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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

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

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME SIXTH.

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

EDINBURGH:

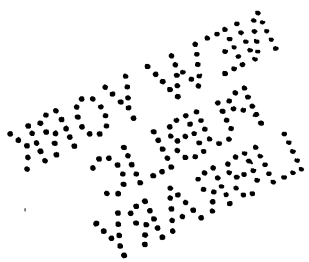
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M,DCC,XCIII.







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Carried over		29120	31708	4481	1893	

Brought

\* Vide Appendix, N<sup>o</sup> II, page 628.

No	Name.	Popula- tion in 1755.	Popula- tion in 1791-2.	Increase	Decr.	Page.
	Brought over	29120	31708	4481	1893	
24.	Kilmuir Easter -	1095	1975	880	—	183
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33.	Edderachylls } -	809	1024	155	—	278
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35.	Loth - -	1193	1370	177	—	311
36.	Swinton and Simprin -	494	898	404	—	322
37.	Nenthorn - -	497	400	—	97	336
38.	Auchtermuchty - -	1308	1439	131	—	338
39.	Ordiquhill - -	666	517	—	149	348
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41.	Lumphanan - -	682	621	—	61	382
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44.	Old Cumnock - -	1336	1632	296	—	407
45.	Tarbat - -	1584	1370	—	214	417
46.	Cranfhaws - -	214	164	—	50	436
47.	Sanquhar - -	1998	2600	602	—	443
48.	Cumbernauld - -	2303	1600	—	703	462
49.	New-Machar - -	1191	1030	—	161	465
50.	Kincardine - -	1250	2068	818	—	477
51.	Liberton - -	2793	3457	664	—	506
52.	Forfar - -	2450	4756	2306	—	510
53.	Haddington - -	3975	3915	—	60	535
54.	Uphall - -	690	600	—	90	543
	Carried over	71352	77128	11614	5838	
						Brought

\* The ministers of these parishes not having given any account of the population of one district in each, an addition is therefore made to the numbers returned by them.

N <sup>o</sup>	Name.	Popula- tion in 1755.	Popula- tion in 1791-2	Increase	Decr.	Page.
	Brought over	71352	77128	11614	5838	
55-	Aberlady -	739	800	61	—	546
56-	Lamingtoun -	599	417	—	182	549
57.	{ EDINBURGH -	57195	84886	27691	—	552
	{ (9 Parishes) -					
	{ Canongate -					
	{ St. Cuthberts -					
	{ South Leith -					
	{ North Leith -					
	Total	129885	163231	39366	6020	
			129885	6020		
	Increase		33346	33346		



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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

## SCOTLAND.

PART VI.

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NUMBER I.

### PARISH OF FRASERBURGH.

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

*By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER SIMPSON.*

---

*Name, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE antient name was Philorth, concerning whose etymology little except conjecture can be advanced. In the middle of the 16th century, a town was erected upon the estate of Sir Alexander Frazer of Philorth, which, from the name of the superior, was called Fraserburgh; and soon became a place of considerable trade.—From it arose the present denomination of the whole parish; which, at an average, is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth from east to west. The distance between the northern and southern extremities, is about 8 miles; but the parish of Rathen intersects, and divides it into two nearly equal parts, each about 3 miles long.

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A

The

The measurement exceeds 10,000 acres.—Along the to the extent of a mile into the country, the soil is good, partly clay, partly loam, or mixed. In many places, are rich and fertile fields of a similar soil. The of the parish is more gravelly: The arable land, especially the upper division, is intermixed with mosses and mired with heath or coarse grass.

*Sea Coast, Rivers, Fisheries.*—The sea coast extends 4 miles; nearly two of which, to the south of the town low and sandy, bounded by hillocks overgrown with heath. The rest is rocky and flat; except Kinnaird's-head, a land projecting into the sea, thought to be the *Promont Taixalium* of Ptolomy, being the turning point into the *Æstuarium Vararis*, or Murray Firth.—From it the land due west on the one hand, and makes a curve to the east on the other, forming a part of the bay of Fraserburgh. On this coast, considerable quantities of sea-weed, cut from rocks, are manufactured into kelp. The sea has receded from the land in some places, and encroached on it in others.—Westward of Kinnaird's-head, is a stony beach, evidently thrown up by the sea, 30 ells from, and 3 ells above, the present high water mark. Many of the benty hillocks, which skirt the bay, stand upon moss or clay; and in 1760, a bent with roots and branches, and a stem 20 feet long, was found entire, under the sand within the high flood mark. From the strong south east wind, the sands on this shore, if dry, are drifted; and if not intercepted by the bents, would overspread the adjacent fields. Bent ought, therefore, to be carefully preserved; especially a very fine sort, which has lately appeared in this bay, resembling the river bulrush in length, joint, thickness of reed, and largeness of leaf and top. It creases in quantity, and grows down to high water mark.

—C

—Cod, ling, skate, turbot, whittings, haddocks, mackerel, lobsters, and many other kinds of fish, all of the best quality, and often in great quantities, are caught here in their seasons. A great part of the cod and lobsters is bought up for the London market.—The Dutch are in the practice of fishing in summer on this coast; and in 1786, came so near as to preclude the inhabitants from their usual stations. This practice has been long followed by them: and there is a tradition that, in the beginning of the last century, their buffes frequented the loch of Strathbeg, about half way between Fraferburgh and Peterhead. Strathbeg at present, has no navigable communication with the sea, there being a bar of sand and bent, nearly a mile in breadth, between them; and an English gentleman is now attempting to drain that loch.—A rivulet, called the water of Philorth, separating the parishes of Fraferburgh and Rathen, abounds with trout, especially that species called the phinnick, of a fine flavour. A salmon fishing has also been attempted at its mouth, and along the bay, but has for some time been given up.

*Climate, Woods, Hills, &c.*—The climate is dry; and so healthy, that more than 20 persons are now living, above 80 years of age, and some above 90. Continued great frosts are rare. Snow seldom falls before Christmas, and does not lie long on the ground.—This parish appears to have abounded with wood. Large roots of trees, mostly oak, remain still in the mosses. About Philorth house, the seat of Lord Saltoun, is some old timber; and several plantations have been lately made there. His Lordship and other neighbouring gentlemen, have also planted some hundreds of acres of heath, or land, which produced poor crops of grain, with various kinds of trees, which promise to be of great benefit, as well as highly ornamental, to the country.—The on-



ly hill in the vicinity of Frazerburgh, is Mormond, covered with moss and heath, elevated 810 feet above the level of the sea; and the more conspicuous, as the country on every side for many miles is low and champaign. Here, as at the Wrekin of Shropshire, "all friends around," is no unusual toast.——In different places, are fine mineral springs. An excellent one, of a chalybeate nature, resembling the waters of Peterhead, but reckoned by judges more fit for weak constitutions, was discovered, a few years ago, on the south east corner of the town. A well of freestone has been built, and a neat house erected over it, for the accommodation of those that chuse to drink the water.——A lime-stone quarry among the rocks at Broadsea, was formerly wrought, and not being exhausted, may be opened again. The vein of lime-stone runs south; and, in the same direction, there are quarries for many miles, at short distances from each other; one, of an excellent quality, is on the banks of the water of Philorth. Plenty of granite is found in the upper division. Ironstone, of a good quality, abounds among the rocks; but the scarcity of fuel prevents its being wrought.——Very particular attention has been paid, of late years, to the roads in part of this district. They are made, and kept in repair by the statute labour, which the people perform personally, or by commutation. But a more proper and efficient plan, it is thought, might be adopted. Were turnpikes established, the roads would be in a better state. Many wish for this alteration; while others imagine that such a plan is scarcely practicable in the present state of the country\*.

*Proprietors,*

\* It is contended for, by some respectable proprietors in this part of Scotland, that there is an absolute necessity either to establish turnpikes, or to make an alteration in the nature of the statute labour.—They propose in each parish a commutation into money, somewhat nearer to the *present value*

*Proprietors, Rental, and Agriculture.*—There are four heritors, one of whom resides, in the parish, besides many feuers in the town of Frazerburgh. The valued rent is L. 3000 Scotch. It is difficult to ascertain the real rent, great part being paid in meal and bear, which vary in price; and some services are performed, though this custom is wearing out.—The farms are very different in size, from the rent of L. 5 to upwards of L. 100. In the neighbourhood of Frazerburgh, land rents so high as two guineas per acre.—Agriculture has advanced considerably, more particularly within these few years; and the face of the parish is much improved. Oats, barley, beans, and pease, are the most common species of grain. Green crops of potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, are introduced; also clover, rye-grass, and fallow. A little wheat and flax is raised. All the lands to the west and south of Frazerburgh, to the distance of a mile and a half, are inclosed and well cultivated. New inclosures, drains, and other improvements, are making every year. In some other parts the land is in the same state, and managed in the same manner,

*Use of labour for the 6 days, which are appointed to be annually wrought upon the roads; and that the whole should be levied in money only, and not, according to the present statutes, in personal labour at the pleasure of the individual.—That an assessment on the valued rent should take place for the support of bridges over the county:—That every one should contribute in proportion to the use he made of the roads;—and that none should be exempted from the amount of the six days commutation, (say 8d. 10d. or 1s. sterling, per day), whether landholder, commissioner, &c.—That the horses, carriages, carts, &c. of the proprietors, farmers, &c. should pay a certain sum yearly;—and that the fund be managed as at present, by the commissioners within each district, and shall be laid out in the different parishes, according to the sum they pay respectively. This plan contains hints well entitled to the consideration of landholders, in the northern, and, perhaps, even in the southern parts of Scotland.*

manner, and tolerably weighty crops are raised.— parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but annually exports a large quantity of barley, oats, meal, beans, potatoes, of the best kind.

