterate Highlanders, even of the present day, sound Thane, *Tain*.

*Extent and Situation.*—The parish of Kincardine extends, from east to west, upwards of 30 miles, and its greatest breadth is near 20. At the east end it is very narrow; but widens gradually to the western extremity, where the forest of Balnagown is situated, which is of great extent, and remarkable for the large size of its deer. The parish is situated in the presbytery of Tain, synod of Ross, and counties of Ross and Cromarty. It consists of several straths and glens, and of course abounds with hills and rivers. The soil, in such an extent of ground, naturally varies.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are 10 heritors in the parish, only 3 of whom reside in it. The parish contains about 3000 acres of arable ground and meadow grass. The rent, which is fluctuating, is from 1200 l. to 1300 l. *per annum*.

*Hills and Sheep Walks.*—The hills are of great extent, and many of them abound in the finest heath. Cattle, from the  
low

low country, are pastured on them, for about 4 months, at the rate of 18 d. *per* head; but they are beginning to rise in their value, sheep farmers, from the borders, having taken possessions in the neighbourhood, and inviting their acquaintance, by the success they have had, and the promising appearance of the country, to follow their example.

*Population.*—The number of the inhabitants is at present far short of what it was 16 years ago, when the present incumbent was settled. It was then upwards of 2000, above 7 years of age, whereas there are not now above 1600 examinable persons. There appears, however, to be but little decrease upon the whole within these 40 years, the number returned to Dr Webster, in 1755, being 1743. The chief cause of the late great decrease is, that in 1782, many were reduced to poverty by the loss of their cattle, and the almost total failure of the crop of that year, which occasioned such accumulated distress, that they were obliged to remove with their families, and settle in the low country, as day labourers, or domestic servants\*.

As sheep farming has begun, and is likely to have a great and rapid progress, and several small farms are turned into

one,

\* Having mentioned the distress incurred in the year 1782, the author considers himself called on to record an action of the late gallant Sir John Lockhart Ross, which does him the highest credit. Understanding the distress of the poor people on his estate, he sent a seasonable and bountiful supply of large quantities of pease, barley, flour, and potatoes, to which God-like beneficence many hundreds owed their lives. Let it be added, that he ordered his factor or steward to give his Highland tenants, who did not save as much as would sow their grounds, seed from his farms in the low country, where the failure was, not so great as in the Highlands: And at the conclusion of the war, upon his return to his native country, he discounted one third of the arrears of rent, over the whole of his estate.

one, it is not probable that the number of people will increase, especially in the remote parts of the straths and glens; which, it must be acknowledged, are more fit for the shepherd and his sheep, than for the husbandman with his plough. The number of births and burials cannot be ascertained; many of the children of this parish being baptized by the minister of Creich, and *vice versa*. And when a stranger clergyman passes through either parish, which is often the case, the parents, accompanied by one or more of the elders, wait on him, and get their children baptized. There are 5 burying places resorted to by the inhabitants, and 3 of these are in the parish of Creich. There is no regular grave-digger but at the church.

*Improvements.*—Hitherto there have been few, if any, improvements, worthy of being mentioned; but something in that line is expected soon to be introduced, by two respectable gentlemen, who have taken farms in the parish.

*Wood.*—There is much wood scattered over the parish, though now, not one half, either in respect of size of timber or extent of ground, to what some still living remember. There are no plantations, except at Invercharron and Gladfield.

*Fishings.*—The waters of Oigeal and Carron formerly abounded more in salmon than they do at present. The smaller waters, and the lochs, of which there are a great number, supply those who are in the neighbourhood, and take the trouble of fishing for them, with excellent trouts. Sir Charles Ross fishes with cobles at the Bonar and on the Oigeal, where he has likewise a linn fishing. On the Kyle, Sir Hector Munro hath two fishing stations, and Mr Ross of Inver-

Invercharron one. There is a *yair* at Kincardine, which produces a small rent to Sir Charles Ross. He furnishes wood for standards and saplings. His tenants in the neighbourhood are obliged annually to repair the *yair*, and have the small fish for their trouble. The salmon belongs to the master, or to the tacksmen. The small fish are of several kinds, some of which have no names, but such as the natives invent for them. Early in the season, great shoals of that species of fish, known in England by the name of *white bait*, come up. They grow to the size of anchovies, and are thought to be what are found in the harvest months, (resembling the small winter herrings), found in the Bays of Cromarty and Inverness.

It is worthy of remark, that during the great scarcity in 1783, these fish came up in such astonishing quantities, as to contribute very much to the support of those who fished the *yair*, as well as of many families from the neighbouring county and estates, who were invited to share the bounties of providence in that season of distress. Sturgeon is also found in the *yair*. The incumbent has seen a large one taken from it, that measured  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The country people, thinking it of service to their cattle in certain diseases, carry it home, and preserve it in their houses. Prawns, small rock and ware cod, gurnet, turbot, and padles are found; but for the last 3 years, all the small fish have decreased very much, except flounders.

*Ferries.*—There are 5 ferries; one at Bonar, where the Carron runs into the Firth; one on the river Carron, a mile above the Firth; one at Culrain; one at Tighniriver, and one at Ochtow. The 3 last facilitate the communication between the counties of Ross and Sutherland.

*Manufactures.*

*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures of any consequence carried on in this parish. The act 1746, discharging the Highland dress, had the worst of consequences. Prior to that period, the Highland women were remarked for their skill and success in spinning and dying wool, and clothing themselves and their households, each according to her fancy, in tartans, fine, beautiful, and durable. Deprived of the pleasure of seeing their husbands, sons, and favourites, in that elegant drapery, emulation died, and they became contented with manufacturing their wool in the coarsest and clumsiest manner; perhaps thinking, that since they *must* appear like the neighbouring Lowlanders, the less they shone, in the ornaments of the Lowland dress, they would be the more in character. Their favourite employment thus failing them, rather than allow their girls to be idle, they made them take to the spinning of linen yarn, in which few are yet so improved as to earn 3 d. *per diem*, and much, if not the most of the small earnings of those spinners, is laid out upon flimsy articles of dress; whilst that conscious pride, which formerly aspired at distinction from merit and industry, is converted into the most ridiculous and pernicious vanity, setting them above the drudgery of being useful domestic servants.

*Advantages.*—No corner of Scotland, however, is better adapted, for a manufacturing village, than Kincardine. It is in the near neighbourhood of two great corn counties, has the advantage of water carriage, and a choice of safe harbours, for vessels of 50 tons burden. There is plenty of running water, and of the best Highland fuel. It lies open to several very populous districts, and, were manufactures once established, and shops opened, it would be resorted to by many. There are in the parish, and its immediate neighbourhood,

bourhood, 12,000 fleeces of wool shorn annually \*; the most remote can be delivered at the Kyle-end, and an expence too trifling to be mentioned, would bring them to Kincardine by water. Those who shall first have the spirit to undertake something in the manufacturing line here, will merit the blessings of hundreds, in a corner half depopulated, and in danger of being totally deserted; besides contributing greatly to their own immediate benefit and emolument. Many of the Highland boys and girls are, in the summer and harvest seasons, employed in herding; and as the range of pasture is generally extensive, were the woollen manufactures set on foot, the boys and girls, in the hills and plains, could, at the same time that they tended their cattle, earn as much by knitting stockings, as their full grown sisters at home, by the constant turning of the lint wheel.

*Minerals.*—This parish remains hitherto unexplored, by any who have knowledge of mines. On the farm of Dibi-dale stands one of our highest mountains, called *Carnchui-naig*, on which stones have been found, perfectly similar to those known by the name of *Cairngorms*. Knockirny, where this parish marches with Affint, abounds with marble, white and party coloured.

*Antiquities.*—Craigchonichan lies in this parish, where the gallant Marquis of Montrose fought his last battle, and was defeated by Colonel Strachan. He swam the Kyle, and lay  
for

\* The late Sir John Lockhart Ross of Balnagown, introduced sheep farming into this parish, and the neighbouring one of Creich, in order to employ his Highlanders, and had the erecting of a village in contemplation; but being called to the wars, and his sheep falling under bad management, he sold off his stock; and, at his return, finding himself in the decline of life, dropt his favourite idea.

for some time concealed in Affint; but being discovered and apprehended, he was sent prisoner to Inverness. Attempts were made to throw the odium of betraying this truly great man on M<sup>r</sup>Leod of Affint, who was a royalist, and the friend of Montrose. He went to Caithness to meet him, but Montrose moving southward, by a rout different from what Affint had taken, the Marquis's misfortunes, (his death was none of them), had their full completion, before the Laird of Affint returned to his own country. His family suffered at that time; but when, at the lowest ebb of fortune, it revived again, and now consists of two branches, Geanies and Cadboll, which rank among the most respectable in the counties of Ross and Cromarty. The ground, where the battle was fought, took its present name from the event of that memorable day; it may be translated, *the Rock of Lamentation*. Its antient name is still well known, though rarely used.

Nigh to the church there is an alley, walled in, and terminating in a large semicircle, appropriated to that antient military exercise and discipline, known by the name of *weapon shawing*. In the church yard there is nothing remarkable, but a stone about 5 feet in length, and divided into two cells; the ends and sides are full of figures and characters. An Imperial crown, and a man on horseback, in the act of darting a lance, are still very visible. It appears to be the half of a stone coffin; and tradition says, that the remains of a Prince of Loellin, who died of his wounds in the neighbourhood, were deposited in it. There are several Douns, which are conjectured to have been Druidical temples. They were open at top, and, if the Bel of the Druids was the Terminus of the Romans, it sufficiently accounts for their circular construction, and aperture at top. There are also several of those circles of stone, so frequently mentioned by Ossian, which

which were sacred to Loda, the favourite deity of the antient Scandinavians. Fields of battle can be still traced; but as these were the result of clannish and provincial feuds, a particular account of them is unnecessary.

*Church, &c.*—The church is placed within a mile of the eastern extremity of the parish. It continues to be only thatched with heather, but is well seated, and has a large and well-toned bell, which was captured in a French man of war, and presented to the parish by the late Admiral Sir John Lockhart Ross. Tain is the presbytery seat. The church is 14 miles to the west of that burgh. The manse was lately repaired. The stipend is only 70*l.* Sterling, and being all paid in money, makes the living by far the poorest in the synod of Ross, Contin excepted. The present incumbent is married, and hath 9 children living. Six are dead. There are two preaching stations besides the church, viz. Amat in Strath Carron, and Doun in Strath Oigeal; the one 10, and the other 14 miles, distant from the manse. The parish was long supplied by the committee for managing the Royal bounty, with a succession of missionaries and catechists. These, however, about 2 years ago, were withdrawn, a measure most prejudicial to the temporal and spiritual interests of the people residing in the Highlands where they preached. The inhabitants then could seldom have the means of instruction; the distance of many from the parish church, making the journey tedious and fatiguing, and, in bad weather, dangerous. Marriages and baptisms, however, obliged many to come to church, on which occasions a great expence was incurred; for the open-hearted convivial Highlander, would not pass a public house, without entertaining those who attended him, to the number, perhaps, of two thirds of a village, made up of his relations



and acquaintance. This evil is now happily removed. A respectable lady, who, in this and other acts of charity and beneficence, proceeds according to the rules prescribed in the gospel, has supplied the parish with a missionary; and has it in contemplation to build him a comfortable house, and a genteel chapel for Divine service.

*Poor.*—The number on the roll is not great. There is no fund but what arises from the weekly collections, out of which two ferries are paid for the use of the poor.

*Quadrupeds.*—The number of black cattle and horses is on the decrease; but the breed is improving. England regulates the prices of them. Besides other domestic animals, the parish abounds with deer, roes, hares, foxes, badgers, otters, wild cats, and pole-cats. Squirrels are also found in the woods of Glen Ainaig. It may be added, that the Frith abounds with seals, to the great prejudice of the salmon fishing.

*Birds.*—Besides the several domestic kinds, there are a great variety in the fields, woods, hills, and waters; such as the wood and mountain thrushes, linnets, black birds, starlings, finches of all kinds, field-fares, curlews, wild geese, herons, swans and ducks of various sizes and colours. Birds of prey also abound, viz. eagles, hawks, ravens, kites, and hooded crows. There are some singing birds of a most beautiful plumage, the names of which the incumbent is not acquainted with. There is one species, remarkably small, and of a pale sand colour, which is distinguished for the strength and sweetness of its notes, and sings during the night. By way of ironical contrast to its size, and in compliment to its pipe, it is called the *Giant of the Wood*,  
The

The migratory birds are the cuckow, swallow, green plover, and woodcock. The parish also abounds in game, such as moor fowls, black cocks, ptarmigans, grey plovers, partridges, and snipes.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Janet M'Leod, the remarkable fasting woman, is still living in this parish. A particular description of her case is to be found in Pennant's Tour, and the Encyclopaedia Britannica. She is past 60 years of age, and takes no nourishment but a little of the thinnest gruel, or some such light aliment, which she receives through the aperture made by breaking two of her fore-teeth, for the purpose of feeding her.—This parish has but one fair. It holds in the last week of November. There is commonly a fine shew of Highland cows, fattened on the best heath, and whose beef is allowed to be of the first flavour and taste. They draw from 3 l. to 5 l. *per* head. Butter is sold at 12 s. the Scotch stone; and cheese, at from 4 s. to 5 s. Veal, kid, or lamb for the butcher, are never sold here. The small Highland widders, when fit for killing, fetch from 6 s. to 8 s. *per* head. On the top of the highest mountain in Balnagown's forest, called *Sciulm-a-bbarra*, which is distant many miles from the sea, shells of different sorts of fish are found, some of them in beds well covered with earth.—The statute labour is regularly exacted, and the public roads are improved. Bridges are much wanted.—A common labourer receives 8 d. in summer, and 6 d. in winter, *per* day. Many of the young men and women move southward, when the day lengthens, and the weather becomes mild. By low living, and hard labour, they return with comfortable profits, great part of which they lend out at exorbitant interest, and, during the inclemency of the seasons, they live with, and are a burden on, their friends and acquaintance, especially such as need-

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fity has obliged to borrow their money, and who are not punctual in paying either principal or interest. These are evils to be remedied only by finding proper employment for the people at home.

*General Character.*—The character of the people here, as in most places, is of a mixed nature. Most of them are moral in their lives, and when occasion requires, capable of unremitting industry. In common with most other Highlanders, they are hospitable, of quick parts, of great agility, inquisitive and fond of information, and extremely patient under hunger, cold, and other distresses, from which their southern neighbours would shrink with horror.—They still retain a sacred regard for the clan and family they are sprung from; but it must be allowed, that this feeling is on the decline.—The tale, the song, and the dance, do not, as in the days of their fathers, gild the horrors of the winter night. If those of the present age have not all the blemishes of their forefathers, neither have they the whole of their good qualities. The moderns seem, both with regard to bodily and mental faculties, to be declining. One cause, and perhaps the chief, is, the abundance of whisky introduced by the late distilling act. There are 4 stills in this parish, and more are in contemplation. The retailing houses are upwards of 30. These distilleries are beneficial to individuals; but they seem to be making a rapid progress in debauching the morals, impairing the strength, and affecting the industry of the common people.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXXII.

## PARISH OF TONGUE.

*(County of Sutherland.)*

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM M'KENZIE, and the Rev. Mr  
HUGH ROSS.

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE parish of Tongue is situated in the county of Sutherland, the presbytery of Tongue, and synod of Sutherland and Caithness. It is in circuit about 60 miles, and resembles a spherical triangle, whose hypotenuse forms a capacious bay, from which the parish derives its antient name, Kintail, (*cean an tial*), which, in Gaelic, signifies the boundary of the sea. It is in length, from east to west, 11 miles, and nearly the same in breadth from north to south.

*Soil.*—The soil varies in different parts of the parish, but is frequently rich, and capable of high improvement. By a judicial rental, taken in December 1789, it appears there are only  $89\frac{5}{10}$  penny lands in the parish, which, at 8 acres to the penny land, is  $714\frac{1}{2}$  arable acres; the rest consists of pasture, the extent of which is not ascertained, and much of which is entirely waste.