The improvements are, in a great measure, to be ascribed to the heritors, who, desirous of promoting the interest and happiness of their tenants, have bound the latter to improve their farms, and to build good houses; and, for their encouragement, have either given immediate pecuniary assistance and deductions of rent for a limited time, or engaged for certain allowances at the expiration of their leases. But the considerable improvements have been made, much remains to be effected. The distinction of infield and outfield has ceased, and of consequence, an equally regular rotation of cropping ground has not taken place; nor are the habitations of all the farmers well constructed and convenient. It can be expected that people should depart, all at once, from established customs. The best concerted plans are effected gradually by degrees; but the spirit of industry, which has begun to operate, if duly cherished, will expand itself. The advantages, visibly arising from well cultivated lands, will at length overcome former prejudices, especially when the means of improvement are at hand. An inexhaustible store of fine shell-fish and sea-ware, are on one side of the parish and lime is on the other: All these are much used in manuring the ground, and found very profitable in raising crops.— Many cattle are reared in the parish, and some fattened; sold at good prices. A few hogs also are reared. The number of horses is diminished, but their size is increased, few farmers now using only two in a plough instead of six or eight as was customary; and oxen are again, of late, more generally employed in doing the work on the farm. A few years ago, there was scarcely a farmer who had not a flock of the

but now only three or four have any at all. This is principally owing to the introduction of turnips, sown grafs, and planting, and the want of winter herding.—The farms are mostly laboured by servants engaged for the half year. Day-labourers would be more for the advantage of farmers, could they be readily got, when wanted. The wages of men servants per year, besides victuals, are from L. 4 : 10s. to L. 6 sterling; of women, from L. 2 to L. 2 : 10s. Of men, for shearing in harvest, from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10s. of women, for ditto, from 15s. to L. 1. Of men shearing per day, 8d. of women, ditto, 6d. Day-labourers, without victuals, 9d.

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, School.*—There are two clergymen, the minister of the established church, and that of the Scotch Episcopal church. The stipend is two chalders of bear, and L. 61 : 2 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  in money, including 100 merks for communion elements. The glebe consists of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres; besides which, there is an allowance of L. 1 : 14 : 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  for grafs. Lord Saltoun is patron. The manse was built in 1758, and was repaired lately. The church was erected about 1575. It is in the form of a cross. Those of the Episcopal persuasion have lately built a very neat chapel. Their congregation is made up from this and some of the neighbouring parishes.

The number of poor persons receiving charity, is about 86. The amount of the collections and funds for their support, is at an average, annually about L. 50. The year 1782 added several to the list, whilst it diminished the public funds. The failure of the crop, that year, was severely felt in this parish; but the effects of it would have been more heavy, had not the heritors, and gentlemen of the town and vicinity, contributed largely, along with the church session, for the relief of the necessitous, and likewise imported flour and grain, which they sold out, often under prime cost. It is pleasing

to observe that the people have almost entirely recovered the effects of that baneful season.

In 1735, Dowager Lady Saltoun mortgaged 1000 merks for the benefit of three old persons. The interest is applied according to the will of the noble donor.

A few years ago, an excellent school-house was built, with lodgings fit for accommodating the school-master and several boarders. On the front of the house is placed a good carving of Moses and the ten commandments, on free-stone, found in the college of Frazerburgh, and said to have been intended for the altar-piece of its chapel. The school-master's salary, and other emoluments, including those of the session clerkship, may amount to L. 30. There are from 40 to 50 scholars, who are taught English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and navigation.

*Fuel and Manufactures.*—One great disadvantage, under which this parish labours, is the want of fuel. A leat of peats, measuring 24 feet in length, 12 in breadth at bottom, and three at top, and twelve feet in height, will cost the consumer in town upwards of L. 5. Coals are proportionably dear\*.

The

\* This is in a great degree owing to the coast tax. Were that tax diminished, or commuted, or altogether taken off, it would be a great relief to the people. The extension of manufactures would be much encouraged. The farmers, instead of spending the summer, as at present, in preparing and bringing home peats, would have leisure to attend to manure for their land; and the almost exhausted moorlands in the low country would be easily turned into grass or arable land.—Were the practice introduced of preparing peats in these moorlands, by persons who could make it their employment, and who would bring them down to farmers, and to the inhabitants of towns and villages, for sale, the great inconveniences of the scarcity of fuel, or the loss of time to the industrious on the coast, would in some measure be avoided;

The only manufacture is linen yarn. Dutch flax, to the value of from L. 1500 to L. 2000, is annually imported for that purpose. The greatest part of the yarn is exported to other places, and wrought up there, which is a strong proof of the cheapness of labour; a circumstance which affords the best grounds to hope, that whatever new manufactures may be introduced here, will have a very fair chance of succeeding.

*Population.*—Population has been increasing sensibly for more than ten years past. In 1780, there were about 2000 souls in the parish; at present the number amounts to about 2200. Of which, about 1000 reside in the town, 200 in the fishing village of Broadsea, and the rest in the country part of the parish. The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 1682; consequently there has been an increase since that period of 518 souls. Since 1784, at an average, the baptisms have annually been 37, the marriages 14, and the deaths 19\*.

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B

Town

voided; and the proprietors of these mosses would thereby acquire a market for an article, at present of little value, and even cumbersome to their properties. This is also probably the case in other parts of Scotland.

\* *Antiquities.*—In the parish are the ruins of two chapels; one, probably, a seminary of learning of considerable repute, as it is called the college; at which some monks, belonging to the abbey of Deer, resided. Near this is a well, where the superstitious practice of leaving some trifle, after drinking of its waters, still exists.—In the west end of the town of Frazerburgh is an old quadrangular tower of three stories, a small part of a large building, intended for a college, by Sir Alexander Frazer, who, in 1592, obtained a charter from the crown, in which, powers were given to erect and endow a college and university, to appoint a rector, a principal, a subprincipal, and all the professors for teaching the different sciences they should think proper and necessary; to make laws for the preservation of good order, and to enforce them. Every immunity and privilege of an university is granted, as the charter runs,

“ In

*Town of Frazerburgh.*—This town, situated on the side of the point of Kinnaird's head, is nearly of a square, most of the streets crossing each other at right angles. The houses are neatly built, and covered with slates or tiles. Many new houses have been erected within these few years, and several of them finished in an elegant manner. There are about 100 tenements, each of which contains 22 feet of the original price of each lot was L. 16 : 13 : 4 sterling L. 1666 : 13 : 4 in whole, besides an annual feu-duty of 4s. each. The old public buildings and works, viz. the toll and town-house, the cross, and the harbour, were erected by Sir Alexander Frazer, the superior, and disposed to the town by the charter of erection; which is dated in October 1666. The cross is reckoned a fine structure. It is a hexagon, with three equidistant angular abutments; the area of the base is 500 feet; by 9 intrenchings the top is contracted to 23 feet on the middle of which is raised a stone pillar 12 feet high. The British arms, surmounting the armorial coat of Fraser of Philorth, adorn the summit. Under the cross is a jail.—

T

*In amplissima forma, et modo debito, in omnibus respectibus, ut conceditur et auctoritate legitime, quibuslibet personis, quibuslibet collegio et universitati intra regnum nostrum erecto seu erigendo.*  
 In 1597, the general assembly recommended Mr Charles Farne, minister here, to be principal; but it appears nothing further was done.—On the point of Kinnaird's-head, stands another old tower, called the *Wine Tower*, similar in form, built on a rock over-hanging the sea. There is no communication between the lowest and the second storey; an outer door opens into the third, from which there is a passage, through the floor, down to the second; no vestige of a stair, within or without, is visible. Under this tower is a cave, penetrating into the rock more than 100 feet.—In this part are some ruins of Danish, or Pictish houses, as they are called, by the country people. These are about 10 feet square, with a door, and hearthstone evidently marked with fire; and, though insignificant in themselves, seem to demonstrate that the inhabitants of Buchan were, at one time, of Scandinavian origin.

The harbour is small, but good. According to the tide, there are from 11 to 16 feet water within the harbour, and above 20 feet immediately without, at spring tides. Vessels of 200 tons burden enter at present. Contiguous to the harbour, is a tolerable road for shipping, in a bay nearly a league in length, and half a league broad, with good anchoring ground. Seven vessels, from 50 to 100 tons, employed both in the coasting trade and in the foreign, belong to this place. Ship-building has been attempted here, and has succeeded well, especially since the peace of 1783.

Frazerburgh is well situated for trade. In the beginning of this century, its commerce was equal, if not superior to that of any other town on the coast, between Aberdeen and Inverness. At present it requires only encouragement to render it again a port of some consequence. Were the harbour enlarged, and the piers extended a few yards forward to the rock called the *Ellie*, there would be an increase of five feet water in it; there would thereby, also, be secured about 8 feet water at low tide, within the pier-heads. This improvement would probably be expensive: but wind-bound vessels, and others, of considerable burden, would thereby find easy access, and be sheltered in stormy weather when they could not reach any harbour in the Murray Firth. Having two channels of entrance, one of them, from their situation, could always be taken.—Another useful improvement upon its present state, of small expence, and in some degree connected with former, would be to erect a breaker on the rock called the *Inch*, which lies a little way without the harbour. It is observed that, in whatever weather, there is no run within the harbour until this rock is covered by the flowing tide: Therefore, were this breaker to be raised as high as the tide flows, it is supposed that all run into the harbour would thereby be prevented. It does not appear that the expence of this breaker



would exceed L. 300.—Fishing banks, for cod, commence right off Kinnaird's-head, about 10 leagues out at sea; and the herring shoals pass every year close under the coast. Frazerburgh, therefore, would be an excellent station for vessels and men employed in these fisheries. The country adjacent is populous, and provisions are plentiful.—It has been long in agitation to amend and enlarge this harbour, but the want of money has hitherto prevented it. The town's people would cheerfully contribute such a proportion as they can afford, if they had hopes of obtaining assistance from Government, the royal burghs, or elsewhere.

Frazerburgh is a burgh of regality. The government of it is vested in Lord Saltoun, (the superior), two baillies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and a council. His Lordship has the right and authority of provost, with powers to nominate and appoint yearly the new magistrates and council, by the advice and consent of the old. By the charter of erection, the feuars are constituted burghesses of the burgh, and incorporated brethren of the guild thereof. Those admitted to its liberties may exercise all kinds of trade and merchandize: Such as are not freemen may be debarred from a participation of that privilege. A power, however, which is not enforced.—The feuars are obliged to uphold the public works of the town. But for doing this, the customs of the markets, and the harbour dues, were granted to them. These may amount annually to L. 60, and are under the management of the superior and council.—By a late transaction between Lord Saltoun and the town, the feuars, in lieu of some privileges and claims over commonable lands, which they gave up, obtained, in property, lands which rent at L. 23. Of this the feuars, at large, have the sole disposal. And they have it now under consideration, with this fund, to bring water in pipes, into the town, for the use of the inhabitants.

Almost

Almost adjoining to the west end of Frazerburgh, is the fishing village of Broadsea. Seven boats belong to it. These boats are let to a tacksmen. The fishermen inhabit good houses covered with tyles: to build which, they receive an allowance from the proprietor. They are tenants at will, paying annually a small quit rent.

A few yards west of the *Wine Tower*, (mentioned in the note, page 10), stands the castle of Kinnaird's head, built about the year 1600, in the form of a parallelogram, 39 feet by 27, still entire, strong, and lately repaired. Being on an eminence, and four stories high, it commands an extensive prospect. On the top of this castle, Government, a few years ago, erected a light-house, containing 20 lamps with reflectors; which, it is believed, will tend materially to the preservation of the shipping engaged in commerce upon this coast, Kinnaird's-head being generally the first land made by ships coming from the north sea to the east coast of Scotland, and from the east sea to the Murray Firth, and to the west of Scotland and Ireland by the Orkneys. It is also taken as a point of departure; and the light is seen a great way off from the west, north, and east, by which vessels are enabled to haul their wind in time, to avoid the danger of a lee shore.

The inconvenience of being obliged to send to Aberdeen, at the distance of 44 miles, mostly by expresses, for all custom-house dispatches, is severely felt by the trading part of the community\*. Another great inconvenience is felt, from their  
being

\* It will not, it is hoped, be deemed improper to suggest, before quitting this subject, the propriety of introducing into burghs of regality, or of barony, advantages similar to those enjoyed by the inhabitants of burghs royal, in the cheapness attending their seissins on property within burgh, and moderate fees on recording these deeds by the town clerks. Nor is the practice within royal burghs, with respect to the speedy disposal of fallen or ruinous  
feus.

being no post going directly from the town to Peterhead and Banff; the letters, for both these places, going round by Aberdeen.

feus, by statute 1663. c. 16. left requisite to be extended to those towns and villages; since nothing can prove a greater bar to strangers from settling in them than the disgusting appearance they exhibit. These seifins might be recordable, at a small expence, in the sheriff clerk's office of the county, and the infeftments taken by the town clerks of the burgh of barony: An action might also be maintained in the sheriff court, in name of the community, for the sale of fallen and ruinous feus. At present these actions must be had, by declarator of non-entry, at the instance of the superior, before the court of Session: A mode too expensive for the value of these properties in general— It may farther be observed, that a more extensive scale of police, than at present exists, is requisite in villages and towns which are not burghs royal.

NUMBER

## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF RATHEN.

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

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM CUMINE.*

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*Name, Situation, &c.*

**A**CCORDING to a current tradition, Rathen is derived from Ethernan, the name of an old saint, who is said to have resided in the parish. — It is three miles distant from Frazerburgh, extending upwards of two miles along the sea-coast betwixt that town and Peterhead; from thence it runs inland, in a south-west direction, to the extent of 7 miles: The breadth is two miles at an average. About a third part of Mormond-hill, (mentioned in the preceding account of Frazerburgh), is comprehended in the parish; this hill, its environs, and several patches of moss, are good for little except affording fuel. The soil, through the rest of the parish, is very various: There are some deep rich fields; others are light, and sandy but generally productive under good treatment; and others gravelly and stony, several parcels of which never have been broken up. The water of Rathen, or Philorth, dividing this parish from Frazerburgh, drives several mills; and

and has several fields of good meadow on its banks. About the half of the sea shore in the parish is plain and sandy, the rest rocky, but low. Green links, and some patches of bent, lie immediately above the whole course of this coast; which affords some kelp, and abundance of shell-sand and sea-ware, for manure. On it stand two fishing villages, employing 6 or 7 boats each. The fish caught here are the same species mentioned in the account of Fraserburgh, and disposed of in the same manner.—The air is sharp, though the people in general cannot be said to be unhealthy. Putrid and nervous fevers have of late cut off several persons, mostly of middle age. Formerly inflammatory fevers prevailed more. Not 50 years ago, the rheumatism was little known; now, there are few grown persons altogether free from it. Some of the people are reconciled to the practice of inoculation; so the small-pox does not make so much havock as usual, except among the fishers, who will not adopt that preventive mode.

*Rent, Cultivation, &c.*—The parish belongs to ten different proprietors, whereof two are resident. The valued rent is L. 3520 Scotch; the real about L. 2000 sterling, paid part in money and part in victual, with some customs, bondages, and personal services, though the three last are gradually lessening here. The inhabitants in general, except the fishermen, and a few old and decayed persons, who reside in solitary cottages, are all, in some degree, farmers. The several tradesmen, and others of different employments, possess each a field, which they generally improve. Upwards of three-fourths of the parish, however, is occupied by real farmers, who of late, having adopted a better mode of culture than what prevailed formerly, have improved their possessions considerably. Yet still much may be done. Near the coast, the  
1
principa

principal part of the crop consists of barley, or, what is called, ware-bear\*, pease, and beans. Farther inland, oats and barley, potatoes, turnips, kail, and sown grass, are also raised, more or less on every possession; likewise small parcels of flax on some, but no wheat. The barley raised in this district is of three different qualities; true barley, weighing from 19 to 20 st. the boll; common country bear, or big, weighing from 17 to 18 st. and ware-bear, from 16 to 17 st. all Amsterdam weight, and Aberdeen measure. The oats raised here are good, especially on the coast, weighing, on well managed farms, 16 st. Some brocked, but little, if any, small oats are now raised. Lime has been used here as manure, during the course of 80 years, though, for a long time, very improperly; its application now being better understood, it is attended with good effects.—There are several veins of limestone in the parish; one is of a superior quality to any in this corner of the country: its produce is carried inland to a considerable distance for the purpose of building. Sea ware, and, of late, shell sand, are used as manure.—Servant's wages are increased to about double what they were 30 years ago, and are every year augmenting; as is the price of labour of every kind.—The numbers of the cattle maintained in the parish, in 1792, is as follows:

Horses 463. Black cattle 1248. Sheep 602.

*Church, Poor, &c.*—The parish church is the only place where divine service is publicly performed in the parish. Its fabric, the minister's manse and offices, are all in good repair. The minister's stipend is a chalders of ware-bear; another of  
 VOL. VI. C meal;

\* When bear or big is manured with sea ware, the crop is very abundant, but the grain is very small, and is known by the name of *Ware-bear*.

meal; 700 merks Scotch money; 100 merks Scotch, for communion elements; and L. 4 ft. for firing; the mofs, whence the minister used to be supplied with peats, being lately exhausted. Besides the above, the minister possesses about 6 acres of ground, (glebe and grafs); which, together with the manse and offices, would set to no great account without privilege to mofs. Lord Saltoun is patron. The schoolmaster's salary is very trifling.

The poor of the parish are supplied in their own houses. Very few go a begging, and that only occasionally. The funds under the management of the church session, arising from some mortified money lent out, the weekly collections in the church, and some other small emoluments accruing to the session, afford them about L. 30 sterling yearly. There are usually from 30 to 40 on the roll, besides some necessitous persons that occasionally need supply. The inhabitants in general are charitable; and the poor are often privately assisted by their neighbours, especially by the families of distinction whose benevolence, indeed, is not confined to their own neighbourhood. The parish could, with ease, support its own poor but is harrassed with vagrants. The failure of crop 1782 was very distressing; and the succeeding one afforded little relief the poor people's money being then gone: Had not crop 1783 proved uncommonly productive, great numbers would have been ruined.

*Population.*—During the last 20 years, the inhabitants have increased considerably. It is said, by scarcity, owing to unfavourable seasons, during the 7 last years of the preceding century, called here, the *ill years*, they were greatly diminished. In 1755, the number was 1527. The present numbers of all ages and religious professions, are,

1

Inhabitants

*of Rathen.* 19

Inhabitants	1730	Bereans	9
Families	401	Seceders	2
Males	861	Roman Catholic	1
Females	869	Resident in the two fishing	
Under 10	371	villages	401
From 10 to 20	378	The oldest person in the	
— 20 to 50	640	parish is	92
— 50 to 70	241	Average of baptisms in the	
Above 70	100	register	35
Presbyterians	1487	— of marriages	12
Episcopalians	231	— of burials	31

*Miscellaneous Observations* \*.—The people of this parish are general sober and industrious, and live comfortably, at least such as are well disposed and attentive. By a better mode of farming, and greater diligence than formerly prevailed here,

C 2 they

\* *Antiquities*.—There are few remains of antiquity in this parish. The most remarkable are three old cairns which were very large, till of late that great quantities of the stones have been taken away from two of them. They stand near one another upon an extensive plain; and are thought to be monuments of the burials of some eminent men. The remains of human bones were lately found in one of them. The tradition, which is all that can be learned of them here, is, that the Danes landed on the east coast, at a place called Cruden, about six miles southward from Peterhead; that the inhabitants attacked and drove them from their ships; whereupon, flying towards Moray, where a colony of their countrymen were established, the Scots came up with, fought and beat them on the plain where the cairns stand; and that they contain the graves of some chiefs that fell there.