*Hills, Lakes, and Rivers.*—A semicircular chain of mountains passes nearly through the middle of the parish, the principal of which are *Knoc-Rheacadan*, (The Watchman's Hill),

Hill), *Ben Laoghal* \*, and *Ben Hope*. Ben Laoghal is almost a perpendicular rock, deeply furrowed, and about half a mile high. As it declines towards the west, it is broken into several craggy points, on one of which are seen the remains of a building, called by the country people *Caistal nan Druidhich*, the Druid's Castle. About 300 yards below Caistal nan Druidhich, the eye is relieved by a wood of birch, which seems gradually to descend to a lake, one mile in length, that lies at the bottom of the mountain. The north side is covered with heath, and the east with very fine grass, which affords pasture to a number of cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. On this side lies Loch Laoghal, a lake 4 miles long, and one broad. The river Torrisdale takes its rise from this lake, and discharges itself into the sea at Torrisdale, where the channel is about 20 yards wide, and the water 13 feet deep at spring tides. Ben Hope is more than a mile high from the level of the sea, and, except a few spots which are rocky, is wholly covered with heath. Its appearance, in a calm summer evening, when partly obscured by mist, is wonderfully grand, and infuses into the mind a sublime kind of melancholy. Ben Laoghal, and Ben Hope, make a part of Lord Reay's forest, in which there are supposed to be about 2000 deer. From the foot of Ben Hope to the Whiting Head on the west, and as far as Tongue Bay on the east, the Moine, a long tract of hilly desert, covered with dark heath, and interspersed with greyish rocks,

impaffable

\* Ben Laoghal is famed, in the songs of the bards, as the scene of the death of Dermid, a young man of such extraordinary beauty, that no female heart, of that age, could resist; and withal of such prowess, that even Fingal, whose wife he had seduced, would not himself attack him, but found means to get him slain by a boar. He and the lady, or the boar, (it is not yet determined which), lie buried at the foot of the mountain.

impassable bogs, and stagnant pools of brownish water, presents a prospect uniformly rugged and dreary. At Tongue Bay, the prospect varies. An arm of the sea, skirted on each side with corn fields, inclosed pastures, and farm houses, stretches itself 5 miles into the land. On the west side is Melnefs, an excellent situation for a fishing village, or a woollen manufactory, either of which would be of vast advantage to this part of the country.

*Mineral Waters.*—The parish of Tongue abounds in mineral springs; but none of them have as yet been applied to medical purposes. The most remarkable is at Sculomy, about a mile from Knoc Rheacadan. It has a strong sulphurous taste and smell, resembling, it is said, the Moffat waters.

*Coast and Caves.*—From Tongue Bay, the coast extends 16 miles to the north west, as far as the Whiting Head, the only promontory in the parish, and 6 miles to the east, as far as Torridale. It is in general high and rocky, and is intersected by several small creeks, in one of which (*Port Vaifgaig*), there is a quarry of grey slate, and another of excellent flags, both easily wrought, which are conveyed by boats to different parts of the country. The rocks along the coast are hollowed into caves, or formed into arches and pillars, some of them so regular, that they seem to be the work of art. *Uaidhe-Mhor Fhraisgill*, the Great Cave of Fraisgill, extends more than half a mile under ground. It is about 50 feet high, and 20 feet wide at the entrance, and grows narrow by degrees, till at last a man can scarcely creep in it. Its sides are variegated with a thousand colours, which are lost in each other with a delicacy and softness that no art can imitate. Upon entering the cave, the mind is impressed with a pleasing sort of awe, which is heightened by the so-

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lorn gloominess of the light, the clang of the sea birds that nestle in it, and the mournful dashing of the waves against the adjacent rocks. Numbers of seals are found in this cave. The tides follow the direction of the coast nearly from east to west. There are no currents worth mentioning.

*Antiquities.*—At Melnofs there are the remains of an ancient building; but so ruinous, and so covered with earth, that its original form cannot be distinctly traced. It is called *Dun Bhuidh*, the Yellow heap, and supposed to be erected by Dornadilla, king of the Scotch. The skeleton of two men were found buried near it some years ago. One of them measured in length above 7 feet. Upon being exposed for some time to the air, they mouldered into dust. At the distance of about half a mile from Melnofs, there are several heaps of stones, and ruins of small circular buildings, scattered at various distances, on a rising ground near the sea. The circular buildings are said to have been folds, erected to guard the younger cattle from the wolves, with which, it is supposed, the country was once infested. No account is given of these heaps, though, from the size and situation of them, it should seem a battle had been fought on the spot. —On the east side of the bay lies Tongue, one of the seats of Lord Reay, a beautiful spot, laid out into gardens, surrounded with beautiful trees, which, in some points of view seem on the one side to wave their tops among the cliffs of Ben Laoghal; and, on the other, to lose themselves in the ruins of *Caisla a Bharruich*, a structure so ancient; that there is no consistent tradition concerning it. Perhaps it was possessed by John Mackay Abarach, the greatest name for heroism in this part of the Highlands; and, what renders this conjecture the more plausible, there is a cave in the rock upon which the castle is built, called *Leabuidh Eoin Abaruich*, i. e.

John

John of Lochaber's Bed, whither he is said to have retired in times of danger. A family of the Mackays are descended from him, and are reported still to have in their possession his banner, with this motto, wrought in golden letters, *Biodh treun, Biodh treun*, i. e. Be valiant.

*Islands.*—The principal islands on the coast are, *Ealan na Coomb*, or *Ealan na Naoimh*, i. e. the Island of Saints, *Ealan nan Roan*, or the Island of Seals, and the Rabbit Island. *Ealan na Coomb* had formerly a chapel and burial place in it, the traces of which are still to be seen. On the south side of the island, the sea, after passing for several yards through a narrow channel, spouts up into the air sometimes to the height of 30 feet, through a hole in a rock, which in shape and size is like the moon at full; and a few seconds afterwards, there is a discharge of water from the east side of the island, with a noise and appearance resembling the explosion of a cannon. This happens only when it is half flood, and a smart gale at north-west. *Ealan na Roan* is about 2 miles in circumference, and is inhabited by 4 families, consisting of 36 persons. It is formed of a mixture of sand, and a reddish kind of pebble, which appear as if baked together. About 7 years ago, part of the ground near the middle of this island, sunk in without any visible cause; and, to use Milton's words,

——— 'left it th' midst a horrid vale.'

The Rabbit Island, which lies in the entrance of Tongue Bay, abounds in rabbits. It was formerly called *Ealan a Ghail*, from a combat (tradition says) fought upon it, between one Gaul and Torquil, in which Gaul obtained the victory;

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though it is as likely it was called *Ealan nan Gaeil*, the Island of Strangers, from the Danes having landed upon it\*.

*Fish.*—Ling, cod, haddocks, and skate, are caught on this coast, from May till February, and are mostly used by the country people. They are most in season in November, December, and January. Porpoises and otters frequent the coast, and seals in great numbers. The Bay of Tongue abounds with shell fish of various kinds. In the years 1782 and 1783, numbers of poor people, from all parts of the country, had scarcely any other subsistence, but the cockles and mussels they gathered in this bay. The cockles are in season during the summer, and the mussels during the winter months. Loch Laoghal and the Torrissdale, produce fine trouts, eels, and salmon. The *char* (*tar deargan*) appear in shoals in October, and are caught with nets only. There is a salmon fishing on the Torrissdale.

*Quadrupeds and Birds.*—The several kinds of quadrupeds in the parish are, black cattle, horses, sheep, goats, deers, roes, foxes, hares, and rabbits. The birds are, moor fowls, black cocks, heath hens, partridges, curlews, plovers, snipes, rock pigeons, wild ducks, wild geese, swans, and various kinds of sea fowls. The black and grey eagles build their nests

\* Drum na Conp is famous in this country, for a battle fought there between the Mackays and the Sutherlands, in which the Mackays obtained a complete, though mournful victory; for their aged chieftain was accidentally slain by Jomhar Macmhathan, a poltroon, who had been spurred on, by the contemptuous carriage of his wife, to engage in the contest of heroes. Till he agreed to fight, she fed him with pottage, a dish which no person of spirit in this country will deign to taste, as it has been reckoned, since Macmhathan's time, *beaib fir us diaigh feach*, i. e. *the food of cowards*. It must not be omitted, that Matheson's head was fixed on a pole, at a place called, from that circumstance, *Gnocan an Ceann*, the Hillock of the Head.

nefts in Inland na Comb and the Whiting Head. Hawks and owls are sometimes met with. The migratory birds are, wood-cocks, rails, cuckows, and fwallows.

*Number of Black Cattle, &c.*—The number of black cattle, belonging to this parish, is supposed to be,

2142	
— of horses,	538
— of sheep,	2846
— and of goats,	714

They sell every year 200 cattle and 100 horses, which, at 2 l. 10 s. each, is 750 l.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, from the parish of Tongue, in 1755, was 1093 souls. By an accurate enumeration, made, at last spring survey, in the course of catechetical exercises, it was found that there were, at that period, (*anno 1791*), 1439 souls in this parish, of whom about 200 were under 8 years of age; 23 between 60 and 70; 9 between 70 and 80; and 8 between 80 and 90. The principal cause of the increase of population, is the subdivision of farms, which, by affording employment and provision for a greater number of people, encourages industry and early marriage, and increases the natural attachment to their native soil. There are, however, about 140 more females than males in the parish. In regard that two populous districts of the parish, detached, at the distance of several miles from the principal part of it, but adjacent to the neighbouring parishes of Farr and Durness, receive baptism, &c. from the ministers of these respective parishes, on account of their vicinity, the dates of births, &c. in these bounds, have been neglected, from time immemorial, to have been given in regularly to the session clerk of Tongue for registration. This neglect is to be remedied in future, as it is determined that

that these ordinances shall not be administered, without certificates from the clerk, bearing, that the facts of births, contract of marriages, &c. have been duly entered in the records of session.—In the body of the parish, for some years past, the births did not exceed 17 *per annum*. The number of baptisms, during last year, was 47, and of marriages, 17. It is difficult, at present, to ascertain the deaths that annually happen in the parish, as some, in the detached bounds above mentioned, bury their dead in the burial grounds of adjacent parishes; and of late, others have been so wise as to enter in ground within the district, recently set apart for that purpose. The number of burials last year was 21.

*Food, Fuel, Diseases, &c.*—The principal food of the people, in general, is potatoes, of which they now raise great quantities. Along with these they have butter, cheese, milk, and fish; and such of them as are richer have sometimes mutton and beef. They are well provided in fuel, the mosses which cover a great part of the parish furnishing them with peats; and, in the winter nights, the moss fir, when dried and cut into stakes, affords a strong, though not a clear light, and serves them instead of candles. The most prevalent distempers are rheumatisms, fluxes, consumptions, and fevers of the nervous and intermitting kinds, all which may be attributed to the moistness of the air, the damp situation of the houses in general, and their low and confined structure. The small-pox used to make terrible havock, till, about 5 years ago, a gentlewoman, by introducing inoculation, was the means of preserving many lives. She inoculated 99 with her own hand, and paid them such attention, during the progress of the malady, that, except one, they all recovered.

*Mode*

*Mode of conducting Burials.*—Burials are conducted in this parish with very great decorum. None, even of the common people, attend without a particular invitation. After some entertainment, (for at the burial of the poorest here, there is a refreshment given, consisting generally of *whisquy-beath*, or some foreign liquor, butter and cheese, with oat bread), the friends of the deceased, and neighbours of the village, who come to witness the interment, are drawn up in rank and file, by an old serjeant, or some veteran who has been in the army, and who attends to maintain order, and give, as they term it here, the word of relief: Upon his crying *Relief!* the 4 under the bier prepare to leave their stations, and make room for other 4, that instantly succeed. This progression is observed, at the interval of every 5 minutes, till the whole attendants come in regularly; and if the distance requires it, there is a second, a third, or a fourth round of such evolutions gone through. When the persons present are not inflamed with liquor, which is now seldom the case, there is a profound silence generally observed, from the time the corpse has been taken up, till the interment is over.

*Church and Heritor.*—The church of Tongue was first built in the year 1680. It was almost entirely rebuilt in the year 1731, and repaired in the year 1778. The manse was built in the year 1787. Lord Reay claims the patronage of this parish. He is the only heritor in it. The value of the living, including the glebe, is about 54 l.

*Schools.*—There are two schools in this parish. One of these was erected last year, by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, with a salary of 12 l. *per annum*. It is stationed at Melness, and was visited, in April last, by a committee of the presbytery, whose report bears, that there

were

were then 30 scholars, 10 of whom were girls; and that the teacher is well accommodated, and the proficiency of his scholars considerable for the time they have attended. The other, the parochial and grammar school, is situated not far from the church, on the banks of the little river of Rhians, near the arm of the northern ocean, called the Bay of Tongue, which divides the parish into two distinct parts. It consists of a house 40 feet long, and 15 broad, built with stone and mortar, containing an apartment in one end for the master, and in the other, the school-room, accommodated with writing tables, benches, and a desk for the preceptor, lighted by 6 glass windows. There has been lately a decret of presbytery for its thorough repair.—The stated salary is  $\text{£}1\text{ l. }2\frac{1}{2}\text{ d.}$  the one half of which is paid by the heritor, the other by the tenants. Forty scholars attended last winter and spring. The quarterly fee, for teaching Latin, is 2 s. 6 d.; for book-keeping, 10 s. 6 s.; for arithmetic and writing, 2 s. 6 d.; and for English, only 1 s.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in this parish is 50. They are supported, partly by the Sunday collections; but chiefly by private alms. The crops of 1782 and 1783 failed considerably, as the frost set in the latter end of July, and continued in some degree throughout the whole months of autumn, which blasted the crops, and rendered them unfit to be cut down, till winter was far advanced. However, on account of the maritime situation of the greatest part of the parish, the mildew did not do so much hurt in it, as in parishes more distant from the sea. There was victual sufficient for the maintenance of its inhabitants, till the middle of the following springs; when, not only the poor on the session roll, but families of many small farmers, were reduced to the most deplorable situation for want of bread. In this alarming

ing critical juncture, the session, with the resident gentlemen who were not members of it, met to take into consideration the state of the poor, and to adopt such measures as might tend to their immediate relief. Accordingly the meeting appointed one of their number in every district, to go to solicit the charitable aid of those who had some victual to spare, and to receive from them any quantity they might be pleased to give as a donation to the poor. In consequence of this appointment, some bolls of meal were collected, and distributed among the most indigent. Soon after, the late Hon. General McKay, tutor to Lord Reay, sent 20 bolls of victual for the poor on the Reay estate, which, with the government mixt meal, that soon followed, and was sold at the low price of 8 s. *per* boll, prevented the dreaded consequences of the failure in the crops. Not one person perished from want of bread.

*Language.*—Gaelic is the language generally spoken, and from it the names of the principal parts of the parish are said to be derived. The instances given are, *Skerray*, from *sker*, a rock, and *Iye*, a man's name; *Torrisdale*, from *tor*, a tower, and *dal*, a valley; in which place are to be seen the ruins of an antient structure, on a plain between two hills; *Kinloch*, from *cean*, a head, and *loch*, a lake or bay; *Achcaistal*, from *achadh*, a field, and *caistal*, a castle; *Dalchairn*, from *dal*, a valley, and *carn* a heap; where there is a Druidical temple built upon a plain. It would require considerable skill in the Gaelic to judge of the propriety of these derivations, and whether *sker* and *dal* be Gaelic words. Perhaps they are common to that language and the Danish.

*Roads.*—It is not many years since roads began to be made in this parish; they are now carried on with great spirit, and rendered

rendered as convenient as the nature of the ground will admit. Statute labour is still exacted in kind.

*Rent and conversion of Services.*—The real rent of the parish is 525 l. 19 s. Sterling, in which are included 20 l. as the conversion of those services, which the tenants were formerly used to perform to the proprietor, as the remains of the feudal system. These services were thought a very great grievance, as the tenants were obliged to perform them, at the time they should have been employed in cultivating their own farms. To work without maintenance from their employers, from morning to night, at the distance of several miles from their respective homes, they justly deemed cruel and oppressive, and a violation of the precepts of religion, of justice, and the rights of men. They therefore applied, by petition, to the late Hon. and worthy Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in North Britain, General M'Kay, (tutor to Lord Reay, the sole proprietor of this parish), praying for a conversion of said services into money, which that humane and public spirited gentleman most cheerfully granted; and, in a letter to the minister of Tongue, reprobated, in very severe terms, every remnant of such barbarity. Thus the last vestige of feudal domination, and tyrannical oppression, in this remote northern corner of the Highlands, has been abolished, under the auspices and influence of an honourable military gentleman, whose patriotic character, and generous conduct, shall be perpetuated while there is a M'Kay living in this country. The farms, in general, of which there are 130, consist of from 1 acre to 40 of arable land, besides pasture; and let at from 10 s. to 12 s. the acre.

*Houses.*

*Houfes.*—There has not been one houfe of any note built within thefe 10 years, except the manfe, and 2 convenient farm houfes. Several cottages have been built, many old ones pulled down and rebuilt, and others have been repaired. For want of fufficient buildings, the generality of the fmall farmers employ a great part of every fummer in repairing their huts, to the neglect of improving their farms, by collecting, in that feafon, materials for manure. The number of houfes in the parifh is 248, all inhabited; and the number of perfons in each, at an average, is 5.