There are two old castles in the parish both in ruins, Cairnbuilg and Inverallochie, which seem to be places of considerable strength, especially Cairnbuilg; the walls of which are almost entire, and of prodigious thickness. It was the family seat of Lord Saltoun's predecessors; and called Philorth, till sold by Sir Alexander Frazer, An. 1613, to Frazer of Durris, when its name was changed to Cairnbuilg:



they have in general increased their little stocks : Yet unhappily, too many by a more expensive mode of living and dress, lately introduced, have hurt themselves very much. Even servants, both male and female, though their wages are almost the double of what they were some time ago, expend so much on dress, that they are in general poor. No natural wood grows here ; but the moorlands abound with oaks of a large size ; some in such a state of preservation as to be fit for many useful purposes. Some small plantations of wood have been made here since the commencement of this century ; and in these the ash, in particular, is of an excellent quality.—A very extraordinary land flood happened on the 18th of July, 1789 ; supposed to have been occasioned by a water spout breaking upon Mormond-hill, and swelling the water of Rathen to a pitch that was not remembered by the oldest person in the parish. Several bridges were broken down ; and sundry patches of meadow buried deep under stones and gravel.

#### NUMBER

builg : And Sir Alexander then transferred its former name to another house that belonged to him, about a mile to the westward, which it still retains ; and has been the seat of the Saltoun family ever since.

Inverallochie appears to be inferior in strength to Cairnbuilg. No date is seen about either of them. Till of late a stone above the entry to Inverallochie bore, with the Cumine's arms, the following inscription : " I Jordan Cuming gat this house and land for bigging the abbey of Deer."

There are also two mounds, or hillocks of earth, near the church, and not a mile asunder, that seem to have been formed by the hands of men. They are nearly circular, and slope towards the top, forming there an horizontal plain, somewhat circular also, of about thirty yards diameter. Both are pretty steep all around ; except that access to the top is tolerably easy on one quarter of each, by means of the rising ground adjoining. The one is called Tre-for hill, and the other St Oyne's. Some think they have been old encampments.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF CAERLAVEROCK.

(PRESBYTERY, COUNTY, AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM M'MORINE.

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*Name, Situation, &c.*

ACCORDING to Baxter \*, *Caerlaverock* signifies the castle close upon the sea. The parish is a kind of peninsula, formed by the Solway Firth, the river Nith, and Locharwater; resembling a *cornucopia*, (a just emblem of its fertility); having its mouth towards Dumfries, into which it pours a considerable part of its produce; and the convex side towards Nith and Solway. The middle and upper end of the parish is high, with gently rising hills, and compact; it bends, and is lengthened to a point, eastward, and this part is low and level. The higher ground is generally a light, dry, and tolerably fertile loam; interspersed, however, with many acres of wet, shallow, stony, moorish soil, (producing nothing but heath and rushes), lying for the most part in the vallies; which,

\* Glossary of British antiquities, under the word *Uxela*. Mr Grose thinks *Caerlaverock* signifies the castle of Lewarch Og, who was the son of Lewarch Hen, a celebrated British poet, and founder of the castle.

which, even after it has been limed and tilled, but ill rewards the labour of the husbandman. The low and level point is of various soils. The whole stands on a red freestone bottom, which, in the higher land, is at no great depth from the surface; and is a soft, easily wrought, though pretty durable, stone, used for building in the vicinity. Some of it has of late been manufactured into flags, and exported to Dublin and Liverpool.—In the Nith, excellent flounders and salmon are caught \* by the farmers and cotters; and either consumed in their families, or carried to Dumfries. In the Lochar, are found pikes, ratches, and eels, in abundance, likewise a few trouts: and, near its mouth, salmon and flounders are sometimes, but rarely, caught.—In the parish are two harbours, Keltown and Glencaple. At the former, the tide rises 15 feet; and at the latter, 12 feet, at the full and change of the moon. The vessels belonging to Nith, are from 30 to 80 or 90 tons burden; chiefly employed in bringing lime and coals from Cumberland; and from Liverpool, such grocery goods as are consumed in the neighbourhood; and in exporting potatoes and grain. Of late, rum, fruit, and Port wine, have been imported; and a considerable quantity of timber is annually brought from Memel and Riga: but the vessels employed in these voyages are generally obliged to unload at the Carse, 6 miles below Glencaple Key.

*Extent, Proprietors, Rent, &c.*—The parish is 6 miles long, and no where more than two miles broad, containing about 4640 Scotch acres; whereof, 59 are wood, about 60 mofs, and the rest arable, with the exception of nearly 40 acres of meadow liable to be overflowed by Lochar; and a still greater extent

\* The various modes of fishing practised here, are described in the account of the parish of Dornock, vol. 2d.

tent of marsh ground exposed to the same accident from the sea. The whole parish is the property of William Haggerstone Maxwell Constable, Esq. of Nithsdale, excepting about 600 acres belonging to three different heritors, only one of whom resides. The old croft land is set at one guinea per acre; the other arable land, from 21 s. to about 10 s. the unimproved pasture and moor ground, of which little now remains, from 1s. 6d. to 7s. the marsh and meadow from 10s. to 12s. Leases are commonly granted for 19 years, and no more. The real rent of the parish is at present L. 2151 : 8 : 9. This rent has been doubled since 1776, and more than tripled since 1756. Such is the rapid progress of improvement, that nearly 1s. 5d. per acre, more rent is laid on the land, in those leases which are just now about to be renewed \*. The tenants pay none of the public burdens, except the road money (L. 14 *per annum*), the victual stipend, the tithes of fish due to the minister, and an acknowledgement of 1s. 6d. to the landlord, from every person who uses the haf-net. The valued rent is 2597 merks.

*Produce, Cultivation, &c.*—The produce may be thus stated :

	Acres.	Produce per acre.	Value.	Total produce.	Total value.
Wheat	193	31 Win. b.	5s. 4d.	5983 bsh.	L.1593 9 4
Barley	200	33 do.	2s. 6d.	6600 bsh.	825 0 0
Oats	773	35 do.	1s 11d.	27055 bsh.	2592 15 0
Potatoes	138	7 tons.	23s. 4d.	966 tons.	1127 0 0
	<u>1414 acres.</u>			Total value	<u>L. 6138 4 4</u>

There

\* How far this may be carried, would be hazardous to conjecture; but, in the mean

There are also about 30 acres in flax, and 80 in turnips, pease, or fallow.

The live stock have been numbered and may be valued nearly as follows :

173 Horses, at L. 14 each	-	L. 2422	0	0	
784 Cows of one year old and upwards,					
at L. 4	-	3136	0	0	
190 Calves of the present year, at L. 1 : 10		285	0	0	
300 Sheep, at L. 1	-	300	0	0	
100 Swine, worth when fat, L. 2 : 10		250	0	0	
		<hr/>			
		Total value of live stock	L. 6393	0	0

Lime is universally used as a manure. The first time ground is limed, it is usual to lay on each acre, from 50 to 70 or even, 80 measures, more or less, in proportion to the heaviness or lightness of the soil \*. Sleech, or sea sand, is used as a substitute for lime, by those nearest the shore.

The

mean time, it gives the friend of the husbandman pleasure to observe, that hitherto, with the advancement of his rent, the price of the productions of the soil, his activity, his intelligence, and his happiness, seem to have advanced.

\* Upon land that has never been ploughed before, the lime is not laid until it be first broken by the plough and harrows ; but, if it has been tilled before, it is thought better to spread it on the grass surface ; and experience proves, that it is advantageous to allow the lime to lie a year on the ground, before ploughing it down. If it be ploughed down immediately, the farmer reaps no benefit from the lime for the first crop.

The following rotation of crops is pursued with little variation. The ground is broken up for oats, two crops of which are taken in succession. Then follows a green crop, generally potatoes; seldom turnips, pease, or naked fallow. After this the ground is sown with clover and rye-grass, and is then mown for the first year, pastured for the two, and sometimes three following years: After which, it is again broken up to undergo the same course of tillage. Where the soil is not fit for wheat or barley, two or three crops of oats are taken after the lime is laid on, and then the ground is laid out for pasture; in which state, it is allowed to lie still, in order to subdue the rushes, heath, and moss which soon grow up, and the farmer is again called upon to lime and plough it. The farms are generally small, from L. 40 to L. 70 *per annum*, of rent, and several pay much less; two only, pay above L. 100 a year. In the parish there are upwards of 90 carts, and about 70 ploughs, both of the Scotch and the English form; the latter is used in the low land, which is entirely free of stones, and the former in the dry and stony land. The horses are all of the Scotch breed, and employed in agriculture only. A few young ones are reared annually, either for sale, or to supply the place of those that wear out in the service. The cows are mostly of the Galloway kind. Few of them, even when well fattened, will weigh more than 40 st. The sheep are of the English mugg, the Bakewell, the Scotch, or moorland kind. Part of the swine are consumed in the parish, and part killed and salted for the English market. A considerable number of young cattle reared in the parish, are every year sold in the Dumfries market. All the wheat is carried thither, and part of the barley produced here; part is exported to Whitehaven and Liverpool; to which ports, to Dublin, and sometimes even to Bristol, the potatoes, after the very considerable consumption of the parish is supplied, are also sent.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report in 1755, the number of inhabitants was - - - 784  
 By a list made up in 1777, there were in the parish 449 males, and 553 females - - - Total 902

In 1791, the population was as under :

Total	955	Ship carpenters and fai-	
Males	454	lors	25
Females	501	House do. and wrights	7
Unmarried males, who		Masons	3
keep house	5	Quarrymen	2
Under 10	230	Smiths	5
Above 90 *	2	Shoe-makers	9
Families of farmers	56	Weavers	20
— of labourers and		Taylors	5
tradesmen	166	Annual average of births	
Total families	222	in 1740	15
Roman Catholics, indivi-		Average for some years	
duals	3	past	25
Families of dissenters	3	Born in 1790 and 1791	60

The average number in each family is under  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , owing to the number of poor people who live in houses by themselves. Almost all the inhabitants are employed in agriculture; even a great part of the tradesmen occasionally take up that employment, particularly in harvest time. The labour of cultivation is, however, chiefly performed by the farmers themselves, (who do not disdain to follow the plough), and by their families,

\* In the register are entered the names of several who died in the 95th and 96th years of their age; one is said to have reached 100 years.

families, cottagers, and servants, though only a few of the last class are required \*.

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 52 sterling in money; 236 fl. of meal; 88 pecks of bear; the tythes of Townhead and Byres, paid in kind, on an average L. 12; the tiend of fish, which is 1 s. from every man who uses the haf-net, valued at L. 3; a glebe of 21 acres, valued at L. 14; amounting in whole to L. 110 *per annum*. The manse was built about 1708, by Dr John Hutton, a native of this parish, and is yet in decent condition. The Duke of Queensberry is patron.

In the parish are four schools, at which no less than 150 boys and girls are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and at one of them a few boys are taught Latin and Greek.

In 1708, Dr Hutton, above-mentioned, mortgaged L. 1000 sterling; the interest of L. 900 of which was destined for support of the native poor of the parish, payment of schoolmasters, maintaining burfars at the schools, and repairing the

D 2

church

\* The wages of a man servant who is maintained in the family, is from L. 6 to L. 8; those of a woman, about L. 3. The former, while he remains single, if he be frugal, may live decently; but the latter, who receives so much less for more incessant, though somewhat easier labour, is barely able to support herself on her wages. The married day-labourer who receives only 1 s. per day, without victuals, and 8 d. with them, can scarcely maintain his generally numerous family. He can earn no more than L. 15 : 15, per ann. even were he not to remain idle one day. Yet such is the happy frugality and industry of this class in Scotland, that there are many families, consisting of a wife and 7 or 8, and even more children, 4 of whom, at least, can do nothing for their own subsistence, supported by the labour of one man: And, what the luxurious will scarcely believe, they seem to be tolerably well clothed and fed, contented and happy.



church and manse. The interest of the remaining L. 100 was allotted to defray the expence of management; which, by the deed of mortification, is intrusted to the session of the parish, whose accounts are to be annually audited by the presbytery of the bounds.

The whole sum of L. 1000, was soon after it came into the hands of the session, laid out in the purchase of the barony of Barclay, in Colvend, which now yields an annual rent of L. 183. The parish afterwards received L. 310 more in donations from different persons; L. 110 of which was laid out to improve Barclay, and the remaining L. 200 is lent out at L. 5 *per cent* interest; so that the whole annual income of the parish is now L. 193, which is thus expended:

To the grammar school at Bankend	-	L. 30	0	0
To the English school at Blackshaw	-	15	0	0
To ditto at Highmains	-	7	0	0
To ditto at Keltown	-	7	0	0
To the maintainance of six poor boys as burfars, at the school of Bankend, each of whom receive annually L. 3 : 4 : 6 for four years	-	19	7	0
After they leave school, they receive each 7s. 6d. for 4 years more, to assist in the payment of apprentice-fees, if bound to any trade	-	2	5	0
Privately distributed in terms of a donation		2	0	0
Publicly distributed at three different terms annually, more or less according to circumstances, but on an average	-	80	0	0
<hr/>				
Total L. 161 12 0				

The occasional expences for the management of the funds do not amount to more than L. 2 annually; what remains of the

the income, is devoted to the buying of books for the schools, and poor scholars; building and repairing schoolhouses, church, and manse; and relieving accidental distress. The collections, at the church door, amounting to *L. 4 per annum*, are destined for the support of those who, not having been born in the parish, have no right to participate in the benefit of Dr Hutton's fund\*.

*Eminent*

\* If the situation, circumstances, and manners of the inhabitants of Caerlaverock are considered, it should seem that a fourth part of the sum, allotted to the support of the poor, might be sufficient for all the purposes of real and useful charity. And, indeed, an attentive observer will reckon it a matter of doubt, whether the greatness of the parish funds be productive of most good or evil. The moralist has some cause to complain, that it dries up the sources of private charity, and renders the poorer people less willing to assist their old and needy relations. These, they seem sometimes disposed to abandon to the care of the session, who cannot, by the small allowance they bestow, make up to them the want of that tender assiduity, which proves the cordial of age and poverty, and which natural affection alone can administer.

The farmer with still greater reason complains, that the idea of a plentiful fund established for their support, fills the parish, in spite of every effort to prevent it, with the idle, infirm, and indolent; and renders it difficult for him to obtain day-labourers. In fact, the poor themselves are far from being contented with their respective proportions of the funds, which are, notwithstanding, distributed with great impartiality. They are accustomed to lean too much to them, and to depend too little upon their own exertions: Nay, it is said, that a querulous habit is acquired, and even infirmity feigned, in order to excite compassion, and to obtain a mere liberal share of charity.

In the opposite scale of good, these effects of the funds are to be thrown: First, The support of convenient schools; Second, That no distress arising from poverty occurs, which obtains not a prompt relief, without any expence to the inhabitants of the parish. But, though none of the poor of Caerlaverock are under the necessity of begging from house to house, the parish is as much as any other in this quarter, pestered with vagrants, and as liberal to them.

From these facts and observations then, as it has occurred to every man who  
turns

*Eminent Men.*—Dr John Hutton, whose benefactions have been just now mentioned, was born in this parish; and, for some time, herded the sheep of the Episcopal minister of this charge. From this humble station he was removed to be a companion to a gentleman's son, who had taken a fancy to him; and along with this person he acquired the rudiments of a liberal education. At Edinburgh he studied physic; and, going abroad in pursuit of that science, happened to be in Holland a little before the Revolution. While in that country, it happened that Mary, Princess of Orange, being thrown from her horse at a hunting party, Hutton was the first to present himself, when a surgeon was wanted to bleed her. This put him in the road to preferment. He came over at the revolution; was made first physician to King William and Queen Mary, and physician general to their armies and hospitals: In which stations he acquired an ample fortune, and died in 1712. Besides these benefactions, he bequeathed his  
library

turns his attention to the solution of this important question, "How ought the poor to be supplied," it may be inferred:

That distress and poverty multiply in proportion to those funds that are created to relieve them. "Where the carcase is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

That the measures of charity ought to remain invisible, till the moment when it is necessary that they should be distributed.

That in the country parishes of Scotland, in general, small, occasional, voluntary, collections are sufficient.

That the legislature has no occasion to interfere to augment that stream which is already copious enough, though not always derived from its proper source, or confined to its proper channel.

In fine, that the establishment of a poor-rate would be, not only unnecessary, but hurtful, as it would tend to oppress the landholder without bringing relief to the poor.

library to the presbytery of Dumfries, which town he represented in parliament.

*Miscellaneous Observations*\*.—The inhabitants of Caerlaverock are in general plain, honest, sober, industrious, and charitable. From their vicinity to Dumfries and the shore, they are more polished and liberal than some of their inland neighbours. The farmers, though none of them rich, are yet, in general, in comfortable circumstances. This they owe to their own frugality, skill, and industry; but, in some measure, also to the advantages of being near a considerable market town; the vicinity of two sea-ports; and the circumstances of their bordering upon Lochar mofs, which supplies them with abundance of fuel; though, at the same time, from the great waste of time and labour, so precious to the husbandman, which

\* *Antiquities*.—On the south side of the parish, not far from the shore, are scarcely to be traced the vestiges of a moated triangular castle; probably that from which the name of the parish is derived, and supposed to be the *Carbūntorīgūm* of Ptolemy. A little to the north-east of these remains, are to be seen the still more venerable ruins of another and more modern castle, of similar shape, but much larger dimensions; long the principal residence of the noble family of Maxwell; which has been so well described by Grose and Penant, as to render any particulars here unnecessary. Not far west of this castle rises the hill Wardlaw; on the top of which, are yet visible, the vestiges of a Roman incampment, conjectured to be the *Uxela* of Ptolemy. The hill afterwards served as a watch-tower to the castle; for which purpose it was well fitted, commanding a very extensive prospect in almost every direction.—On the borders of this parish is a mount, called the Bailey Know, one of these encampments called moats; near which, some iron hoops and chains were found.—A little below Glencaple Key, close by the shore, was a cell or a chapel, dedicated to St Columba; near this is a well, of which no person was permitted to drink without leaving a portion of victuals, or a piece of money, as an alms to the inhabitant of the cell.

which procuring peats, especially in rainy seasons, occasions, they earnestly join in the general complaint of this part of Scotland, against the partial and absurd duty which is laid upon coals imported into this part of the kingdom. To cast, dry, and cart home all the peats consumed in the parish, would occupy for one day 4762 persons, together with 1382 horses and carts, whose labour ought to be rated, at L. 376. A few coals also are used by those that are at a distance from the moss.—Another great, though precarious advantage, is, that the farmers of this parish, in general, hold their farms of a landlord, whose wife and good maxims, in the management of his estate, have hitherto been, not to overrate his land, nor to remove his old tenants, so long as they are disposed to keep their farms, whilst they continue to be industrious, and while there is even a probability that they shall be able to pay their rent. The leases on the Nithdale estate are always offered again to the old tenant, and renewed at least two years before their expiration: a practice well worthy the regard of all those landholders, who do not mean, by encouraging a competition of bidders, to stir up envy, and to raise their land above its just value.

The farmers of this parish, and indeed, generally speaking, almost all its inhabitants, are natives of it. Excepting two Irish families, also, they are all of Scotch extraction. Here the fathers, for some generations back, have possessed the same farms which their children now cultivate. The tenants value themselves as much on this antiquity of possession, as if they were hereditary proprietors, and not without reason, as it still has been a claim to the landlord's favour; and we trust, that we shall not be accused of carrying our speculations too far, when we venture to assert, that the perpetuity of possession which the farmers enjoy, is not only

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favourable

favourable to their happiness, but also to that with which it is essentially connected, their virtue. The love of esteem is a most powerful principle of goodness; and surely men will be more anxious to obtain the good opinion of those, among whom they have been born, and with whom they have long associated, than of those who are but the acquaintance of a day, and from whose neighbourhood they are soon, perhaps, to remove.

## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF NEWHILLS.