*Servants and Cottagers.*—Hired fervants are employed in agriculture; but as the wages in this country are low, many go to the fouthern part of the kingdom for fervice, and few of the young men ftay at home, except thofe whofe parents have employment for them. The number of male fervants is 52; of female fervants, 176. The wages of men fervants, from 1 l. 4 s. to 3 l. yearly, befides fhoes, and 6 bolls of meal for board wages; and of women fervants, from 1 l. to 10 s. with fhoes, and 3 bolls of meal for board wages. Such tackfmen as have fub-tenants, employ them in fpring and harveft too frequently to cultivate their land, to the almoft utter neglect of their own fmall farms. To abolifh this fpecies of flavery, (which is doubtlefs in the power of every proprietor, when giving leafes), would furely be a patriotic act, by which a great number of worthy people would be emancipated from a degree of bondage almoft equal to that of the negroes in the Weft Indies. There are indeed fome few exceptions. Some tackfmen are kind and benevolent, and fupport their fubtenants in calamitous times; but the generality naturally prefer their own intereft to every other confideration.



*General Character.*—The people of this country do not eat their morsel alone. They open their hospitable door to the traveller; they make the heart of the widow to rejoice; and they grant to the poor his desire. Generosity, indeed, is the principal trait of their character; to this they add devotion to the Supreme Being. An illiterate countryman, while he contemplates the stupendous scenery of rocks piled one upon another, the long extended heath, the tempestuous ocean, and the like, will exclaim, with an expression of countenance not to be described, ‘Justly is HE called Wonderful!’ They are also fast emerging from their former habits of indolence. Many of them having been in the south country, in their younger days, employed in hard service, have returned to their native soil, with more skill to work, and more free of that *Highland pride*, which made the antient inhabitants of the mountain disdain to submit to hard labour, or pursue any other exercise but the chase, or a military life.

*Advantage of long Leases.*—Nothing, indeed, now is wanting to make them as industrious as the Lowlanders, but the introduction of commerce, manufactures, and long leases to the farmers. By the want of long leases, they are discouraged from improving their farms, and building comfortable houses on them. The dread of being removed, when an avaricious neighbour offers an augmentation, and an unfeeling master accepts the bribe of iniquity, ties down the hand of industry, and prevents its operation from extending any further than to labour the antient fields, and patch up the old cottage. There are two respectable farmers in this parish, who have obtained tolerable long leases some years ago; in consequence of which they have built very commodious houses, inclosed considerable parts of their farms, and are employing every possible method to meliorate every pendicle belonging

to

to them; from which it is evident, that it contributes to the interest of the proprietor to give long leases, as well as to the happiness of the tenant; for, at the expiration of such leases, a double rent can be afforded to be given.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The sea weeds, commonly used as manure, are the tang and kelp ware, which are got in abundance. But besides these, there is another kind of ware, resembling kelp ware, of an unctuous appearance, so very rich, that it must be cut into small pieces, and spread thin, otherwise the crop would be too luxuriant. It is called, in Gaelic, *femman nam portan*, (crab ware) from the number of crabs that are found amongst it. Notwithstanding the great quantity of ware, there is but little kelp made in this parish. —There are numbers of small stones, found in the Rabbit Island, of a rusty colour, which here and there emit broken rays of light, and are supposed to be garnet. Mr M'Kay of Bighouse has got a specimen of them.—Thunder and lightning are frequent; but seldom followed with any pernicious consequences. About 60 years ago, there were two men killed by lightning near Torrisdale. As this is not a corn country, there is not one ale-house in the parish. There is only one inn, near the church, where good entertainment can be got. This paucity of public houses has most salutary effects on the morals of the people. It is now a rare thing to see a man drunk among them; whereas, in the memory of many, when the smuggling trade prevailed, and foreign liquor abounded in every district, outrages of different kinds were most daringly committed. During the course of the year 1790, no person has been committed to any jail from this parish; nor has any criminal prosecution been commenced against any in it, from time immemorial, one instance only excepted.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXXIII.

## PARISH OF INCHINNAN.

*(County of Renfrew.)**By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BURNS, Minister of Renfrew.**Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE origin of the name cannot now be ascertained. The extent of the parish is about 3 miles long, and a mile and a half broad; but there is no map of it. It is pretty much in the form of a cone. The high-way from Glasgow to Greenock enters the point, and cuts the base about the centre, so that it divides the parish nearly into two equal parts. It is situated in the county of Renfrew, presbytery of Paisley, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr.

*Soil, Produce, Rivers, &c.*—Every kind of soil is to be met with in the parish, though, in general, it is good, especially near the rivers White Cart, Grife, and Clyde, which separate it from the parishes of Renfrew and Old Kilpatrick. Great care, however, must be taken by those who have crops near the sides of these rivers, as much mischief is done by inundations in autumn. In 1790, the Grife rose so high, and so suddenly, that it carried away complete fields of oats, 6 miles above the bridge. In general, there are as good crops of every kind in the parish, as in any part of the west of Scotland. The farmers are rather wealthy than otherwise,

wife, and do great justice to their farms, being all very industrious and attentive. There are several very beautiful hills in the parish, not high, but arable to the top; and few parishes afford so many delightful situations for small country seats.—There are about 2400 acres of ground in the parish. About 100 acres are planted with common fir. There are few old trees in the parish, excepting a few at North Barr, the seat of Lord Sempill. There are about 200 acres yearly in sown grass, for which they find good and ready markets at Greenock and Paisley. Every other kind of grain is sown in the parish, though oats bear the greatest proportion.

*Population.*—The average of births, for the last 7 years, is 16; of marriages, 6; and of deaths about 4; though the deaths cannot be so easily or exactly ascertained, as there is no regular register kept of them. It appears from the roll book, that in 1695, there were 86 families in the parish; about 40 years ago, there were upwards of 100; and in 1791, there are 68 families, which, upon the usual average of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  persons to each family, makes the present population only 306. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 397. One cause for this decrease of inhabitants, is owing to their being so near Paisley, to which place most of the cottagers have resorted, on account of the encouragement they meet with, from the flourishing state of the manufactures; but the principal cause of the depopulation, is owing to the largeness of the farms, one man renting as much land now, as 3 or 4 did formerly. Whatever advantage this monopoly of farms may be to the proprietor, or tenant, it is by no means favourable to the manufacturing towns, or the country at large. When farms are small, yet sufficient to bring up a family, the children are all bred up to industry. Every article produced upon the farm is carried

to

to market:—Butter, cheefe, fowls, &c. Thus the people of the town are served at a reasonable rate; but now the farmer is above dealing in these things, unless he get an extravagant price for them. This will in part account for the great rise upon these articles; and they must, in all probability, continue to rise: For if all these necessaries of life are confined within the hands of a few farmers, who can raise them at pleasure, the tradesman must have higher wages, and the price of the manufactures must of course be raised, which, in the end, must be greatly against the trade of this country.

*Church.*—The minister's stipend is 8 chalders of meal, and 20 l. Sterling in cash, exclusive of a manse, and glebe which consists of 8 acres, that would rent at 40 s. *per* acre. Colonel Campbell of Blythwood is patron. The church of Inchinnan, before the Reformation, belonged to the Knights Templars. The time when it was built cannot now be ascertained, though tradition says, it was in the 1100. The only repairs it seems to have got for these many years, is upon the roof, which is plastered; yet a stranger, upon entering into it, would hardly believe that public worship had been performed in it for a century past. The manse was repaired in 1788, but in so superficial a manner, that it now stands as much in need of repairs as ever.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are 11 heritors in the parish, 7 of whom reside in it; and of these, 3 possess but a few acres each. The valued rent is 2398 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scotch, of which the patron has nearly one half. The real rent is about 2100 l. Sterling.

*Improvements.*—The property of Lord Douglas, who is a considerable heritor, was little better, about 30 years ago, than  
than

than waste land. The greatest part of it was let, about 20 years past, to Mr Ord, a thorough bred farmer from the east country, who set about inclosing and subdividing it; and after much trouble and expence, in levelling, draining, &c. he has now made it one of the finest farms in this district. His public spirited exertions, however, offended the country people, who were much prejudiced against such plans of improvement, and therefore by no means pleased at his coming amongst them. Some of them even endeavoured to render his situation very disagreeable. But the present advanced state of agriculture in this corner, may, in a great measure, be justly ascribed to him. Some of the heritors have made great improvements upon their estates, by planting trees, which, in a few years, will add much to the beauty of the country. There are neither towns nor villages in the parish, not even one about the church; but the parish is all inclosed, and the farmers are abundantly sensible of the great advantage of inclosures.

*Poor.*—The number of poor, who receive alms regularly, are *four*. They are all old people, and unable to do any thing for themselves. They receive, upon an average, 5 s. a month, besides their coals and house rent. This supply comes from the collections made at the church door upon Sabbath, and from the interest of a small sum appropriated to the poor. The kirk-session are very attentive, not only to those upon the funds, but to others in the parish, whose modesty will not allow them to make their wants known; and were it not for a number of well disposed people, who are very attentive to those in straitened circumstances, the funds would not be sufficient to supply the poor. If gentlemen, who have property in the parish, would be so kind as

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to fend their collection, when they do not choose to come to church, the poor's funds would be equal to their expenditure.

*Wages.*—The wages of day labourers and hired servants, are perhaps as high, in this corner, as in any part of Scotland. This is no doubt owing to the flourishing state of manufactures in the neighbourhood. Day labourers, in the winter season, get 1 s. a day; in spring and summer 15 d.; and in autumn, frequently 18 d. The average of male servants, for the year, is 9 l. Sterling; of females, 4 l. which is more than the double of what they received 20 years ago. The mode of living is much altered to the better; but the mode of dress is far superior to what it was then, amongst both sexes.

*Bridges.*—At the conflux of the rivers White Cart and Grife, there is a very fine bridge, consisting of 10 large arches. A large arch is thrown over, from about the center of the bridge to the high-way that leads to Paisley. When built, a toll was laid upon all passengers, to defray the expense, and the management of it was committed to trustees. In 1782, it rented for 377 l. Sterling. This tax was taken off in 1787.

*Antiquities.*—Upon the north side of the parish, near the river Clyde, stood the Palace of Inchinnan; one of the seats of the noble family of Lennox. It was built in the beginning of the 16th century. There are many people still living, who remember to have seen part of its ruins; but now, there is not the least vestige of them remaining.

*Miscellaneous*

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 30 ploughs in the parish, all of the Northumberland chain sort, which were introduced into this country by the above mentioned Mr Ord.—In 1782 and 1783, the harvest here was very late, and, in some places, the corn lay a considerable time under snow. The general scarcity, which then prevailed throughout Scotland, was as much felt in this neighbourhood as any where; but, providentially for this part of the country, a large supply of white pease was brought; and these being ground into meal, relieved the wants of many families, who would otherwise have been in a very miserable situation.—Small as this parish is, there are 5 public houses in it. It would be well for the country in general, if there were fewer such houses to be met with, as they often prove nurseries for vagrants, and a ruin to the morals of youth. Here young people and servants frequently meet, spend their money, debauch their morals, and render themselves unfit for the duties of their stations. Fond of imitating their superiors in rank and fortune, they meet together, for the purpose of drinking and gambling. In some of these houses, even card tables are not unusual; the consequence of all which is, that they get drunk, lose their money, neglect their business, betray their trust, and contract habits, that sometimes at last prove fatal to them.



## N U M B E R LXXIV.

## P A R I S H O F F A R.

*(County of Sutherland.)**By the Rev. Mr JAMES DINGWALL.**Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, and Soil.*

**T**HE antient and modern name of this parish is Far. It is situated in the county of Sutherland, in the presbytery of Tongue, and synod of Sutherland and Caithness. Its form is a scalene triangle. Its length is 30 computed miles, and its breadth 14. The general appearance of the country is mountainous and rocky. The hill of Clibrigg is very high; the south side is covered with heath, part of it green; and the other side is rocky. The soil, in some parts, is fertile and deep; but, in general, is very barren and shallow.

*Sea Coast and Bays.*—The extent of sea coast is 11 computed miles. The shore is high and rocky, and consists of Strathy-head and Bay, Armdale Bay, Far-head and Bay, Sandy Bay, &c.

*Climate, Diseases, and Mineral Springs.*—The air is generally dry and healthy; though occasionally otherwise. The most prevalent diseases are fevers and fluxes, owing to cold and wet.—There are some mineral waters of the chalybeate kind. One is thought serviceable in fluxes. The principal

principal lake is Loch Naver, the length of which is 4 computed miles. The river Naver runs from it. There are also some small lakes.

*Fish.*—The fish got on the coast are haddocks, whittings, cod, ling, mackerel, &c. The ling and cod are sent to Aberdeen: Whales are found near the coast. Salmon are caught in the rivers Naver and Borgie. The greatest quantity, in a season, is 11 lafts. They are in the greatest perfection in the months of March and April.

*Caves.*—There are some natural caves near Strathy-head, where seals are taken. There is one very large, and 14 small ones. There is also a natural arch below Far-head, where a fishing boat may pass with oars \*. In Rossal, 10 computed miles from the church, by the Water of Naver-Wiffair, there is an artificial cave, said to have been made by one William Munro, which, at the entrance, is wide enough to admit two men. The form of it is a curve. It is at least 100 fathoms in length, and about as much in breadth; and extends from Rossal to the river.

*Population.*—The population of the parish now, compared with what it was 60 or 70 years ago, is supposed to have considerably increased; although the return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 2800, and the present population, in 1790, is only 2600: Of these, the males and females are about 1300 each.

Births, from November 1789 to November 1791,	60
Marriages last year,	18
	Number

\* *Vide* Supplement to Pennant's Voyage to the Hebrides.

Number of persons between 50 and 70, about	100
————— between 70 and 80, -	16
————— above 80, - - -	8
Died last year a person aged 102.	
Families (above $6\frac{1}{2}$ in each at an average), -	386
Student, - - - - -	1
Mill-wrights, - - - - -	4
House carpenters, - - - - -	4
Wrights, - - - - -	12
Weavers, - - - - -	34
Shoemakers, - - - - -	24
Tailors, - - - - -	20
Household servants (40 males and 60 females)	100
Labouring servants, - - - - -	37
Small possessors do the work of labouring servants themselves.	

The population is not materially different from what it was 5, 10, or 20 years ago. Each marriage produces, at an average, from 4 to 5 children. In 1772, there were 77 persons who emigrated to North Carolina, and others have been going annually since to the south of Scotland. Some have left the parish for want of employment.

*Cattle.*—This parish is well adapted for rearing cattle. In good seasons, most of the farms could keep a greater number; but a bad season carries them off. There are generally from 1000 to 1500 black cattle on the meadow of Mudale in a season; and sometimes 2000, betwixt 20th June and 20th August, besides about 200 horses, 660 sheep, and 200 goats. This meadow is two English miles in length, and half a mile in breadth.

*Agriculture.*

*Agriculture.*—There are 50 ploughs in the parish; but most of the farmers delve their land. The plough is drawn with 4 horses a breast. They generally sow in April and May, and reap in September and the beginning of October. Very little of the parish is cultivated, compared with what is lying waste and common. It is, therefore, by no means surprising, that it does not supply its inhabitants with provisions. In 1782, there were 1000 bolls imported. The situation of the people, in 1783, was deplorable. They killed the few cattle they had, and eat their flesh without bread or salt. Many left the parish, and went to other places for employment.

*Rent.*—The land rent is about 1255 l. The fishing of Naver is 100 l. and upwards. The average rent of farms is about 5 l. The parish, in general, is not inclosed; but such as have tried inclosures are convinced of their advantages. There has been no change of property in land here for these many years.

*Church.*—The church was built in 1774. The manse was repaired last year. The stipend is 800 merks, or 44 l. 8 s. 10 d. Sterling, and 3 l. 6 s. 4 d. for a glebe. A process of augmentation is commenced. The Countess of Sutherland is patron. There are 2 heritors and a wadsetter; but none of them reside in the parish.

*Poor.*—The number of poor receiving alms is 54. The annual amount of the contributions for their support is 6 l. 10 s. besides mort-cloth dues, which are about 1 l. 10 s. *per annum*, with the interest of 5 l. left by Mr Skeldach.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—There are 2 schools in the parish, the parochial, and Society school. The former is stationed at the manse, near the church; the latter in Armdale; neither of them well accommodated. The first is quite ruinous, and the salary is only 100 merks, or 5 l. 11 s. 1¼ d. with 20 s. as precentor and session clerk's dues, and one half of the baptism money, (which was, last year, 15 s.) and 1 s. for each marriage, of which there are about 16 at an average in a year. The scholars are very few, 26 being the greatest number during the course of last year. In harvest there are not above 12 or 14, from which it is evident the schoolmaster's encouragement is not great. The quarterly dues are, for reading, 1 s.; arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; and Latin, 2 s. 6 d. A new school-house is expected to be built soon. The Society schoolmaster has a salary of 10 l. with a dwelling house and school house, (which is also to be rebuilt), a kail yard, with an acre of ground, for raising corn, potatoes, grafs, and provender for one or two milk cows, *gratis*, from the proprietor, who formerly received a guinea of rent for it. He also has his peats cut, dried, and brought home free. In this school there have been 33 scholars during the course of last year, none of whom were taught *gratis*, except 5, who were really indigent.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—Meal and bear sell at 12 s. *per* boll; 2 l. 10 s. or 3 l. is the price of a good cow; a wedder costs 6 s. 7 s. or 8 s.; a fow, 10 s.; a pig, 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d.; a goose, 1 s.; a hen, 4 d.; butter, 9 s. *per* stone, and cheese 4 s. 6 d. A married servant, in husbandry, gets 6 bolls victual, and 40 s. wages annually, which enables him to bring up a family. The usual wages of male and female servants are as follow: A man, 13 s. 4 d.; a lad, 10 s.; a boy, 3 s. 4 d.;

4 d. ; a woman, 5 s. ; and a girl, 3 s. in the half year, besides shoes.