(COUNTY, SYNOD, AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. MR. JOHN BROWN.**Name, Situation, &c.*

**I**N 1663, the lands of Capelhills were mortgaged for the maintenance of a minister, and a church was built upon them, by George Davidson of Pettans\*, burgess of Aberdeen; in consequence of which, the south east corner of the extensive parish of St Machar was erected into a separate parish in 1666. These lands of Capelhills, (probably derived from *Capella*, a chapel), now assumed the name of Newhills, and from them the whole parish was denominated.—The parish forms an irregular hexagon, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in diameter; is in general hilly, and, towards the west end, may be called mountainous. The soil in the north-east part, which is low, is a deep rich mould on a good loamy bottom, producing early and luxuriant

\* A very benevolent character. He erected, at his own expence, a bridge upon the great north road, over the Buxburn, a rapid stream in this parish, where he had been witness to some persons perishing in the water. He also mortgaged his lands of Pettans, in Belhelvie, for the support of the ministers of Aberdeen.

ant crops, inferior neither in quantity and quality to any in the country; but, in the far greater part of the parish, the ground is black, light, shallow, and spongy; incapable of resisting violent impressions either of heat or cold; not retentive of moisture in the droughts of summer, and apt to eject the roots of tender plants in the intense frosts of winter.—The air is extremely sharp and piercing. The most prevalent distemper is the rheumatism; commonly attributed to the influence of the east wind, which blows here with unusual keenness.—The river Don \*, which forms the north-east boundary of the parish, is well known for its excellent salmon, which would be more abundant here, were it not for the cruives placed a little farther down the river. Pike and trout are also found in the Don, which is not navigable. There are also 6 rivulets abounding with small trouts and eel; several chalybeate springs; and three very copious springs of water of a most excellent quality in the parish.

*Produce, Rent, &c.*—The principal vegetable productions are oats, barley, sown grasses, turnips, and potatoes. About two thirds of the arable ground are annually cropped with oats and barley; and large quantities of grass and turnips are raised upon the more extensive and improved farms in the parish. So sensible are the people, in general, of the advantages

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of

\* About 1730, in a fine summer morning, between 5 and 6 o'clock, the bed of this river, for the space of 3 miles below the church of Dyce, was found entirely empty; and was passed and repassed by several persons who gathered the fish that lay sprawling in the bottom. No person observed the commencement of this uncommon phenomenon. About half an hour after its discovery, the water came down the channel again in a full body. This was occasioned probably by a chasm formed by some internal commotion of the earth, which was sensibly felt by some persons.



of the latter crop, for feeding their cattle, that even the smallest tenants have a portion of their ground in turnips. Potatoes have likewise been employed of late for the same purpose. A few pease and a small quantity of flax are raised. Seed-time commences about the middle of March, and harvest generally begins the 6th of September. Upwards of a third-part of the parish remains uncultivated, producing little else except heath. That it is susceptible of improvement, the adjacent farms, which 20 or 30 years ago were in the same condition, sufficiently evince. About 200 acres are covered with plantations; and there is a nursery of forest timber and fruit trees upon the lands of Auchmull. The soil is found very well adapted to the raising of seedlings; and the ground never having been dunged, the plants are hardy, and thrive remarkably in England and the southern parts of Scotland, from whence there is a large demand. The parish cannot be said to supply itself with provisions: for, though it exports a considerable quantity of barley to the breweries about Aberdeen, and a great deal of milk, butter, and eggs, is daily carried from it to that city for sale, yet so numerous are the labourers, mechanics, and manufacturers, whose sustenance comes entirely from Aberdeen, that the import of meal alone more than overbalances exports of every kind. There are 21 heritors, 3 of whom constantly reside. About 40 years ago, the parish contained 50 plough-gates of land, each occupied by one tenant, and yielding about L. 10 of yearly rent. They are now subdivided into at least four times as many smaller farms; the value of each of which, at an average, may be calculated at L. 8 *per annum*. There are likewise 14 large farms in the parish, most of which are in the natural possession of the proprietors. The greater part of these has, within a few years, been gained from the surrounding muirs; and each of them would, if let, now yield a rent of from L. 60 to L. 100.

The valued rent of the country part of the parish, (for part, belonging to, or held of the town of Aberdeen, has no valuation), is L. 1313 : 6 : 8 Scotch. A kind of valuation, supposed to have been the real rent of the parish, amounting to L. 4653 : 6 : 8 Scotch, was given in to the presbytery of Aberdeen by the heritors, in 1679. The mean rent of land is about 15s per acre; but, it must be observed, that every farm has a proportionable quantity of pasturage and mofs annexed to it, the benefits of which, the tenant enjoys without any additional expence. Some of the best land is let at L. 2 per acre. The large farms are all inclosed with stone fences: the English plough is used on them, and is drawn by 2 or 4 horses. The principal manure is shell lime, brought from Aberdeen; from whence, likewise, considerable quantities of street dung are procured. Improvements upon one farm, which produces great crops, have been made by means of soap ashes, and other manure of a saponaceous nature. The soil also requires to be frequently laid down in grass, that it may acquire a consistency or body. This, however, proves no unprofitable management, as the grass fields are rented by butchers at a very high price. The lesser farmers still employ the Scotch plough, to which they frequently yoke oxen and horses together. Their infield, which is seldom allowed to remain in grass, is divided into three portions, which alternately receive the manure: barley is always sown in that part which is dunged, and the other two are cropped with oats. There are 88 ploughs in the parish; of which, 49 are drawn by horses, 7 by oxen, and the rest by both. The number of carts is 139\*.

*Manufactures.*

\* A male labouring servant receives L. 2 : 10; a female servant L. 1 the half year. Common labourers are hired at 9d. a day, in harvest at 1s. and in time of mowing hay, at 1s. 6d. Many earn 1s. a day by working in the quarries, and in making stone fences, being paid by the piece. The day wages

*Manufactures.*—The principal article of trade, in the parish, is the cutting and preparing stones for the London market. Upon the lands of Auchmull, are 4 quarries; from whence are exported, annually, upwards of 45,000 square feet of litter stones, and some years above 15,000 tons of causeway stones. On another estate is a fifth quarry, from which, it is supposed, between 3,000 and 4,000 square feet of litter stones, and some thousands of the smaller ones, are yearly exported. All the quarries afford a very good kind of granite, exceedingly durable, and capable of a fine polish. About 50 men are employed in the stone trade, partly common labourers, hired by the day,—the rest are paid by the piece. Masons who dress litter stones receive 2d. the square foot; those who make the causeway stones, 1s. 6d. per ton. The carriage of the stones to Aberdeen forms an article of considerable profit to the farmers in the vicinity, who almost constantly employ their horses and carts in that way. Upon the Don, is a paper mill, containing two vats, and employing 16 hands; also a mill for teasing, carding, and roving wool, and for waulking cloths. In the parish are 5 mills for grinding grain.

*Population Table.*

Inhabitants in 1755	959	Under 10	182
in 1769	859	Between 10 and 20	238
in 1792	1153	20 and 30	316
		Between	

wages of a mason are 1s. 6d. of a joiner and gardener, 1s. and of a taylor, 6d. None of the above, except the last mentioned, and those hired by the half-year, have victuals furnished by their employer. The annual expence of a married labourer, with three or four young children, cannot be estimated at less than L. 15 sterling. The price of provisions is always regulated by the Aberdeen market.



held at Greenburn in this parish, for the sale of cattle, horses, and different kinds of hard-ware.—There is plenty of fuel, not only for consumption, but also for sale.—The people are well entitled to the character of industry, sobriety, and temperance. Of their moral and religious character, a favourable idea may be formed from their regular and decent attendance upon divine worship.—There are 3 ale-houses, chiefly frequented by travellers, upon the two public roads that run through this parish, which are kept in excellent repair.

cemented with lime, 8 feet long, 5 broad, and 4 in height; some remains of a druidical temple; the vestiges of an old chapel: and in one of the dens of the hill of Elrick, is to be seen the mouth of a cave, supposed by the vulgar to penetrate for miles under ground, and celebrated in their legends as the residence of a noted robber and his gang. He was slain by an ancestor of the Johnstons of Castieben; and the weapon employed upon that occasion still makes a part of the arms belonging to that family. The cave is now shut up, in order to prevent its harbouring foxes and other ravenous beasts.

## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF LESLIE.

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

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE WILLIS.

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*Name.*

**T**HE original name of this parish was Fetkill; but when the family of Leslie, Earls of Rothes, became the principal proprietors, they gave their own name to their possessions here, and the whole district came at last to be known by the same appellation.

*Surface, Soil, Rent, &c.*—The parish is in general flat, but rises gently from the banks of the river Leven, which forms the southern boundary. It is almost wholly an arable district. The soil is in general good—The real rent is not known. The valued rent is L. 4561 Scotch.—The parks of Leslie are let annually by auction, and generally taken by the town's people of Leslie, who pay, at an average, from L. 1 : 15 to L. 2 per acre. As they are pastured by milch cows, and as

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about L. 2 is paid for a cow's grafs, it is necessary to keep as good cows as possible; and, indeed, more good ones are to be seen in Leslie, than perhaps in any town of its size. They commonly bring from L. 7 to L. 10, and are all of the Fife breed. Some Dutch cows were tried, and some of the Irish and Lancashire breed; but they did not answer, as the first were expensive to keep up in winter, and the last did not yield much milk. Almost all the lands of the parish have been cultivated; and by far the greatest part of them are either under crops of grain, potatoes, turnips, and flax, or in sown grafs. The farmers now deal more in rearing cattle, and in general plough less ground, but, at the same time, raise more corn than formerly. While the farms were uninclosed, and little or no sown grafs raised, the cattle gathered a miserable subsistence on bare leys; which, after resting several years, were broken up, and cropt, year after year, till they scarce produced double the feed. The land is now plowed by one man commonly with a pair of horses, instead of four oxen with two horses and a lad to drive them, as was formerly the case\*.

*Manufactures.*—In the town of Leslie the weavers are the most

\* *Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—In 1759, a day labourer's wages were 8d. without victuals. If he was employed during the winter and summer, he got only 6d. The yearly wages of a man servant were then from L. 2 : 10, to L. 3, ster. and those of a maid servant, from L. 1 : 10, to L. 2. But a sufficient man servant cannot now be got under L. 5 : 10 or L. 6, nor a maid servant under L. 2 : 10 or L. 3, a year. A common labourer now gets 1s. a day. In 1759, beef could have been bought, between Michaelmas and Martinmas, at 2s 8d. per stone; it is now 5s 4d. The price of fowls and eggs is doubled. A good fowl is 1s, and a dozen of eggs, 4d.—Butter was 5d. now it is 8d. a pound. Milk was 1d. a pint, now it is 2d. Coals were 4d. a load, now they are 7d. Salt was 4d. a peck, now 6d.

most numerous set of handicraftsmen, no other class of mechanics bearing any proportion to them. Their principal employment is weaving plain linen and cotton checks, by which most of them can earn from 14d. to 18d. or 20d. a day. The chief employment of the women is spinning lint and tow. About 30 years ago, when they universally spun with one hand, a hesp or slip, which is the fourth part of a spindle, was thought a sufficient day's work for a woman; and mistresses required no more of their maid-servants when they sat the whole day at the wheel. After they had spun their hesp, the rest of the time was their own. Before 1770, a wheel for spinning with both hands was unknown in the parish, now almost none else are to be seen it. The manufacturers used to give only 10d. for spinning a spindle of yarn, so that, at that rate, a woman earned only 15d. a week; but now the manufacturers pay 1s. for spinning a spindle, and a woman can spin 2½ spindles a week, which makes 2s. 6d.

*Stipend.*—The stipend consists of 42 bolls of oat-meal, 8 Dutch stones to the boll; 22 bolls of barley, Linlithgow measure; and L. 50 sterling in money. The manse was built in 1687, and repaired in 1789. The glebe is very indifferent. It is surprising to see some ministers estimating their glebes, and adding their value to the livings; for there is scarcely a minister who would not give his glebe to any man that would drive his fuel, furnish his family with milk, and a horse to ride on when he is necessarily called from home; and, if the minister hath any tolerable skill in arithmetic, he might give the man, who would supply him with the above conveniencies, 5 guineas a year along with glebe; for in that case he would save the expence of a man servant, which, as times go, is at least L. 12 or L. 14, and the risque of losing a



horse or a cow, which are fully as liable to mortality, in the possession of a clergyman, as in other hands \*.

Poor,

- \* The following observations on the state of the clergy, transmitted by Mr Willis, tho' not immediately within the scope of this work, yet are here inserted, on account of their connection with the situation of so respectable and so useful a part of the community.

Patriots, and friends to mankind would wish to know how to ameliorate the condition of every useful class of men in the kingdom. With regard to the people at large, their condition and circumstances are every day becoming more comfortable and affluent; while those of the clergy are every day declining, verging to poverty, and its usual concomitant, contempt.

“ Nil habet infelix pauperies durius in se,

“ Quam quod ridiculos homines facit.”

We all easily find out ways and means for the relief of the distressed, when we ourselves are well and at our ease. Some will say, that the clergy should return to that plain and homely fare and clothing, which their predecessors used at the beginning of the century. Not to mention other answers to this advice, even to live in that manner now, would cost double of what it did then. The boys in Heriot's Hospital live upon the same kind of food, and have the same kind of cloths, as they had an hundred years ago; and yet, I suppose, it will be found, that the expence of their maintenancè and clothing is now double of what it was then. Others will say, that the clergy should take farms; not considering how difficult they are to be got. Besides, where one minister will gain by farming, nineteen in twenty, or rather 99 in 100, would probably lose by it; as they cannot always be at the head of their labouring servants; nor are they, in any way, a match for horse-cowpers, cow-cowpers, brewers, and butchers, the people that farmers have to deal with. Gentlemen farmers are on the same footing as a clergyman would be; and sure I am, that there are not many instances of their meeting with much success.

There are two difficulties in the way of applying for an augmentation of stipends. The certain and almost unlimited expence of such an application, (if the heritors vigorously oppose the measure, as they often have done,) and the absolute uncertainty of obtaining it, as the courts of law are vested with arbitrary powers to give or to refuse. “ Arbitria iudicum pro legibus sunt.” If it be said, Is not the victual, of which part of our stipends often consists, more valuable

*Poor, Funds, &c.*—The collections at the church doors amount, on an average of the last 10 years, to L. 18 *per annum*;

valuable in this century than in the last? I suppose if you will pitch upon any 20 years of the last century, and compare them with the 20 corresponding years in this, you will find the difference next to nothing; for besides, that from the improvements in agriculture, by which grain is raised in greater quantities, and has become an article of commerce, it neither rises so high, nor falls so low as formerly.

There seems to be but one way, in which the condition of the clergy can be ameliorated, with the least loss to the public at large, and to the fewest individuals. In Scotland, the tithes of several parishes, which belonged to religious houses are vested in the Crown, and are let in lease for two or three lives; for which the tenant is bound to pay a certain annual sum to the Exchequer. At the first establishment of the Presbyterian form of church government here, the bishops rents also were vested in the Crown, I have no doubt, from a counter-revolution being not only possible but probable; and which actually took place. Again, at the Revolution, these were in like manner vested in the Crown, and for the same reason: for if King William had been as well assured of the support of the Episcopal clergy, as he was of the Presbyterian, the form of church government had not been altered at that time. So that these unalienated tithes and bishops rents are the patrimony of the church, and seem to have been vested in the crown as a deposit; for they were never forfeited by rebellion or otherwise; and were lodged there, as a provision against an event, which now, by the treaty of union, and the king's coronation oath, never can take place. It is greatly to the honour of the legislature, that it has restored their family estates to men whose ancestors had forfeited them by rebellion; and hence, I should think it very unhandsome, upon a proper application, to refuse to their very best and firmest friends that part of their patrimony, from which they are excluded on account of no rebellion or forfeiture whatever. Suppose this restored, who would suffer any loss? As to the loss to the Exchequer, what a trifle is it to an empire which has such revenues as ours? As to the loss to the collectors, it would be a very serious one, and a mighty hardship indeed, to extinguish no less than about a dozen of sinecure places. With regard to the tacksmen, whose tacks are good for their term of years, would it make any difference to them, to pay the tack-duty to the church, in place of paying it to the exchequer?

I shall mention but one consequence, if the incomes of the clergy be not ameliorated,

*num*; the hire of the mortcloths to L. 3:10; and the interest of principal sums belonging to the parish to L. 25, making

meliorated, the decline of learning will follow. This must infallibly be the case in any state, where there is not a rank which requires a considerable degree of learning, where there is not room for a considerable number of the learned to be employed in it, and where that employment does not entitle them to a decent degree both of profit and of respect. Suppose the stipends of Scotland to fall as much in their value for half a century to come, as for half a century past, how few clergymen, who are enabled to give their sons such an expensive education, as a minister should have, would breed them to a profession where they cannot gain so comfortable a subsistence as many mechanics can earn? With what kind of young men would gentlemen be supplied as tutors in their families, and who are now so well supplied, by preachers and students in divinity? Though a Dionysius might make it worth the while of a Pythagoras, to come from Greece to Syracuse, to instruct himself and his courtiers, I suspect, that when Scottish lairds must send to Oxford and Cambridge for tutors to their children, few will be sent for, and fewer come to a country, where they can look for no farther preferment. England, I think, will continue to be the seat of learning; till such time as the livings of the dignified clergy of the church there, shall be reduced to as low an ebb, as at present are the livings of the dignified clergy in France.

I have ever been of opinion, that the downfall of the church will bury learning in its ruins; and this seems to be warranted by the history of all nations. That body of men, who are now sneeringly called Priests, their office Priesthood, and their employment, Priestcraft, and which I shall call, the Clerical order established by law, have been in all ages and nations of the world, the repositories of learning. In our own country, at the first appointment of the Court of Session, there was such a penalty of the learned laity, that they were obliged to the church for one half of the judges. Wherever the clerical order has been creditable and respectable, light and learning have shone forth. Whence proceeded the first birth of learning, but from the priests of Egypt? Whither did the Grecian sages travel but into Egypt and the East? Were not the Brahmins, the Gentoo clergy, who were, and still are, of high esteem, those whom Pythagoras wished, and travelled to learn from? Were there not at Rome a Caius Julius Cæsar Pontifex Maximus, and a Marcus Tullius Cicero at the head of the college of Augurs? Was ever virtue, and piety, and learning more nobly supported than in the writings of the divines of the church of England?

ing a total income of L. 46: 10. Of which, L. 4: 14 is paid for session clerk's and officer's salaries, quarter fees of poor scholars, house rents and clothes for the poor. About L. 41, on an average, is distributed among 33 pensioners, of whom 30 reside in the town of Leslie. The distribution is made weekly; none get above 1s. nor any less than 6d. This is a much better mode than that followed by most of the kirk-sessions in the neighbourhood, who make their distributions monthly, thus occasioning the poor to live plentifully one week, and

England? I have not heard, indeed, whether the Hottentots, the Cherokees, the Chictaws, the Esquimaux, &c. ever had any clergy; and as little have I heard of the learned productions of those ornaments of human nature.

Upon the whole, I cannot help thinking, it would be bad policy in any state, to suffer a body of men, who, first and last, have been of no small use to the interests of learning and of virtue, to languish in poverty, and dwindle into contempt. No doubt, the art of printing, and the establishment of universities, have contributed, as well as the clergy, to the increase, and to the diffusion of knowledge; but the clergy diffuse knowledge, and the best kind of knowledge, to all men, high and low, to the squire as well as to the king. While the schools of the philosophers of old, thought it a profanation to enlighten the vulgar, the fishermen of Galilee, and their successors, have initiated the vulgar in the most sublime doctrines, and the purest morality; have suggested to them the most noble consolations, and have drawn them forth to action, by the most exalted hopes. And who are the men, who provide society (I do not say with the necessaries and comforts of life only), but with all its elegancies, with all its superfluities, with all its luxuries? Who but the vulgar? They bear all its burdens, and I am sorry to say, suffer all its hardships. And can justice or gratitude, can humanity and compassion, leave them to drudge in this world, like beasts of burden, cut them off from all consolation here, and leave them destitute of all rational hopes of enjoying a better condition hereafter? That, however, must be the case, if they are deprived altogether of the instructions of their best friends, and thrown into the hands of persons who may be as ignorant as themselves.

and beg or starve the rest of the month \*. No distinction between the poor of the dissenters, and the poor of the Established Church is allowed.