*Roads.*—The state of the roads and bridges is very bad. After the statute labour was exacted in kind, they made pieces of roads in different places ; but they have been allowed to go into disrepair.

*Antiquities.*—There are 6 Pictish castles, or rather watch houses, wherein they raised lights when invasions happened. There are likewise the ruins of a fort on Far-head. There are several tumuli in the neighbourhood. There is a figured stone at the west end of the church, under which a Dane of distinction is said to be buried. Several battles, or rather skirmishes, have been fought in this neighbourhood.

*Character of the People.*—The general size of the people, in this parish, is 5 feet 7 inches. They are rather indolent. No manufactures are carried on. They are fond of a military, but not of a seafaring life. Some hundreds have enlisted in the army in the course of these last 20 years. Their mode of living is rather expensive for their circumstances. The introduction of manufactures would operate as a spur to industry, and meliorate their condition. No person has been put in jail in the course of last year.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Some parts of Strathnaver are subject to inundations, the most remarkable of which happened in 1761. A woman and 2 cows were killed by lightning 60 years ago, on the hill near Longdale. The distance from markets is one of the disadvantages peculiar to this parish. The language spoken here is Gaelic. The names of places seem to be derived from it. Some, indeed, near the coast, are

are said to be of Danish extraction.—The number of houses employed in selling spirituous liquors are 6; viz. one in Armdale, and 5 in Strathnaver. The effect they have on the morals of the people, is certainly mischievous. It is greatly to be wished that proprietors, particularly in the Highlands, would take some method to stop this evil.

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## NUMBER LXXV.

## PARISH OF GARVOCK.

(County of Kincardine.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER THOMSON.

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*Origin of the Name.*

THE name of this parish is originally Gaelic. Those who understand that language, say, that Garvock is evidently a corruption of a Gaelic word, nearly of the same found, which signifies the *rugged hill*: And accordingly the name, like many others of the same origin, is descriptive of the general appearance and situation of the parish, for a considerable part of it is not only uncultivated and barren; but so high, that there is more than a mile of a pretty steep ascent to it, from that level country called the *How* or *Hollow of the Mearns*, on the north, and upwards of 4 miles of an easy ascent to it from the coast on the south. It is generally believed, that Garvock was once a hunting park belonging to Earl Marischal, who had, at that time, a considerable property in this county. There is the more ground to credit this tradition, as the remains of a dyke, which surrounded the parish, (which, to this day, is called the *Deer-dyke*, because, as people affirm, it inclosed a forest, in which plenty of those animals were then found), are still perceptible. About the middle of the parish, where the church and manse now stand, it is said, there was a small house, built by Lord Ma-



rifchal, where he and his vassals sometimes resided for the purpose of hunting.

*Extent, Situation, and Surface.*—By a map of Kincardineshire, drawn from a survey taken in the year 1774, by Mr William Garden, it appears, that this parish is about 8 measured miles in length, 4 in breadth, and extremely irregular. It contains 6300 Scotch, or 8006 English acres. Not much more than one third of the parish is arable. It is situated within the county of Kincardine, the synod of Angus and Mearns, and presbytery of Fordoun. The soil is naturally deep, wet, and of a clay bottom. The high uncultivated ground is, in general, covered with heath, whins, and broom; the low uncultivated ground is rather inclined to produce bent and rush.

*Crops.*—The principal crops in the parish are oats and barley. Some farmers in the neighbourhood have sown a small quantity of wheat, which succeeded well. Turnips and potatoes are a general crop all over the country. The culture of turnips in particular has been much studied by the farmers, and with great success.

*Climate, Health, and Character of the People.*—The air is moist, nearly as much so as in the Grampian Hills, which are situated about 6 miles north, and in stormy winters, the highest places of the parish, though not farther than 5 miles north west from the sea, are very long covered with snow. The people, in general, are very healthy and industrious; they live comfortably, and not beyond their circumstances.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has greatly decreased within these 12 or 16 years, chiefly owing to two or three

three small possessions having been thrown into one; and likewise to some large farms having been let to farmers who reside in other parishes, and who only keep an overseer and a few servants at their farms here. In November 1791, the number of people amounted only to 460; whereas, according to the report sent to Dr Webster, in 1755, the number was 755. The number of births in this parish, do not exceed, at an average, 12; the deaths not more than 2 or 3, and the marriages not more than 2 annually.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The valued rent is 2842 l. 11 s. Scotch. The real rent is not less than 1000 l. Sterling. The number of proprietors is 7, none of whom reside in the parish; the number of tenants 40, some of whom pay from 60 l. to 100 l. of yearly rent. At present there reside 2 shoemakers, 3 taylor, 4 weavers, and 1 square wright. A taylor commonly receives, along with his victuals, 6 d. a day; the wright and labouring servants, 8 d. with their victuals.

*Fairs.*—There is an annual fair, which is indeed the only one in this parish, held in the month of August, about half a mile north from the manse, called St. James's Fair. It is now one of the largest in the county. There is commonly a great number of horses and cattle in it, and a good and ready sale for them. It is a singular circumstance, that the ground upon which the market stands belongs to the Earl of Kintore, and yet the duties arising from it, have, from time immemorial, belonged to Mr Scott of Commission, another heritor.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There is a commodious and sufficient church, built in the year 1782. The manse stands much in need of reparation. It was built upwards of 50 years ago,  
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when the last minister was admitted. The office houses were lately built, and are perfectly sufficient. There is a glebe of the legal dimensions, and of good soil. The stipend, at an average, is about 80 l. Sterling, and a good deal of it paid in victual. There are no dissenters in the parish, excepting 2 Antiburgher Seceders, and 2 Episcopalists.

*Poor.*—The number of poor, is not at present above 7 or 8. There is commonly a distribution once every 3 or 4 weeks, after sermon. The weekly collection, in winter, amounts to little more than 2 s.; in summer, to between 3 s. and 4 s. There are upwards of 100 l. of capital belonging to the parish, the annual interest of which, with the weekly collections, make a competent provision for the few who are really indigent.

N U M.

## NUMBER LXXVI.

## PARISH OF CLEISH.

*(County of Kinross.)**By the Rev. Mr DALING.**Situation and General Appearance.*

**T**HE parish of Cleish lies in the county of Kinross, the presbytery of Dunfermline, and synod of Fife. It is about 6 English miles in length, from east to west, and rather more than a mile in breadth. The greatest part of the parish is situated along the north side of those hills, that bound Kinrossshire on the south. The arable land is mostly low, and pretty level. The north side of the parish consists of meadow grounds: A little higher lies the arable land, upon both sides of the road which runs through the parish from east to west: Above this is a tract of damp ground, producing coarse grass and heath: On the south side, and towards the east end of the parish, there are hills covered with fine grass. These hills are not high, nor, in general, very steep. Some of them are rocky on the sides; all of them have a gradual slope eastward.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The arable ground of the west end of the parish is a strong clay; about the middle it is gravelly; in the south-east, cold and tilly. The soil is, in general, deep and fertile; but the dampness, and the north-

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ern exposure, render it peculiarly well calculated for grafts. The air is rather moist. This appears to be owing to the exposure of the parish; to its vicinity to the hills; and the low wet ground to the north. The inhabitants, however, being sober, and a good deal employed in the open air, are, in general, healthy. They are not peculiarly liable to any disease except the rheumatism: Young persons, however, are seldom affected by it, and few in a violent degree. This distemper seems to be owing principally to the dampness of the air and the houses. The dampness of the houses is occasioned, in a great measure, by the water which soaks through the ground, in its passage from the hills to the valley. This inconvenience might be remedied, by choosing proper situations for houses, and cutting drains to intercept the water from above.

*Lakes, Rivers, and Springs, &c.*—There are 4 lakes among the hills: The largest about 2 mile and a half in circumference; the other 3 much smaller. The fish found in them are pike, perch, and eels, with some trouts. The stream which runs from these lakes drives 2 mills; and there is a sufficient fall for driving several more. The river Gairny is the boundary of the parish on the north, for more than 2 miles: It falls into Loch Leven. Its fish are small trouts, produced by the trouts of Loch Leven, which come up the rivers to spawn in the floods in autumn.—The parish is exceedingly well watered; there are a great number of excellent springs, which rise in different places, from the bottom of the hills down to the low grounds. There is scarcely a house which is not either near a spring, or has a rivulet running by it. In some of these springs the thermometer stands at 42°; but in the greatest part at 45°.

*Minerals.*

*Minerals.*—There is a great deal of excellent free stone in the parish, which supplies the country to the north. It is got in the higher grounds, seems to run under the hills, and appears again on the other side. The soil above the free stone is commonly damp and mossy, covered with coarse grafs, and always with heath, if the stone is near the surface. The hills are composed of whin stone; they are all covered with fine short grafs, without any heath. It seems probable, that these hills were once bare rocks, the surface of which has been dissolved by the influence of the weather, into the mould that at present covers them. When the turf is taken off, the rock is seen to be in a mouldering state; and when this rotten rock, (as it is here called), is laid upon a road, in a few years it is changed into a reddish earth, exactly resembling that on the hills. There is lime in the parish of a good quality, especially for building; but it lies so deep in the earth, and the road to it is so inconvenient, that little advantage has been derived from it in this neighbourhood.—There is also coal in the estate of Blair, belonging to John Adam, Esq; of Maryburgh. It has produced 180 l. a year; but it has not been wrought for some time, on account of its vicinity to the proprietor's house.

*Animals.*—Besides the common domestic animals, there are hares, rabbits, weasels, otters, and foxes; which last are more destructive to the poultry than to the sheep. Water rats and water mice are found by the sides of the rivers. Badgers and polecats are sometimes killed.—The birds are, partridges, moorfowl, snipes, wild ducks, a few curlews, herons, owls, hawks, crows, magpies, jackdaws, water crows which sing in winter, blackbirds, thrushes, linnets, larks, and several other kinds of small birds. One family of hawks has inhabited a particular rock for many years; they seem to be  
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the kind used by falconers; are large and strong, and destroy a good many partridges. The migratory birds are swallows, cuckoos, lapwings, woodcocks, fieldfares, and wild geese.—As a considerable part of the parish is in grass, the number of the cattle, horses, and sheep is variable. When possessed by tenants, it formerly maintained, during the whole year, about 750 cattle, 140 horses, and 1100 sheep. The parish exports yearly about 150 cattle, valued at 5 l. each; and 10 horses, worth about 10 l. each. Very few sheep are bred in the parish. They are commonly brought from Linton in the beginning of summer, and great part of them is sold before winter; the profit on them is about 2 s. each. They are black faced and coarse woolled. This is supposed to be the hardiest kind of sheep, yet a severe winter generally carries off a good many of them, the farmers seldom thinking of feeding them at that season; and those that survive are so much weakened, as scarcely to recover their strength for a great part of the following summer. Much more profit might be made from them if they were properly managed. The hills afford excellent pasture, and seem to be adapted for a better breed. The wool that is shorn from the sheep, the year they are brought from the south, is sold at 6 s. 8 d. the stone, tron weight, (22 pounds avoirdupois); the year following, the wool from the same sheep, is sold at 13 s. *per* stone. The difference of price is owing to the foulness of the former wool, which is smeared, and loses a great deal of the weight in scouring. Smearing is little practised here; though it is said to improve the fineness of the wool, and the health of the sheep. This, however, has lately been questioned. The cattle and horses are much larger than they were some time ago, and come sooner to their full size. This is owing, partly to a greater degree of attention to the breed, but principally to their being better fed.

*Improvements.*

*Extent and Produce.*—Only a part of the parish has been measured. It contains, by the most exact calculation, about 5000 acres, of which 1450 are arable. Of these there are at present about 460 in tillage, viz. 380 in oats, 50 in bear, 15 in pease, 5 in flax, 5 in potatoes, and 5 in turnips. There are about 80 acres in clover and rye-grass, 3860 in pasture, 250 in the lakes above mentioned, and 350 in planting. There are 3 commons, containing between 200 and 300 acres. They are not of great value, and will probably be soon divided. The parish does not at present supply itself with provisions. A considerable quantity of oat meal is required. Much of the best arable land is at present in grass. Pasturing is found to be very profitable, as it requires little trouble or expence. Farmers and graziers often rent one or more inclosures, either for fattening cattle, or rearing young cattle and horses. If the parish were fully cultivated, it could do more than maintain its inhabitants in every kind of grain. At present it is computed to produce as much meal, poultry, roots, butter, and cheese, &c. as is equal (exclusive of the beef and mutton) to the maintenance of the people.

*Improvements.*—The parish has certainly, of late, improved considerably in agriculture. Clover, rye-grass, and turnips, are found to be of great advantage: The quantity of potatoes, raised by the farmers, is but inconsiderable; but a great many of the poorer sort of people, have some potatoe ground, the produce of which makes a principal part of their food for more than half the year. Mr Adam of Maryburgh, and his son, John Adam, Esq; M. P. the present proprietor, were the first persons, in this part of the country, who gave an example in the improvement of land, by inclosing, planting, and raising artificial grasses, cabbages, and turnips. By them some millions of trees have been planted, a considerable part



of which are in this parish, and in a very flourishing state. Mr Adam, sen. was the first person, in the county of Kinross, or neighbourhood, who planted potatoes in the fields; before that time, there were only a few raised in gardens; but not being able to obtain what he wanted for seed in this country, nor in the Edinburgh market, he brought them over land from Carlisle. Since that time, the advantage of this useful root has been often experienced. Upon a particular occasion, many of the poor had scarcely any thing else to subsist on, for about 2 months, after the old crop of corn was consumed, and before the new crop was ready to be cut down. Almost one half of the parish is already inclosed; and inclosures are increasing fast. The fences are partly stone dykes, and partly hedges. The parish possesses great advantages for inclosing, as hedges thrive very well. There is plenty of stone, and the ground is well watered.

*Rent and Heritors.*—The valued rent of the parish is 2703 l. 10 s. 10 $\frac{2}{3}$  d. Scotch. The real land rent, when a process of augmentation was begun, in 1758, was estimated at 600 l.; but this calculation was rather too low, and it was probably 700 l. At present it is about 1430 l. There are two meal mills, valued at 30 l. a year; a bleachfield and lint mill at 25 l.; an inn and brewery at 20 l.; free stone quarries, 10 l.; the annual produce of the wood is about 60 l.; rent of houses, with gardens, not included in the land rent, about 50 l. in all 1627 l. The best arable land is let at about 20 s. *per acre*; common arable and hay meadows, 10 s.; pasture, about 5 s. *per acre*. There are 19 heritors or proprietors of land in the parish. In 1744 there were 26. Twelve reside in the parish, 10 of whom farm their own lands. None of the principal heritors are residents.

*Church.*

*Church.*—George Graham, Esq; of Kinrofs, is patron. The church was built in 1775, and is one of the best in the country. The living, including the manse and glebe, is about 81 l. 9s. The manse was built in 1744; it is at present much out of repair, but will soon be either rebuilt, or thoroughly repaired. There are about 457 persons belonging to the Established Church, and 190 Seceders, including children, besides 3 or 4 Episcopalsians.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants amounted, in January 1791, to 653, of whom 303 were males, and 350 females. In this are included 25 persons living in Dunfermline parish, but annexed to Cleish *quoad sacra*. There are 3 villages in the parish, all situated upon the great road from Queensferry to Perth, viz. Kelty, containing 113 persons; Maryburgh, 89; and Gairneybridge, 58. The rest of the people, 393 in number, live in the country. The baptisms, marriages, and burials, for the last 10 years, are, by the parish register, as follows:

	<i>Baptisms.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
1781	11	3	10
1782	15	2	8
1783	10	2	8
1784	16	2	9
1785	15	0	21
1786	12	6	8
1787	17	0	20
1788	10	2	6
1789	21	1	3
1790	17	2	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	144	20	99

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The average is, therefore, about 14 baptisms, 2 marriages, and 10 burials annually. But several of the people neglect to register the baptisms of their children.

The ages of the present inhabitants are nearly as follows

Under 10 years of age	153
Between 10 and 20	115
20 and 30	102
30 and 40	83
40 and 50	54
50 and 60	68
60 and 70	55
70 and 80	20
80 and 90	3
	<hr/>
	653

Within the last 12 years 2 have died from 83 to 84 years of age; 3 from 87 to 89; one of 92, and 2 of 95. There are 211 married persons in the parish, 12 or 13 widowers, about 37 widows, and 13 bachelors.—The following is an account of the children produced from 27 marriages, being all the marriages that have taken place during the last 50 years, in a part of the country parish, extending somewhat more than a mile, and where the persons lived in the parish during the continuance of the marriage, or till the women were past child bearing. When the same person was married twice, the marriages are reckoned separately.

4	marriages, producing	10	children each,	40	in all.
2	—————	9	—————	18	
3	—————	8	—————	24	
5	—————	7	—————	35	
3	—————	6	—————	18	
4	—————	5	—————	20	
3	—————	4	—————	12	
2	—————	2	—————	4	
1	—————	0	—————	0	
<hr style="width: 100%;"/>					
27				27)171(6 $\frac{1}{3}$	
				162	
				—————	
				9	

The average of the whole parish is probably something less than this, or, perhaps, about 6 from each marriage. Nearly the half of the present inhabitants of the parish were born in it; 2 or 3 are natives of England, and 5 of Ireland.—Upon the whole, the population is not materially different from what it was 40 years ago. In 1755, according to the report made to Dr Webster, there were 692 souls. The number of inhabitants, in the country part of the parish, had diminished; but in the villages it has increased, though, perhaps, not in the same proportion. Within the last half year, 6 families, consisting of about 40 persons, have been obliged to leave the parish, in consequence of a tract of ground having been thrown into pasture. There are at present, (spring 1791), a few uninhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses is about 158; each of these contains about 4 persons. The families are about 168, as sometimes more families than one inhabit the same house. There are

23 persons, most of them widows, who live in separate houses.

*Occupations.*—The farmers and their families amount to about 170. The labourers, with their families, are about 220. There are 2 flaters, 6 shoemakers, 3 smiths, 1 bleacher, 5 mafons, 8 wrights, 1 turner, 1 dyer, 12 weavers, 5 taylors, 1 miner, 1 gardener, 1 tollman, 2 millers, 1 inn-keeper, who has no other employment. These, with their families, are about 220. There are about 60 servants in the parish, male and female. The men are employed almost entirely in agriculture.

*Poor.*—The funds, for the maintainance of the poor, are, the collections at the church door, amounting, at an average, to 6l. 10s. a year; and 206l. Sterling, lent at interest, making in all about 15l. 5s. There are at present 5 persons in the parish receiving alms; these have from 6d. to 1s. a week each, with 1s. or 2s. occasionally, for coals and other necessaries. Besides the regular supplies, small sums are paid for educating poor children, to the sick, &c. Small sums are also privately lent out of the fund to persons, who, by misfortune or disease, are disabled, for a time, from maintaining their families; and if they are able, they repay it. The supplies are always, if possible, given in such a manner as to give no encouragement to idleness. In general, the people are unwilling to let their poverty be known, and rather choose to work hard, and fare meanly, than receive supply from any public fund. The charity of private persons to old servants, labourers, nurses, &c. is a great help to the public funds. The people, in general, are very ready to assist their indigent neighbours, and therefore no person has ever died for want. In 1782, when there was a great scarcity, the  
meal

meal being from 16 d. to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* peck, the heritors agreed to take 10 l. out of the poor's fund, to reduce the price of meal to the lower rank of people to 1 s. *per* peck. The whole of this was not spent, and the remainder was returned. The fund has increased about 13 l. since the year 1778. There is only one person in the parish who occasionally begs in the neighbourhood.

*Schools.*—There are about 30 scholars attending the parish school. The salary of the schoolmaster is 100 merks Scotch. He is also session clerk and precentor. The whole emolument, exclusive of his house and garden, are about 13 l. a year. The school, though in the middle of the parish, is at a distance from the most populous part of it. In the villages there are private schools, where children are taught to read and write. The people are very desirous of giving their children education. There is scarcely a child of 8 or 9 years of age, that cannot read pretty distinctly.

*Wages.*—The wages of labourers are 1 s. and 14 d. a day without victuals; carpenters, 16 d.; masons, 18 d.; flaters, 2 s. 6 d.; taylor, 6 d. with victuals; men servants, 6 l. a year; women servants, 50 s. The wages of labourers are sufficient, if they and their wives are industrious, and enjoy an ordinary measure of health, to enable them to bring up a family.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used in the parish is coal and peat, with both of which the inhabitants are well supplied. Coal is got in two places, about a mile distant from the east and south east parts of the parish. The price, on the spot, is 6 d. for 18 stone of great coal, and 4 d. the small coal or chews. These coals are of excellent quality. The stone contains

contains  $17\frac{1}{2}$  pounds avoirdupois. The peats are got from several mosses in or near the parish.

*Ploughs and Carts.*—There are about 25 ploughs in the parish, and 30 carts. The ploughs are mostly of the Scotch sort. The English ones are coming into use, and are found to be much superior to the other.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 5 inns and alehouses in the parish, 4 of which are upon the road from Queenferry to Perth. Only two of them are necessary for the accommodation of travellers. The parish, in general, is sober. It has been found, by experience, very prejudicial to suffer spirits to be sold at the turnpike houses.—The number of houses in the country has been for some years diminishing, and the villages increasing.—Cottagers are less employed in agriculture than formerly; partly because the farmers think it cheaper to make use of hired servants; and partly because the people are more employed in trades and manufactures, which are more conveniently carried on in towns and villages than in the country. It is, however, believed, that the farmers have derived but little advantage from this change; and the community has suffered by it, as the people in the country commonly have larger families, are more healthy, and more virtuous, than the inhabitants of villages and towns. A good deal of attention has been paid, of late years, to the roads in the parish. They were made, and are now kept in repair, by the statute work. The carriages are exacted in kind; but the personal labour is commuted. There is good gravel in the neighbourhood, which lies conveniently for a considerable part of the roads. Several bridges have been built of late. There are now good roads through a great part of the parish, and they are still continuing to improve them. The roads, however,

however, are not well planned, little pains having been taken to keep them upon level ground, which might easily have been done. There is a turnpike in the parish, upon the great road from Queensferry to Perth. It was erected in the year 1753. In 1756 it was let, and produced 40 l. 15 s. a year. In 1762 it rose to 115 l. At present it produces 250 l. or 260 l. a year. In 1790, it was let for 300 l.; but either this was too high, or the candidates for it, had combined to lower the rent; for it afterwards fell to 230 l. Upon several of the hills there are the remains of forts, which appear to have been constructed with a great deal of labour. They are supposed to have been the work of the Romans, and to have formed part of a chain of posts, running from east to west, intended to defend their conquests against the incursions of the people from the north. They are found in 4 places of the parish. The most remarkable of them is upon the top of Drumglow, the highest hill in the parish, or in the neighbourhood. About a mile north from this hill, in the low ground, several urns were found in spring 1791. Four of them were got under a large stone, and some others among a heap of small stones. They contained human bones, mixed with ashes and pieces of charcoal. The urns, when broken, appear to have been made of very coarse materials. The outside is pretty well glazed, and ornamented with dotted lines.—Personal services are only performed by one tenant in the parish. He is bound to assist his landlord in making and stacking his meadow hay, and to carry 90 loads of coals, (18 stones each), to his house.—The greatest part of the names of places seem to be derived from the Gaelic, as *Drumlochran*, *Drumglow*, *Lochglow*, *Dowhill*, *Dowloch*, *Eclaircumbeth*, *Binn*, &c.—The nearest post town is Kinross. The general character of the people is good. No murders have been committed in the parish, nor has any person been



brought to a public trial within the memory of man. A single instance of suicide happened about 60 years ago.—The people, in general, are healthy. There are no distempers that are peculiarly destructive: Some are carried off, from time to time, by the small-pox. Inoculation has been introduced, and is gradually advancing; the prejudices of the people against it are by degrees wearing away. A few persons have inoculated their own children. If this practice were general, it would certainly save many lives. Persons of superior station, could, without much difficulty, introduce it among their dependents.

NUM-

## NUMBER LXXVII.

## PARISH OF ROGART.

(County of Sutherland.)

By the Rev. Mr ÆNEAS M'LEOD.

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE name seems to be of Gaelic origin; and the parish to have been so denominated, from the peculiar situation of the parsonage, which is nearly on the top of a high hill; and thus *Rogh-ard*, i. e. *very high*, came to be written, as now, *Rogart*. It lies in the county of Sutherland, presbytery of Dornock, and synod of Sutherland and Caithness. Its extent is not above 10 miles, and it is nearly as broad as it is long.

*Surface and Soil.*—The surface is most irregular. The two straths, Strathfleet and Strathbrora, which make the principal part of it, are rather more regular than the rest; and yet even in these, very few acres of ground are found together, that are not intersected, either by brushwood, growing from old stocks of trees, or by very rapid destructive burns, running down the hills on both sides. These straths run from west to east the whole length of the parish, and lie 5 miles distant from each other. The interjacent space is a group of rocky hills, with moss intervening here and there. The sides of the hills are, for the most part, cultivated; but  
it

it is rare to see 3 yards of ground without a rock. The soil is therefore thin, and almost every where mixed with blue sand, or gravel. The tops of the hills are commonly covered with dry short heath of little value. In the strath, the soil, in general, is a light loam, and where the rivers do not overflow, not unfruitful.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate is sharp and cold; the winds beat strong on many places; and, from the immediate neighbourhood of the lofty mountains of Strathnaver, much rain falls here; yet the people in general are healthy, no particular distemper being prevalent among them. They all have plenty of good peats, and lodge dry and warm in their houses. There are several persons living in the parish considerably above the age of 80. The ravages of the small-pox are still to be lamented, inoculation having obtained but very little among the lower class; but it is believed, that this is not so much owing to any invincible aversion they have to the practice, as to their having little access to medical practitioners, who would inoculate their children either *gratis*, or for a small fee.

*Wood.*—Some wretched vestiges of very considerable birch woods are to be seen in different parts; but the shoots from such of the old stocks as have not decayed, are annually cropt by the cattle in autumn and winter; and such shoots as may survive to a second summer, are sure to be cut by the people to bind their cattle.

*Population.*—About 40 years ago, when the returns were made to Dr Webster, the number of people in the parish was stated to be 1761. They now amount, by particular enumeration, to about 2000. The number of females is about

bout 50 more than that of the males. No parish register was ever kept in Rogart, but the present incumbent, for his own satisfaction, made up a list of baptisms for the last 3 years, from which he finds the number baptized each year to have been between 75 and 80.

*Occupations.*—A great many people in the parish call themselves tradesmen, and, at times, exercise their several crafts, as weavers, taylors, shoemakers, smiths, carpenters, coopers, &c. But there is hardly any one in all these professions, that does not hold more or less land; so that the whole may be said to be farmers, and their chief property consists in the number of cattle of different sorts they can keep.

*Heritors and Rent.*—The valued rent cannot be obtained from the Clerk of Supply, without a fee; but the real rent of the parish is between 630*l.* and 640*l.* Sterling. Arable farms, with their share of adjacent commonities, are from 15*s.* to 20*s.* *per* acre. There are 4 proprietors, besides the Countess of Sutherland, who is the principal heritor. Of the lesser proprietors, two reside in the parish.

*Church.*—The stipend consists of 800 merks Scotch, and 16 bolls of bear, with a glebe worth about 5*l.* The manse was built in the 1776, and the church in 1777. The Countess of Sutherland is patron.

*Poor.*—The number of poor upon the kirk-roll is from 45 to 50. There is no sort of fixed provision or assessment for them, except a trifle, once a year, arising from the weekly collections, which seldom exceed 3*s.* or 3*s.* 6*d.* to each; yet real want is seldom felt by them. In this, as well as in all the neighbouring parishes, the poor beg from house to house,  
and

and from parish to parish, and very frequently from county to county. This mode of supporting themselves, falls very heavy on the charitable and humane, whilst those of a contrary disposition, free themselves almost altogether from the burden.

*Crops and Expence of Labour.*—The only crops in the parish, are oats, barley, and potatoes. The oats are commonly sown in April. The potatoes are planted, if not in the end of April, as early as possible in May, and the barley is all sown in the month of May or beginning of June. The lower class of tenants are much straitened for servants, till their own children be able to help them. They can only afford to hire young boys, who are commonly very restless, running to the south of Scotland for higher wages during the warm season, as soon as they find themselves able for any heavy work, and returning to live idle with their friends from November to March, when they emigrate again to the south. This is an evil severely felt all over this country, and their earnings scarcely compensate for the extravagance of dress, and other vices they bring home with them. Farmers in better circumstances commonly employ married servants. The wages are, from 40 s. to 50 s. a year, with 6 bolls of meal, as much potatoe land, rent free, as maintains their family, 4, and sometimes 6 months in the year; grass and wintering for a cow and a calf; a free house, and plenty of fuel. If the wife is at all industrious, they may live very comfortably, eat a pig or two, which hardly cost them any thing, and, on the whole, are better off, having much less concern and care than their masters.

*Roads.*—The improvement of roads in this district is, as yet, quite in a state of infancy. The common people  
are

are very averse to perform statute labour upon them, and their superiors give themselves little trouble about the matter. Nor are there any bridges, except some wooden ones for foot passengers. Hence it is that every thing must be carried on horseback.

*Antiquities.*—There are traces of encampments, with many tumuli, and remains of Pictish buildings almost every where.

*General Character.*—The people seem to be much more inclined to idleness than to industry. They are extremely frugal of the little they have; but as to earning any thing more, it is a melancholy fact, that a poor tenant, who rents land only to the value of 20 s. or 30 s. and whose labour could well be spared from his little farm many days in the year, will rather saunter, or sit idle at home, than work for 6 d. a day, which would be a considerable addition to his own and his family's scanty meal. Such being the general character of the people, it is almost needless to add, that the evils attending idleness and poverty are too common amongst them. They are, however, in general, religious and well disposed, and may become industrious, when they have more tempting inducements to become so.—They all speak the Gaelic language. Such as understand English at all, speak it grammatically, though with the accent peculiar to most of the Northern Highlanders.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXXVIII.

## PARISH OF ST. MADOIS.

*(County of Perth.)**By the Rev. Mr DAVID BLACK.**Name, Situation, Extent, and Surface.*

THE antient, as well as modern name of this parish, is St. Madois, or St. Madoes, spelt with an *i* or *e* indifferently. It is situated in the western extremity of the Carse of Gowrie, in the county and presbytery of Perth, and synod of Perth and Stirling. It lies along the north side of the river Tay, and is almost a complete square in form, about a mile in length, and as much in breadth. The general appearance of the country is flat, rising, in a very gentle and gradual ascent, from the river to the northern boundary of the parish.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The soil is chiefly of two kinds. A considerable part of it, along the side of the river, is a deep strong clay; that on the higher grounds is a rich loam. Both are fertile, and, with moderate manure and labour, capable of yielding excellent crops of all kinds. The use of lime, has, of late years, become universal in this part of the country, and perhaps has contributed more, than any thing else, to improve and meliorate the soil. The air is neither remarkably moist nor dry. From the situation, one might

might naturally expect that it would rather be moist. But the country is open all around, and the current of the river carries off any moisture in the air, that may arise from the low grounds. It does not appear by any means to be unhealthy, nor are there any diseases which can properly be said to be peculiar to it. The ague, which used greatly to prevail here, as well as in other parts of the Carse of Gowrie, is now hardly known, a change which is universally attributed to the rapid improvements in agriculture, particularly to the draining of the low marshy ground, which formerly lay under water during a great part of the year. A curious observation has been made, by persons who resided some time in this country, respecting the comparative healthiness or unhealthiness of different situations in the neighbourhood. They remarked, that persons residing in the lowest parts of the Carse of Gowrie, are in general more healthy, and liable to fewer diseases than those who live in the higher grounds, particularly along the face of the hill. It belongs to medical gentlemen to account for this; but the fact is asserted upon pretty attentive and accurate observation.

*Population.*—The population seems to have increased considerably within these 40 years; one cause of this may be, that about 30 years ago, the proprietor of the estate of Pitfour, (to whom the greatest part of the parish belongs), divided a considerable portion of his estate into distinct farms, obliging every tenant to reside upon his own farm; whereas, before that time, they lived together in a small village, where they had not the same conveniences or comforts. The farms in general are small, not exceeding 40 or 50 acres, which is another circumstance favourable to the population of the country. The number of souls at present in the pa-



rish is about 300, of whom 130 are males, and 170 females,

Under 10 years of age,	-	-	74
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	78
———— 20 and 50,	-	-	110
———— 50 and 70,	-	-	32
Above 70,	-	-	6

		300
The population, in 1755, was,	-	189

Increase, 111

There are 20 men married, including widowers,	42
———— unmarried, including servants,	21

Abstract of baptisms, marriages, and burials, for the last 5 years.

<i>Years,</i>	<i>Baptisms.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Burials.</i>
1786	8	5	4
1787	11	0	13
1788	11	2	2
1789	6	3	3
1790	10	6	2
	—	—	—
	46	16	24
	—	—	—
Ann. average, about	9	3	5

There are 3 principal farmers in the parish, and 10 smaller ones. The largest farm does not exceed 130 acres. The number of handicraftsmen is about 20, most of whom are employed in the salmon fishing on the Tay during the summer,

mer, and carry on their other occupations during the rest of the year. There are just 2 families of Seceders, and no other dissenters from the established Church. The number of inhabited houses is about 54, with somewhat more than 5 at an average to each house.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—The whole ground is arable, except a few acres of planting. It produces all sorts of grain. Wheat, barley, oats, clover, grass, pease, and beans, are the ordinary crops, together with a small quantity of potatoes and flax, which are commonly raised, not for sale, but for the use of private families. Turnips are but little cultivated. Some of the farmers of this parish observe pretty nearly the most approved method of agriculture, which is now generally practised in the Carle of Gowrie, dividing their farm into 6 parts; one sixth part for summer fallow, one for wheat, one for pease and beans, one for barley, one for clover grass, and one for oats. The common rotation of crops is in the order just now mentioned; but this order is not rigidly observed, even by the best farmers; for wheat is very often sown after pease and clover, as well as fallow. The method of fallowing and sowing grass, though evidently for the advantage of the farmer, is only coming into general repute. Many divide their farms into 4 parts, sowing wheat after pease, barley after wheat, oats after barley, and pease after oats, with only as much grass as is necessary for food to their cattle during the summer season. There is scarce any such thing as pasture. The horses and cattle are chiefly fed within doors. The parish does much more than supply itself with the necessaries of life. It annually exports a considerable quantity of grain, particularly of wheat and barley, and, from its vicinity to Perth, and other convenient ports  
for

for shipping, along the Tay, a ready market is found for all its produce.

*Prices of Provisions and Labour.*—The average prices of grain are, wheat 21 s. *per* boll; barley and meal, 15 s.; and pease and beans, 14 s. Other provisions are regulated by the Perth market. The wages of men servants, employed in husbandry, are from 8 l. to 10 l. when they live in the family; and 2 pecks of meal in the week, with a free house, when they do not. Women servants have generally from 40 s. to 50 s. *per annum*, with some perquisites. The wages allowed to shearers, for cutting down a harvest, is from 16 s. to a guinea, according to their different ages and strength. They are, for the most part, hired for the season, except in those cases where the farmers have cottagers, of whom there are a considerable number in this parish. To cut down the harvest is a part of their stated labour, and for this and some other pieces of service, they have a free house, a garden, and an acre of land. The effect of employing cottagers in agriculture, is doubtless friendly to the population of the country, and the morals of the people, though it may be questioned, if it be equally profitable to the farmer.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly made use of is coal, with sometimes the addition of a little wood by the poorer sort of people. The coals are all brought by water carriage up the river, from different parts of Fife. The price paid for them at the port, when delivered, is seldom above 4 s. *per* boll, which consists of 52 stone weight, and the people in general are well supplied.

*Rent.*—The general rent of the land at present, is from 25 s. to 30 s. *per* acre; but some ground lately let at above

40 s.

40 s. The whole land rent of the parish, as it now lets, will be about 800 l. or 900 l.

*Church and Stipend.*—The church, from an inscription on the front of it, appears to have been built in the year 1610. The manse was built in 1729. Both have undergone frequent repairs. The manse got a thorough repair in the course of last year. The stipend, at an average, is 70 l. *per annum*, with a glebe of 20 acres. Mr Richardson of Pitfour is patron. He resides in the parish during summer. The only other heritor is Mr Craigie of Glendoich.

*Poor.*—There are just 2 persons who receive at present a stated allowance from the poor's funds. They are both above 80 years of age. Others receive occasional supplies, when they happen to fall into distress, or meet with any misfortune that demands a temporary aid. But the people here, in general, are rather backward to accept of any relief, unless in cases of real necessity. The contributions at the church door, and other stated funds, amount to about 12 l. a year, which, in general, is sufficient for every demand. But there is besides, a sum of upwards of 200 l. belonging to the poor, lent out at interest, which is perpetually accumulating, and, in all probability, never will be applied to the purposes for which it was collected.

*School.*—The salary of the parish schoolmaster is 100 merks. The quarterly payment for reading, is 1 s.; for writing and arithmetic, 2 s.; and for Latin, 3 s. The number of scholars, at an average, is about 60, a considerable part of whom come from neighbouring parishes.

*Language*

*Language and Names of Places.*—The language spoken in this country is a dialect of the English; nor does there seem to be any very peculiar provincial accent. The names of places are chiefly derived from the Gaelic, such as Pitfour, Pitcogue, Cairney; *Pitfour* signifying, (as the incumbent is informed), *a hollow beside a fortification*; *Pitcogue*, *a narrow hollow or gully*; *Cairny*, derived from *cairn*, which signifies a heap of stones piled together for some religious purpose, or for commemorating some remarkable event. There is a large stone, which gives name to a village or hamlet in the parish, called *Hawkestone*. The tradition of the country is, that it is the stone on which the hawk of the peasant Hay alighted, after it had performed its flight round the land given to the gallant rustic, in reward for his services performed at the battle of Luncarty. The word CALEDONIA is inscribed in modern letters; but for what reason it does not appear.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The principal advantage this parish possesses, in point of situation, is its vicinity to the river Tay, which is navigable as far up as Perth. The village of Inchyra, situated on the river, is not much more than a mile distant from any part of the parish, and not a quarter of a mile from some parts of it. And as this village has a tolerable good harbour, that admits vessels of considerable burden, it affords an easy and convenient opportunity to the inhabitants, of supplying themselves with coals and lime, and at the same time of carrying off the produce of their industry to the best markets. The principal disadvantage, is the badness of the roads in winter, owing to the nature of the soil. This, however, in time may be remedied. An excellent turnpike road has lately been made between Perth and Dundee, part of which passes through this parish, one of the  
greatest

greatest improvements that has ever taken place in this country.

*General Character of the People.*—The inhabitants of this parish are, in general, above the middle size, and of a stout, robust make. They are rather, perhaps, of a phlegmatic than a sprightly constitution. They are, upon the whole, sober, honest, and industrious, regular in their attendance upon public worship, and attentive to the duties of their stations.

NUM.

## NUMBER LXXIX.

## PARISH OF DURNES.

*(County of Sutherland.)**By the Rev. Mr JOHN THOMSON.**Origin of the Name.*

VARIOUS etymologies are assigned for the name of this parish. Among others, it is said that *Dur* is a contraction of *Durrin* or *Dourin*, which signifies, in the Gaelic, a storm, so that *Durness* would seem to mean the *nests* or *promontory of storms*, an appellation to which the neighbouring coast is not unentitled. But whatever may be the meaning of the name, it is well known, from tradition, that the application of it, to this parish, took place, not from the nature of the ground, but in consequence of the Bishop of Caithness disposing of it to Morrison, (Ay Mac Hormaid, as they call him), a Lewis man, and a native of a place called Diurness there, on occasion of his being married to his natural daughter, or, as such were usually termed in those days, his *sister*. This Ay Morrison gave it its present name, to commemorate the place of his own nativity. Whatever its former name might have been, it surely has been a *sheal*, or summer dwelling of old, belonging to the bishopric of Caithness.

*Extent and Situation.*—The parish comprehends the cultivated lands on the eastern side of Loch Eriboll, commonly called

called Westmoine; with the tract denominated Strathmore, and intersected by the river Hope. It forms a part of the county of Sutherland, of the presbytery of Tongue, and of the synod of Caithness and Sutherland. The greatest length of the parish is computed to be 15 miles, and the greatest breadth, 13.

*Surface and Scenery.*—The scenery of this parish is mostly wild and mountainous. Considerable tracts are occupied by mosses. Towards the shore, however, where the peninsula terminates in *Far-out-head*, there is a series of beautiful fields, and rich green pasture. On the sides of the hills, too, upon spots where *sbields* have been occasionally erected, to shelter the shepherds, in summer and harvest, when feeding their flocks at a distance from their ordinary dwellings, the sward is richly variegated with clover, daisies, and other valuable grasses and wild flowers. Loch-Borley, a lake which is a full quarter of a mile in length, and about two thirds as much in breadth, lies in the middle of the peninsula of Durness. A small river falls into the Bay of Durness, and the river Hope holds its course upon the east side of Loch Erriboll. Along the shore, a tract of flat land extends, in some places, to the very verge of the ocean; in others, there is a considerable extent of bare sands; at the head lands, piles of rocks tower to a vast height.

*Shores and Tides.*—The shores are almost every where rocky, barren, and even destitute of vegetables. In Loch Erriboll, and indeed in some creeks, *red-ware*, or sea-weed, is produced in such quantity, as to afford, yearly, 10 or 12 tons of kelp; and on the shores, upon both sides of *Far-out-head*, great quantities of this weed are driven in by the waves, and used for manure by the possessors of the adjoining lands. Great



plenty of sponges, but not of the best quality, are also intermixed among those sea weeds. The tides rush in with great rapidity and violence upon this coast, especially on the headlands; and, above all, at Cape Wrath, where their violence is increased by means of a shoal, running out north by east, from the extremity of the Cape, for 5 or 6 miles, and covered by a depth of water, measuring only from 16 to 24 fathoms. About a mile from the coast is the *Staigs*, a rock the top of which is always above water; but which is, nevertheless, formidable to ships approaching the Cape by night; but a still more dangerous rock, the top of which can be seen only in neap tides, is said to lie 9 miles due north from the Cape.

*Lakes and Rivers.*—Loch Erriboll is a spacious harbour, in which even the smallest sloop enjoys perfect safety, and which appears large enough to receive perhaps the whole British navy. On the east, it is bounded by the bright and elevated rocks of Whitenhead, which mariners distinguish at a distance, even in the night; and on the west by Ruspín, a small dry harbour, lately much improved by the tacksmen of the fishings and the kelp shores. At Far-out-head, there is a large bay of rough sea, too open to afford shelter for vessels. Cape Wrath, Far-out-head, and Whitenhead, are the only headlands on this part of the coast.

*Caves.*—In the cave of Smo, sounds are distinctly repeated by a remarkable echo. This cave is, indeed, in many respects, an object worthy to attract and engage the notice of a curious observer of nature. It is, in some places, 100 yards wide. The natural vault is about 70 or 80 yards in height. A short way within the mouth of the cave, there is a perforation in the arch, through which a stream of water descends,

ascends, and is received into a subterraneous lake, that extends backwards to a length that has not been ascertained. Tradition says, that the only person who ever had courage to attempt to explore it, was one Donald, master of Reay, and that the extinction of the lights, by foul air, obliged him to return, before he could advance to the extremity of the lake, or the boundary of the cave. Many other caves, besides Smo, are scattered through the peninsula of Durness; but none so singularly remarkable, so large, or so magnificent.

*Minerals, &c.*—This tract of country is not known to afford any uncommon minerals. Through the whole peninsula, no less upon the shores, than in the interior parts, the soil seems to rest upon one unbroken bed of limestone, perforated here and there, indeed, by the caves above mentioned, but intercepted by no veins or strata of stone of a different nature.

*Fish.*—Loch-Borley affords, in great abundance, a species of trouts called *Red Bellies*, and, in Gaelic, *Tarragan*. They are caught only in October, when they repair to the shallow water to deposit their spawn. Both the small river, which empties itself into the Bay of Durness, and the Hope, afford salmon, like other British rivers communicating with the sea. These, with all the other fishings in Lord Reay's country, are under lease to a company, who export the fish caught. The former river yields about 24 barrels of salmon annually, The Hope may afford 20 barrels. Cod, ling, skate, turbot, haddocks, whittings, and flounders, are the most common sea fish upon these coasts. Loch Erriboll sometimes affords a small tack of herrings. Seals abound all around the coast. When the tide is at ebb, scores of them are daily to be seen, basking upon the banks of the channel. As they seldom go out  
to

to sea in quest of food, they are commonly in a pitiful lean condition; and yet they are so shy, that it is scarcely possible, by any artifice, to come at them.

*Birds and Quadrupeds.*—The quadrupeds and birds, in this tract of country, are the same as through the rest of the Highlands. Grouse and muirfowl are, however, less plentiful here than in many other places; for the hills and fields are too bare to afford much cover for these birds; and, as there are few corn fields, neither can hares or partridges find much food or shelter here. Both the black cattle and the sheep of Durness are esteemed to be of an uncommonly excellent breed. Cape Wrath has long been reckoned an excellent sheep walk; the sheep stock fed upon it was, however, much more numerous 30 years past, than at present, having been disjoined from the contiguous farm of Balnaciell, and affording, itself, no fit pasture for the younger stock, it has since suffered a rapid decrease.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—The grain produced here is barley and black oats. White oats have been found to degenerate greatly in a few successive sowings. Great quantities of potatoes are planted every year. The plough is used in planting and hoeing them, and answers extremely well for this article of crop. Cabbages, green kail, turnips, carrots, &c. are produced in the gardens. In favourable seasons, the parish produces as much as maintains its inhabitants. In years of scarcity, it is supplied from Caithness. It is a happy circumstance, that the bottom of Loch-Borley contains an inexhaustible fund of the richest shell marle.

*Roads.*—No roads have yet been made through this tract of country, and, of consequence, on no occasion has the statute labour yet been exacted.

*Shipping.*

*Shipping.*—About 20 of the natives of this parish are employed in navigating two floops, the property of the tacksmen of the kelp shores and salmon fishings. These floops were built in the Bay of Durness, in the years 1788 and 1789. They sail from Ruspín, to the herring and cod fishing, in which they have hitherto been pretty successful.

*Price of Labour.*—The wages of day labourers are commonly from 6 d. to 7½ d. a day; carpenters receive 1 s. and masons the same, daily wages, for building walls of dry stones. The usual half yearly wages, which farmers pay to their men servants, are from 26 s. to 1 l. 16 s.; women servants are paid from 10 s. to 15 s.

*Fuel.*—Peats are the fuel universally used through the parish. These every family cut and prepare for themselves.

*Language.*—The Gaelic language is still generally spoken through this parish; but the English makes considerable progress among the people.

*Heritor and Rent.*—Lord Reay is sole proprietor of the whole lands of this parish. The whole rent of the lands, kelp shores, and fishings, may be about 450 l. Sterling.

*Population.*—As to the population of this parish, it appears, from lists completed upon the 12th of June 1790, that the whole number of souls then amounted to 1182, of whom 509 were inhabitants of Westmoine, and 673 of the peninsula of Durness. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1000. The annual average of births appears, from the parish register, to be 41; of the deaths 30; and the marriages 10.

*Diseases.*

*Diseases.*—Although the atmosphere be frequently moist, and very large quantities of rain fall here in the course of the year, yet the people are not greatly infested by diseases. Dyfenteries, (often occasioned, perhaps, by the inordinate use of cow's milk in summer and harvest), and slow fevers, (probably produced, in many instances, by sleeping in the shiels, upon the damp ground, or on green bulrushes; by long fasting, by exposure to wetness of feet, and by neglect of personal cleanliness), are the most prevalent distempers, especially among the poorer inhabitants in this parish. The small-pox used formerly to cut off great numbers of the children; but inoculation was introduced here more than 30 years ago, by the late Dr Dunnet of Thurso; and about 12 years past, the practice was rendered general, by the active benevolence of a gentleman belonging to the parish, and was attended with the greatest success.

*Emigrations.*—About 17 or 18 years ago, several families emigrated from this parish to North America. A few have removed, within these 2 or 3 years, to seek employment at the cotton mills.

*Church, &c.*—This, with the adjoining parishes in Strathnaver, known by the names of Tongue and Eddrachylish, comprehending a tract of country, which is computed to be 30 miles in length, and 15 or 20 in breadth, were formerly united in one parish, under the common name of Durness. But, as one clergyman was not equal to the task of instructing the inhabitants of so extensive a district in religion, and inspecting their manners, George Lord Reay, in the year 1721, applied to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, for aid towards the religious instruction of the inhabitants of this country. The Assembly agreed, that a collection should,  
for

for this purpose, be made through all Scotland. A contribution of 1500 l. Sterling was thus obtained. The original parish of Durnefs was, in consequence, divided into the 3 present parishes of Durnefs, Tongue, and Eddrachylish, in the year 1724. Stipends were assigned for the ministers of these parishes, in certain proportions, out of the teinds of Lord Reay's estate, and the interest of the money contributed. The stipend then allotted to the minister of Durnefs, was 800 merks Scotch, with 40 merks more, in the same money, for communion elements. Of these sums, 150 merks were constituted payable out of the teinds of Lord Reay's estate; the other 690 merks were to be received out of the interest of the general contribution. By a reduction of the rate of the interest upon the mortified fund, this stipend has been since diminished to the small sum of 42 l. 16 s. 8 d. Sterling. The glebe may be worth about 4 l. of yearly rent. The king is patron; but the family of Reay have always presented, and their presentees have ever been acceptable to the people. A part of the church seems to have been built in the year 1692, and some part of it may have been built still earlier. The manse was first built in the year 1727; in 1771, it was repaired; and in the years 1785 and 1786, it was entirely rebuilt.

*Schools.*—The salary of the parochial school is only 100 merks Scotch, payable by Lord Reay, with recourse on his Lordship's tenants for the one half. The quarter payments are, 2 s. 6 d. for teaching Latin; 2 s. for arithmetic; 1 s. 6 d. for reading and writing; and 1 s. for teaching to read. The schoolmaster has sometimes 20 s. and sometimes 1 l. 10 s. a year, as precentor and session clerk. He has 1 s. for every marriage, and 3 d. for a baptism. But the salary and perquisites could not maintain him, if his employers did not accom-

accommodate him in board and lodgings. The present master, Mr Thomas Ross, is approved for his diligence and success. The number of scholars is 45, or thereby. The school house and room for the master will be in excellent repair very soon. There is a Society school in Westmoine, a district of this parish. The master has 10 l. a year; and his wife 3 l. for teaching some branches of female education. The number of scholars never exceed 30 at any time; there are indeed seldom so many.

*Poor.*—There are 35 poor people who are assisted from the funds, under the direction of the kirk session. The amount of the weekly contributions, for their relief, with the interest of a mortified fund of 57 l. 10 s. may be about 12 l. a year. In the years 1782 and 1783, when the crops failed, the supplies liberally provided by the late Lieutenant-General Alexander Mackay, together with the share of what Parliament granted, for the relief of the north of Scotland, contributed greatly to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, in those seasons of general want.

*Antiquities.*—The only remarkable monument of antiquity, that remains in this parish, is the famous Dun Dornadilla, in Strathmore. That portion of the wall, of this ancient tower, which is still standing, is 18 feet at the highest part. The area appears to have been surrounded with 2 concentric walls. A large triangular stone covers the front door, as a lintel. The opposite side has been reduced to rubbish.

*Eminent Men.*—The celebrated Gaelic bard, Robert Doun, was of this parish. His songs are well known, and discover uncommon force of genius. It is a pity that they have not been

been printed, to fecure them from mutilation, corruption, or oblivion.

*Propofed Improvements.*—It would contribute greatly to the fafe navigation of veffels upon thefe coafts, if a light-houfe was erected upon Cape Wrath. The bearings of the rocks, lying off the Cape, ought alfo to be accurately afcertained. Some fhipwrecks that have happened, within thefe laft 10 years, upon the coaft of Durnefs, feem to point out the neceffity of thefe meafures.

*General Character.*—Of the character of the inhabitants of this parifh, it may be obferved, that they are moderately induftrious, hofpitable, and fond of a military life. Many a brave hardy foldier has gone from Durnefs; and of thefe, fome have raifed themfelves confiderably in the army.



## NUMBER LXXX.

## PARISH OF STRAITON.

(County of Ayr.)

By Mr WILLIAM CRAWFORD, *Assistant to the Rev. Mr*  
M'DERMIT.

*Origin of the Name.*

WHEN the Romans were masters of this part of the island, they formed roads of communication between their stations. The islanders called these roads *strats*, *strets*, or *streets*, from a resemblance they bore to the streets in their own miserable villages. Hence it is inferred, that towns or villages, the names of which begin with *strat* or *stret*, are so named, because erected on or near some Roman high-way \*. To favour this conjecture, that the village of Straiton or *Strettown* stands on or near one of these Roman roads, there are still visible some vestiges of an oblong entrenchment on the summit of Benan Hill, which stands south from the village about half a mile, commanding a very extensive view of Carrick, Kyle, Cunningham, Arran, the rock of Elfa, and some of the hills in the West Highlands.—Some years ago, in digging a foundation for an obelisk, erected on the top of this hill, by the late Sir John Whitefoord, there was found an urn, curiously carved, and filled with ashes; and, at the farther side of the same

\* *Vide* Cambden, p. 636; & Bede, B. I. c. II.

same hill, there was found, about 3 years ago, another urn, much smaller than the former.

*Situation and Extent.*—The parish of Straiton lies in that district of Ayrshire called Carrick, in the presbytery of Ayr, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is about 15 miles in length, from S. E. to N. W.; and, at an average, 5 miles in breadth; containing about 75 square miles in surface. The situation of the village, at the bottom of 2 hills, between which runs the water of Girvan, is delightful. It is built on a rising ground. The houses are neat and uniform, being all constructed upon the same plan, about 30 years ago, by Thomas Earl of Cassilis. The uniformity of the houses, together with the adjacent green hills, skirted with wood, the vicinity of the Girvan, and a considerable number of very old trees in the church-yard, and about the village, justify those who visit this place, in pronouncing it one of the most beautiful Highland villages they have ever seen. It stands 13 miles S. E. from Ayr, and about the same distance N. E. from Girvan.

*Soil, Surface, Climate, &c.*—In a parish of such extent, there is, as might be expected, a variety of soils, and diversity of climate. The greatest part of the surface is only fit for pasturage. The south-east part of the parish, though not very high, is extremely wild and rocky, having a number of small lakes scattered here and there in it, abounding with excellent trouts. There is one farm, containing upwards of 6000 acres, which does not pay to the proprietor above 50l. of yearly rent. A great deal, even of the arable part of the parish, is employed in raising cattle. The farmer reaps a greater, at least a more certain profit, this way, than from tillage. The land employed in raising corn, bears a  
very

very small proportion to the whole. The proportion is much smaller now, than it seems to have been about 50 or 60 years backwards. The quantity of grain sown annually may amount to 600 bolls. The soil, in which it is sown, is generally either an earthy gravel, or a light loam. In the neighbourhood of the village, and in the barony of Whitefoord, oats will yield 6 or 7 feeds at an average, and barley in proportion. Wheat, in some seasons, succeeds very well; but, being rather precarious, is very little cultivated. The climate is very temperate and healthy, and the soil, in general, dry; so that the farmers winter their young cattle, without ever bringing them into a house. The snow seldom lies long, especially about the village. A person travelling from the east, as he approaches it, is sensibly struck with the warmer temperature of the air. The harvest is remarkably early, considering the proximity of the hills.—The disease, most fatal in the parish, is consumption on the lungs. The small-pox carries off very few, the practice of inoculation having become very general, even among the lower orders of the people. There are, in the parish, several persons who have reached the age of 80, some 90, and one 100.

*Rent, and Stock in Cattle.*—The valued rent is 4548 l. 19 s. 10 d. Scotch; the real rent, about 3000 l. Sterling. There are only 7 proprietors, 3 of whom reside in the parish. It maintains about 20,000 sheep, which yield about 171 packs of wool, which has been sold, at an average of the 3 last years, for 5 l. or 5 guineas *per* pack. Wethers, 3 years old, are sold for half a guinea, or 11 s. and other sheep in proportion. There are, in the parish, about 2100 black cattle, sold at different prices, according to their age and weight. Some of the farmers sell them, when only two years and a  
half

half old, at 5 guineas a head. They are very like the cattle in Galloway, both in size and shape.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The price of butcher meat depends upon the Ayr market. It is commonly sold a halfpenny *per* pound cheaper in Straiton than in Ayr. A pair of fowls sells at 1 s. 4 d. ; chickens, 6 d. ; a dozen of eggs, 2 d. ; a pound of butter, 8 d.

*Rivers.*—The Doon, the eastern boundary of Carrick, issuing from a lake of the same name, 7 miles in length, washes the east and north east side of the parish ; and running north-west about 18 miles, empties itself into the Frith of Clyde, about 2 miles south from Ayr. In both loch and river there are salmon, red and white trouts, and caddings, or *charr*. The rains used formerly to raise the loch in such a manner, that the river, receiving the accumulated water from this reservoir, frequently overflowed its banks, and destroyed the meadows. The rock, over which the loch discharged itself, has lately been cut in two places at considerable expence, by the Earl of Cassilis, and Mr M<sup>r</sup> Adam of Craigingillan, the proprietors on each side ; so that, by means of sluices, not only the damage is prevented, but some land is gained, by a diminution of the extent of the loch. The Girvan has its source in the parish, about 8 miles above the village. Like the Doon, it rises from a loch, or rather a great number of lochs, the principal of which are Garany and Braden. These two, and 12 other lochs in the parish, are inhabited, some of them by red, and some by white trouts, some by both, and one of them entirely by pikes. In the Water of Girvan there are trouts and salmon. The course of the Girvan, till it passes the village, is north-west. After leaving the parish, which it divides into two unequal parts,

parts, it turns south west, and discharges itself into the Frith of Girvan, after a course of 20 miles.

*Wood.*—There is a great deal of natural wood in the parish, which is very profitable to the proprietors. Some of the hills are beautifully skirted with it, almost to their tops. There are some considerable plantations of exceeding good trees of different kinds; such as oak, elm, ash, beech, lime, fycamore, fir, &c. especially about and near the place of Whitefoord.

*Minerals.*—There is plenty of coal, lime, marl, and free and iron stone in the parish. It is to be regretted, that the coal is at a distance of more than 4 miles from the village, and the road unpassable with carts for the greatest part of the year; so that the inhabitants are obliged to bring their coals from the parish of Dalmellington, at the distance of 8 miles. On the margin of Loch Doon, there are beds of a very singular soft bluish clay substance, which, when taken up, and exposed to the sun and atmosphere, becomes as white as any fuller's earth, and acquires the consistency of chalk. It has been examined chemically by the celebrated Dr Hutton, who can give the fullest and best account of it.

*Church.*—The old stipend was 53l. 18s. 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. with 48 bolls of victual, two thirds meal and one third bear. The Court of Session last year granted an augmentation of 40 bolls meal and bear, in the above proportions, with 3l. 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The glebe, including the garden, consists of 8 acres of good land. The patronage of the parish belongs to the Crown. The church is in pretty good condition. The manse, though built so lately as in 1753, is in very bad repair. The incumbent is the third minister

nister from the Revolution. There is but one Seceder, and no Roman Catholics.

*School*.—The school-house is in good condition; but the salary being only 100 merks, no teacher thinks it worth his while to stay long in the parish. Accordingly, of late, there has been a very rapid succession of schoolmasters, to the great detriment of the parish. The smallness of the emoluments excludes from a choice of teachers.

*Population*.—According to Dr Webster, the population, in 1755, amounted to 1123. The number of souls, taken last summer (1791), at a parochial visitation, was 934. Of these there are,

Males,	-	-	-	440
Females,	-	-	-	494
Under 8 years of age,			-	163
Above 8 ditto,			-	771
Families in the village,	41		Souls,	186
— in the country,	143		—	748

There has been no register of marriages and burials kept in the parish before 1783. From the register of baptisms it appears, that the number has decreased. This, indeed, might be expected, as several farms that formerly kept 2 or 3 families, are now possessed by individuals. Of this frequent proofs are seen, in the vestiges of old houses, of which only the foundations remain. In all countries, where the people live chiefly by pasturing cattle, this will be the case. As they improve by inclosures, &c. fewer hands are necessary to superintend the flocks and herds.

*Number*

	<i>Number of Births.</i>	<i>Average per Annum.</i>
From 1700 to 1710	288	28.8
———— 1740 to 1750	314	31.4
———— 1750 to 1760	242	24.2
———— 1760 to 1770	237	23.7
———— 1770 to 1780	228	22.8
———— 1780 to 1790	230	23

From the beginning of 1783, to the beginning of 1792, during which period the session clerk has kept a register of marriages and burials, as well as of baptisms, the average is, of

Baptisms,	-	-	22
Burials,	-	-	16
Marriages,	-	-	8

*Division and Conditions of the Inhabitants.*—Of the 184 families, 3 belong to proprietors of land, 33 to farmers, and 41 to villagers. The rest are the families of shepherds, cottagers, labourers, and coalliers. There are 4 shoemakers, 3 taylors, 4 masons, 4 blacksmiths, 2 millers, 3 joiners, 2 cartwrights, 1 butcher, and 1 baker, who are chiefly employed by the people in the parish; and 12 weavers, besides journeymen and apprentices, who, till very lately, were employed principally in making woollen webs for the Ayr and Maybole markets. During the last year, the greatest part of them have betaken themselves to the weaving of muslin.—Before the late extension of the excise laws, there were in Straiton a considerable number of smugglers. The late regulations, having increased the risk, at the same time that they diminished the profits, have, in this place, almost entirely put an end to this kind of illicit traffic. There are in the

the village 2 inns, and 4 ale-houses. It were to be wished that ale only were sold in them.

*Poor.*—The decay of smuggling has reduced several families, that used to live plentifully, to great poverty, so that the number of the poor may be expected to increase. The number of paupers, supported by the parish funds, has increased from about 12, within these 2 or 3 last years, to 19. The sum annually expended upon them is about 30*l.* which is procured by the weekly collections at church, and the interest of 120*l.* appropriated to them. They live in their own houses, and the greatest part of them earn something by their industry, besides their monthly supply from the funds. Scarcely any of them beg.

*Antiquities.*—Besides the two urns already mentioned, there is, upon a little island in Loch Doon, the ruins of an old castle, which has been built of very large free-stones. The form is octangular. The arch of a Gothic gate is still entire. The history of this castle, which must have been a retreat of great strength and security, cannot now be obtained. The island on which it stands is nearest to the Carrick shore, and belongs to the Earl of Cathilis. How the stones, which are very large, were brought hither, is not easy to conjecture. There is no quarry nearer than 8 miles, and the intervening ground is rough and hilly, without any vestige of a road. In Loch Braden, one of the sources of the Girvan, there is also an island, with the remains of a castle on it. There are several vestiges of those cairns, so frequently met with in Scotland, in the parish of Straiton; one in particular, which seems to have been a place of great consequence and solemnity. It is remarkable, that Sir James



Birmingham, a former proprietor of the barony of Dalmorton, now belonging to Sir Adam Fergusson, bound his tenants, as appears from old leases, "to attend his Baron's Court, at the *cairn*, in the holm of Dalmorton."

A P P E N -

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## A P P E N D I X.

*Containing some pieces of additional information, received after the accounts of the respective parishes, to which they refer, were gone to the press.*

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No. XIV.

D Y C E, p. 130.

*Situation.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in the county, synod, and presbytery of Aberdeen.

*Rent.*—The real rent cannot be exactly ascertained, as it consists of money, meal, bear, poultry, services, and what is worth of all, (as they operate as a tax upon improvement), miln multures.

*Church.*—The stipend is paid, partly in money, and partly in victual. The former amounts to 380 l. 2 d. Scotch; and the latter consists of 37 bolls 3 firlots 3 pecks meal, 6 bolls 1½ pecks bear, and 6 bolls malt; besides a glebe of 5 acres,  
and

and about a quarter of an acre of pasture ground. In 1763 there was an augmentation of 1061. Scotch. The College of St. Andrews are titulars of the teinds, and draw a considerable sum yearly from the parish.

*School.*—The parochial school is small. The number of scholars, in winter, is from 20 to 30; but does not exceed 14 or 15 in summer. The salary is only 5l. 12s. The perquisites are trifling. Till within these 9 years, there was no legal salary.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Weber, in the year 1755, was 383; from which it appears, there is a decrease of 31 within these 40 years.

*Cattle.*—The number of black cattle seldom exceeds 650. That of the horses, in January 1792, was 94. Both were included in the former calculation.

*Disadvantages.*—The high duty on malt is severely felt in this parish. This tax amounts to nearly one third of the value of the bear, which operates almost as a prohibition of the manufacture, and, of consequence, not only distresses the country people, by depriving them of a necessary and strengthening refreshment, but likewise hurts the revenue, by diminishing the consumption. There is hardly one fourth of the quantity of malt made now in the parish, that was made in it 20 years ago; which is attended with this additional bad consequence, that the people, being deprived of their usual wholesome liquor, are obliged to have recourse to spirits, which are sold through the whole country, to the no small hurt of their health, as well as their morals.

## No. XVI.

D U N S C O R E, p. 140.

*Population.*—From a particular enumeration of the inhabitants, taken in September 1791, by Mr Kirkpatrick, the number is exactly ascertained to be 1033, which makes the increase, within these 40 years, 382. The number of dissenters, from the Established Church, is 96.

*Rent.*—Farms rent at about 150 l. but the tacksmen often sublet a part of them; so that the highest rent, paid by any one farmer, will not exceed 90 l. Sterling.

*Copy of a letter from ROBERT RIDDELL, Esq; of Glenriddell,  
to Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.*

SIR JOHN,

I inclose you a letter, wrote by Mr Burns, as an addition to the account of Dunscore parish. It contains an account of a small library, which he was so good, (at my desire) as to set on foot, in the barony of Monkland, or Friar's Carse, in this parish. As its utility has been felt, particularly among the younger class of people, I think, that if a similar plan were established, in the different parishes in Scotland, it would tend greatly to the speedy improvement of the tenantry, trades people, and work people. Mr Burns was so good as take the whole charge of this small concern. He was treasurer,

furor, librarian, and censor to this little society, who will long have a grateful sense of his public spirit, and exertions for their improvement and information.

I have the honour to be,

S I R J O H N,

Your's most sincerely,

R O B. R I D D E L L.

*To Sir JOHN SINCLAIR of Ulbster, Bart.*

S I R,

THE following circumstance has, I believe, been omitted in the Statistical Account, transmitted to you, of the parish of Duncore, in Nithsdale. I beg leave to send it you, because it is new, and may be useful. How far it is deserving of a place in your patriotic publication, you are the best judge.

To store the minds of the lower classes with useful knowledge, is certainly of very great consequence, both to them as individuals, and to society at large. Giving them a turn for reading and reflection, is giving them a source of innocent and laudable amusement; and besides, raises them to a more dignified degree in the scale of rationality. Impressed with this idea, a gentleman in this parish, ROBERT RID-

DELL,

WELL, Esq; of Glenriddel, set on foot a species of circulating library, on a plan so simple, as to be practicable in any corner of the country; and so useful, as to deserve the notice of every country gentleman, who thinks the improvement of that part of his own species, whom chance has thrown into the humble walks of the peasant and the artisan, a matter worthy of his attention.

Mr Riddell got a number of his own tenants, and farming neighbours, to form themselves into a society, for the purpose of having a library among themselves. They entered into a legal engagement, to abide by it for 3 years; with a saving clause or two, in cases of removal to a distance, or of death. Each member, at his entry, paid 5 s.; and at each of their meetings, which were held every fourth Saturday, 6 d. more. With their entry money, and the credit which they took on the faith of their future funds, they laid in a tolerable stock of books at the commencement. What authors they were to purchase, was always to be decided by the majority. At every meeting, all the books, under certain fines and forfeitures, by way of penalty, were to be produced; and the members had their choice of the volumes in rotation. He whose name stood, for that night, first on the list, had his choice of what volume he pleased in the whole collection; the second had his choice after the first; the third after the second, and so on to the last. At next meeting, he who had been first on the list at the preceding meeting, was last at this; he who had been second, was first; and so on, through the whole 3 years. At the expiration of the engagement, the books were sold by auction, but only among the members themselves; and each man had his share of the common stock, in money or in books, as he chose to be a purchaser or not.

At

At the breaking up of this little society, which was formed under Mr Riddell's patronage, what with benefactions of books from him, and what with their own purchases, they had collected together upwards of 150 volumes. It will easily be guessed, that a good deal of trash would be bought. Among the books, however, of this little library, were, Blair's Sermons, Robertson's History of Scotland, Hume's History of the Stewarts, the Spectator, Idler, Adventurer, Mirror, Lounger, Observer, Man of Feeling, Man of the World, Chrysal, Don Quixotte, Joseph Andrews, &c. A peasant who can read, and enjoy such books, is certainly a much superior being to his neighbour, who, perhaps, stalks beside his team, very little removed, except in shape, from the brutes he drives.

Wishing your patriotic exertions their so much merited success,

I am,

S I R,

Your humble servant,

A P E A S A N T.

No.

## No. XXXVI.

D U R R I S, p. 258.

*Erection.*—This parish was formerly a parsonage, in the presbytery of Fordoun, and diocese of Brechin. As the minister found it, at all times, very inconvenient, and in winter often impossible, on account of the deep snow on the hills, to attend the diets of presbytery, the General Assembly, therefore, in the year 1717, annexed Durris to the presbytery of Aberdeen.

*Agriculture.*—The Norfolk plough is used for faughing, or ribbing the ground, and plowing light soil. The drill and wheel ploughs are used on the haugh; but the old Scotch plough, with low stils, is most in use. The farmers constantly employ hired servants; but most of them have subtenants, who are bound to cut down their master's crops, cast and lead his peats, and build his fauld dykes. They are usually allowed Saturday, in time of harvest, to reap their own corn.

*Poor.*—Mr Alexander Hogg, a native of this parish, died at Turkenham, in the beginning of the year 1787, and bequeathed to this parish 500 l. in old 4 *per cent.* Bank annuities reduced, to be applied to the following purposes:

1<sup>mo</sup>, To a charity schoolmaster, for instructing 10 poor children, boys or girls, whose ages shall not be under 9 years,

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nor



nor exceed 11, in reading English, writing, and accounts,  
*per annum*, - - - - - L. 5 0 0

2do, To the herds round Cairn-Shee, for their  
 mid-summer fee, (on which occasion the farmers  
 give their herds bread and cheefe, and sometimes  
 they have music and dancing), - - - 0 10 0

3tio, For a dinner to the members of the kirk-  
 session, when they distribute the interest of his mor-  
 tification, - - - - - 1 0 0

4to, The remainder of the interest of said 500l. (for  
 which only 3 *per cent.* is now received), to be distributed a-  
 mong poor house keepers, who are not on the poor's roll.

*N. B.* The interest of this 500l. makes a part of the  
 account formerly communicated of the poor's funds of this  
 parish.

*School.*—Mr John Gerard, the present schoolmaster, gives  
 the following particular account of his salary and perqui-  
 sites:

The salary, (of which Lord Peterborough pays the one half, and the tenants the other), is, <i>per annum</i> ,	L. 8 6 8
Ditto as session clerk, - - - - -	1 10 0
Ditto as clerk to Mr Hogg's mortification,	0 10 0
Dues of baptisms, 6½ d. each, amount, upon an average, to - - - - -	0 9 6
Ditto of marriages, 6½ d. each, _____	0 3 0
Ditto for extracts from the register of baptisms, 3 d. each, - - - - -	0 1 6
Carried over,	<u>L. 11 0 8</u>

Brought over,	L. 11	0	8
School fees, <i>communibus annis</i> , about	-	4	0 0
He has also a small garden, worth about		0	5 0
		_____	
Total amount of salary and perquisites <i>per ann.</i>	L. 15	5	8

The number of Scholars is from 30 to 40 in winter, and between 20 and 30 in summer.

No.

## No. XXXIX.

M O N E D I E, p. 269.

*Minerals.*—On the farm of Monedie, next the river, there is a pure, unmixed, strong gravel, 2 feet below the surface; which the present incumbent discovered, by digging a well. About 12 feet deep, there was a stratum of a perfectly black colour, and about a foot thick, so extremely hard to dig, that the workman, who was employed to dig it at piece work, several times gave it up, declaring that he would be a loser at triple or quadruple the price agreed on. When it was broken through, the pieces were full of shining yellow particles, like spangles of gold; but after some hours exposure to the open air, they lost their lustre. It appeared in some places, as if it had been a little fused by the force of fire. The colour of the gravel, above and below, and in immediate contact with it, was not in the least altered. The black gravel, from its surface quite through, was of the same deep black colour, and when it was broken into small pieces, these gold like spangles still appeared. Mineralogists may, possibly, if they have seen or heard of this phenomenon, account for it. The water of the well is exceeding fine and soft, and very good for washing and breaking soap, owing, no doubt, to its being filtered through such a depth of rough gravel.

*Eminent Persons.*—BESSY BELL, celebrated in song by our Scotch Horace, was descended from the ancient family of Kinved, whose surname was Bell; but now extinct. From tradition,

tradition, we learn, that there was a peculiar intimacy between this young lady and Mary Gray, of the house of Lednock, a small estate upon the banks of the river Amon, about a mile distant from Kinved; distinguished beauties, but of quite different complexions. In the beginning of that dreadful plague, which so cruelly ravaged and depopulated this country, they retired together to a lonely place, called the *Burn Brea*, to secure themselves from the infection. A young gentleman, whose name and descent are not known, but who is supposed to have been a native of the parish of Monedie, had a warm and laudable affection for them both, and paid them a visit in their retreat. This visit was attended with fatal consequences; for, having unhappily imbibed the seeds of the plague, without perceiving it, the young ladies caught the infection, and died. They were both buried in one grave, which is still pointed out at the head of a heugh, on the banks of the Amon. The foundation of their bower is also shewn on "yon Burn brae." The late proprietor, Major Barry, inclosed their burial place with a wall of mason work, with this inscription on one of the stones in the wall, "BESSY BELL AND MARY GRAY."

#### N E W P A R I S H.

*Situation, Extent, and Population.*—LOGIE-AMON, or the New Parish, disjoined from the parishes of Foulis and Monzie, and annexed, *quoad sacra*, to the parish of Monedie, lies contiguous to it on the west side, and reaches westward to a small rivulet, called the Mill-Burn. The river Amon washes it on the south, from whence it extends northward to the foot of the Grampians. It is about 3 computed miles square, and has a gradual descent from the north to Amon, and contains, at present, between 700 or 800 souls.

*Soil,*

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The soil adjacent to the river is partly a light loam, and partly gravelly; on the rising ground, and towards the hills, the soil is a deep till mixed with moss. The ground next the hills is composed, partly of muir unfit for tillage, some of which is already planted with fir; and partly of moss of a good quality, and which is now the only fuel of the inhabitants, paring the ground for the turf being prohibited by the present and only proprietor, William Drummond, Esq. Rains are frequent, by reason of its proximity to the hills. The air is sharp. In stormy weather, with which they are pretty much visited, they have very high winds, especially from the west, which, collected in, and issuing from, a narrow opening, confined between two high hills on the north and south, blow with great violence, purify the air, and render the climate very healthy, and consequently populous, few families having below 6 or 7 children, and many of them above a dozen. There was one man, in the present incumbent's time, who had 24 children all baptized in the kirk of Monedie. The people commonly live long, and many to a great age. They are, in general, sprightly, stout, handsome men.

*Agriculture, &c.*—All the arable ground was run-rigg till last year, which greatly retarded, or rather quite prevented, improvement; but the present proprietor has wisely abolished the practice. He has divided all the lands into small compact farms, containing from 20 to 40 acres each, with the laudable intention of providing for all his old tenants, and such of their sons as incline to agriculture. He has already, within the space of one year, at considerable expence, reared up 20 neat convenient farm houses, built with stones. Two of these houses are of two stories, and garrets; the rest one story and a garret each. He designs to proceed in the  
same

same manner over his whole estate, which is very much to the satisfaction of his tenants, who have readily adopted his plan of improvements, in cropping their respective farms. Last summer they drove a vast quantity of lime from Perth, allowing about 30, 40, or 50 bolls of shells to the acre. As the length and tediousness of carriage bears rather a little heavy on the tenants, he has it in contemplation to try to discover marle on his grounds, and entertains hopes of succeeding. The hills have been tried for lime stone, but without success. The crops, till last year, were only black oats, bear, potatoes, and lint. This last agrees exceedingly well with the soil, producing to the amount of 12 l. 14 s. *per* acre. But they are now sowing pease, and intend to try grass crops and turnips, and it is hoped these experiments will succeed. They have already begun to roll after harrowing. They have entirely laid aside the old mode of plowing, which was with 4 horses, yoked side by side, with a driver, or rather leader, who plied before the horses, held them by the head, and travelled backwards. They now plow with only 2 horses, and no driver. They still retain the old Scotch plough. The seed time, for oats, is in April; for bear, in May. Harvest begins about the end of September and beginning of October. In unfavourable seasons it is later.

*Animals.*—Formerly all the tenants kept sheep; but they are now restricted to the farms that are nearest the hills, which are divided into sheep walks. The horses and cows are, as yet, very little improved. The tenants hitherto had their apiaries, the honey of which was in very great request, owing, perhaps, to the bees having no other food but the blossoms of heath, and other wild mountainous flowers. The hills of Logie-Amon abound with muir fowl, heath cocks, and partridges in the corn fields, with plovers in the season, and a great number of hares.

*Rents.*

*Rents.*—The valued rent is 4020 l. Scotch; the real rent about 600 l. Sterling. All the antient servitudes are converted into money. The poor are provided with those of the old parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The principal part of the inhabitants are of the Established Church. The only Episcopals are the family of Logie. There are no Roman Catholics. In the west of Logie-Amon there is a Seceder church and manse. The minister has a pretty good living, and rents a farm. Most of the people of the established persuasion have seats in the church, and, from local conveniency, attend Divine service there; but communicate in the parish church. It is more than probable, that if there were a preacher or minister of the established persuasion settled among them, they would give up the Seceffion.

*Rivers, Bridges, &c.*—The country is intersected with several rivulets descending from the hills to the river Amon, which, a little below their sources, form deep gullies, edged and bottomed with rugged precipices and rocks, in all of which there are trouts. These gullies are greatly levelled with high arches, for the sake of a high-way from Perth to Crief. The river Amon takes its rise from the top of a glen in the Grampions, called the *Narrow Glen*, to the westward of Glen-Amon. It runs through Monzie and Foulis, washing Logie Amon on the south, continuing its course between the parishes of Methven, Regerton, and Perth, and there falls into the Tay. The bed and banks of this river are rocky. In many places the water, confined between steep and high rugged rocks, makes a tremendous appearance, and arrests the eye with a pleasing and astonishing sublimity. There are 6 bridges on it. The last bridge over it was built about

5 or 6 years ago, a little to the west of the House of Logie. It is a single arch of a circular form, very high, and 60 feet in diameter. The working men, gathering stones in the bed of the river, found, in the fissures of the rocky bottom, two silver pieces of King Charles I.'s coin. There is a tradition, that the famous Earl of Montrose passed that part of the river, in his way from the Highlands, where he usually levied his troops, which may perhaps account for the money being found there. The pieces, which the incumbent saw, was one of them a little larger than our half crown; the other, a little bigger than our shilling, but thinner.

*Eminent Men.*—The only remarkable person known, was the present Mr Drummond's grand uncle, a gentleman highly respected for his amiable qualities, and handsome person, as well as distinguished for his great bodily strength, and personal bravery. He was zealously attached to the house of Stewart, and signalized himself at the battle of Sheriffmuir, in which, after a noble struggle, he was overpowered, and taken prisoner. The bulk and weight of his broad sword was greatly admired, and thought worthy to be laid up as a great curiosity in the Tower of London, where it is said still to remain.

*Antiquities, &c.*—In the west corner of the country is a stone 10 or 12 feet high, standing inverted upon its narrow end, with 3 large stones, in an arable field immediately below the furrow. There is no inscription on them. There is a circle of big stones toward the north corner, supposed to be an ancient place of worship. There are some, but very imperfect vestiges of old buildings, on some rising grounds on the banks of the Amon, supposed, by tradition, to have been castles. There is a quick thorn, of a very antique appear-



- ance, for which the people have a superstitious veneration. They have a mortal dread to lop off, or cut any part of it, and affirm, with a religious horror, that some persons, who had the temerity to hurt it, were afterwards severely punished for their sacrilege. In the boundary between Logie Amon and the old parish, the 3 dioceses of St. Andrew's, Dumblane, and Dunkeld, meet in 3 points, within 2 or 3 yards of each other. Tradition has handed down, that the 3 bishops having visited and perambulated their dioceses at the same time, they met together at these extremities, and there being 3 wells, one at each point, they sat down, and pledged each other out of their respective wells, one of which still remains.

No.

## No. XIII.

## GLAMMIS, p. 124.

*School.*—There is a very flourishing school in Glammis. The present schoolmaster is eminent in his profession. His salary and perquisites amount to about 50 l. Sterling, with a good house, which, besides his own family, accommodates some boarders. The number of his scholars is about 50, at an average.

*Cattle.*—There are about 1190 cattle in the parish; 272 horses, and between 700 and 800 sheep.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is one good inn in the village of Glammis, and 3 alehouses; besides two or three more of the last description, in different parts of the parish. The number of these alehouses is much reduced of late, which is not to be regretted, as they have always been found to have a very bad effect on the morals of the people.—A few farmers in the parish still employ cottagers in agriculture; but the generality find, that they get their work best done by hired servants. The tenants are bound to no services, except driving some coals, if required, and furnishing a proportion of carriages towards the building of their master's houses. They also furnish carriages for the building or repairing of the church and manse. The services formerly required of the tenants, made them little better than slaves.—The nearest post town is Kirriemuir, which is about 4 miles distant.

No.

## No. LVII.

M A N O R, p. 383.

From a careful inspection of the session records, as far back as 1760, the number of births, marriages, and deaths, from the beginning of that year, to January 1791, are as follows :

	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Males,	140	94	56
Females,	136	94	67
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total,	276		123
Annual average, about	9	3	4

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