For 17 years preceding 1781, the collections, on an average, were L. 15 : 10; the hire of the mortcloths amounted to L. 3 : 5; and the sums distributed among the poor, to about L. 30 annually.

Since 1759, no person in this parish hath perished by hunger, nakedness, or want of lodging; nor have any taken to begging. During this period, it must be mentioned, that the heritors of the parish have not given one farthing to the poor, offerings at the church door excepted; and even these came only from one family, all the other proprietors being non-residents †.

*Population.*

\* The poor, says Mr Willis, should be treated like young birds, give them little at a time, but often.

† Many plans for the support of the poor have been projected: this only seems certain, that wherever poor rates have been adopted, they have generally been found very expensive. The philosophers of the present day, instead of thinking, "whatever is, is right," seem to think, "whatever is, is wrong." Many new plans have been proposed, and no one agreeing with another. I have always thought, that it is better to begin with amending an old plan, that has proved not to be very bad, than to take all at once a new one, however finely spun. I will venture to say, with respect to our old plan, that, of all the public funds of Europe, none are managed at so little expence to the fund itself, none so frugally, none so impartially, and none laid out more to the purpose for which they were raised, than the poor's funds under the care of the kirk-sessions of Scotland. Never, perhaps, will Scotland find a more proper jury to determine the objects of public charity, nor the quantum necessary for their supply. Two amendments may be suggested: The first is, to protect these funds against the burden of natural children being brought upon them, which could be done by altering the present law, and making the oath of the woman father all bastards, as is the practice in England. The oath of that

*Population.*—When the returns were made to Dr Webster, in 1755, the number of the inhabitants of this parish was said to amount to - - - 1130

In 1756, the total number of souls was - - - 1096  
 Of which in the town of Leslie - 732  
 ———— in the country part of the parish 364

In 1769, The number of souls in the whole parish 1165  
 ———— in the town - 786  
 ———— in the country - 379

In 1775, In the whole parish - - - - 1189  
 In the town - - - - 786  
 ———— males - - - - 344  
 ———— females - - - - 442  
 In the country - - - - 403  
 ———— males - - - - 215  
 ———— females - - - - 188

In

party should certainly be preferred who hath the least temptation to perjury. The woman in all ordinary cases of this kind has none: the man has a double temptation to perjury; for first, he gets clear of the censure of the church, and next, which to him is a matter of greater consequence, he frees himself of the expence of the maintenance of the child.

In the next place, it were to be wished, that the gentlemen in Scotland, before it be too late, would voluntarily give less or more for supporting the kirk-sessions, and enabling them to maintain the poor; for should kirk-sessions give up their laborious and painful task, the gentry, who now give next to nothing, if they once came to be taxed by law for the maintenance of the poor, will find their rate operate pretty much in the same way as an heritable bond of the same extent, upon their lands. If every heritor, resident, and non-resident, were to give in as much to the kirk-session, as it may reasonably be supposed, his tenants and their families in that parish give, which may be 2d. or 3d. each Sunday, even that small help would keep the poor from begging or starving. Suppose the heritor has six tenants, it certainly would not be an excess of generosity to give at the rate of a shilling each Sunday for the support of the poor. The expence of maintaining the poor in England is well known.

In 1781,	In the whole parish	-	-	-	1211
	In the town	-	-	-	805
	———— males	-	-	-	338
	———— females	-	-	-	467
	In the country	-	-	-	406
	———— males	-	-	-	202
	———— females	-	-	-	204
In 1785,	In the whole parish	-	-	-	1212
	In the town	-	-	-	806
	———— males	-	-	-	344
	———— females	-	-	-	462
	In the country	-	-	-	406
	———— males	-	-	-	211
	———— females	-	-	-	195
					Heritors

In London, in the parish of St. Martins in the Fields, the poor's rates, at 1s the pound upon the house rents, amounts to L. 10,000 per ann. and many parishes in London pay more than 1s. the pound. Many particular instances might be mentioned. At Alnwick it is said, the poor's rates amount to L. 600 per ann. while the parish of Alnwick is not more populous than some parishes in this neighbourhood, which have not L. 50 to support the poor. Yet very many of the gentry of Scotland will contribute almost nothing, which may render a compulsory law at last necessary. Is it not a shame, that so many gentlemen (besides never entering a church-door) never give a shilling from one end of the year to the other towards the support of the poor? When the heart of an heritor is indeed softened, and his hand opened, he may give once or twice in his life some carts of coals or bolls of meal to the poor; but it is to them no more than a feast at the time, and is soon done; whereas half the sum delivered to the kirk-session, and given out by them in shillings and sixpences would be of much greater service to the poor, who, as I have said above, can bear no wealth. Upon the whole, the proper way to maintain the poor, is to give them what is necessary to preserve them from starving, but not so much as to damp their industry, or encourage idleness; and even that little, they ought to receive, not as a right, but purely as charity; and I am persuaded, that all these purposes have been in general served by the management of the kirk-sessions.

Heritors	-	-	-	-	-	4
Houses in the country	-	-	-	-	-	84
Families in ditto.	-	-	-	-	-	84
Houses in the town of Leslie	-	-	-	-	-	129
Families in ditto	-	-	-	-	-	250

Since 1785, the population has not materially altered.

The great disproportion between the males and females in the town, and the difference in the country part of the parish, will appear strange, but may thus be accounted for: In the town, the number of maid-servants is greater than that of men-servants, and the reverse, in the country. Another reason may be, that the farmers in the neighbourhood purchase houses in Leslie for their wives to inhabit, after their death, and to which they come with their unmarried daughters. Besides, in the country part of the parish, the farmers have no more dwelling-houses than are sufficient for themselves and their servants: when, therefore, a cottager dies, his cottage must be let to another man to carry on the work of the farm, and the widow of the former, in that case, unless she hath a son to supply his father's place, or a married daughter to whom she might go to live with, rents a house in Leslie, that she may get coals driven for hire, and such other things to buy as are necessary for her subsistence: and, besides all these, some old women get houses in Leslie that they be near the church and the meeting-houses, of which there are two in town, one of the sect of Seceders, called Burghers, and the other Antiburghers. The town is choakfull of people; and has neither an empty nor ruinous house in it.

The increase of inhabitants in the country part of the parish, from 1759 to 1785, is probably occasioned by the establishment of two bleachfields; for the farmers in general keep



fewer servants than formerly, owing to a greater proportion of their farms being inclosed, and laid down with sown grafs, than heretofore.

From 1780 to 1789, both inclusive, 321 baptisms are entered in the register, whereof 168 were males, and 153 females; 231 were baptised by the established minister, and 90 by Seceders. This, however, is no proper way of judging of the real number of births, as the register of baptisms is kept both inaccurately and irregularly, since 1732, when the Seceffion began. Some poor people, to save the trifling expence of 10d. omit to register the names of their children; and the Seceders, some through poverty and others out of superstition, do not register theirs. Some of the latter carry their superstition so far as to pay the dues, and yet forbid the registration.

*Miscellaneous Observations\**.—The river Leven, which separates

\* *Antiquities*.—In the parish is the old castle of Strathendrie, which formerly belonged to a family of the same name, of no small note in Fife. A battle has, probably, been fought near it, as 4 large stones, similar to those usually set up at the graves of persons of renown, who had fallen in battle, would seem to indicate. Near these stones stood a round hillock, called the Gallant Know; which, being supposed to consist only of gravel, was made use of a few years ago to repair the roads: But in the center of it was found a piece of pavement, surrounded with large stones, containing some bones, and two spear heads of copper, the one like the head of an officer's spontoon, and the other, in the upper part, like a mason's chisel. A stone coffin and urn were found near the Gallant Know, beside one of the 4 stones, about 1760. The old house of Pitcairn, which belonged to the well known Dr Pitcairn, is in this parish, but now in a ruinous state. Near it stood a tumulus, in the center of which, about 1770, was found a stone chest, full of human bones, (in particular several entire jaw bones), standing east and west. At the east end were found two urns of bluish clay, full of bones evidently calcined, and white as chalk.

parates this parish from that of Kinglassie, abounds with trout; and, about Michaelmas, great numbers of eels are taken in their passage from Lochleven to the sea. On this account the lands of Strathendrie in this parish, were, before the Reformation, subject to an annual tax of some thousands of eels to the abbey of Inchcolm.

There are in the parish quarries of whin-stone, but very hard, and expensive to win; also some coal mines and lime-works.

The parochial schoolmaster, besides a house, has an annual salary of L. 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The scholars, at an average throughout the whole year, are 80 in number. The fees of teaching are very low.

There are 6 houses where ale is sold; but not one person or family supported by the profits of a public-house, all having some other employment.

Leslie-house, a magnificent seat, built by the Duke of Rothes, round a court like the abbey of Holyroodhouse, with a gallery three feet longer than that in the abbey, hung on one side with portraits of the connections of the Rothes family, and on the other side with those of contemporaries and friends of the Duke, was burnt to the ground on the 28th December 1763. The fore-side of the square was repaired by the late Earl of Rothes, in 1767.

*Character of the People, and their Manner of Living.*—  
There is not, in Britain, a parish of the same extent, in which the people are more sober, honest, and industrious, nor among whom there have been fewer gross crimes committed, than that of Leslie. Their manner of living is greatly altered: a remarkable instance of which is, that for several years after 1760, the present incumbent got all his wheaten bread from Edinburgh, and afterwards from Dyfart, rolls only being bak-

ed at Leslie; whereas now there are 3 bakers in this town alone. Their clothing and furniture are also much better than formerly. In the church of Leslie no person is ever seen in rags. The young men wear coats of English cloth, fancy vests, &c. and the young women, printed and white cottons, silk cloaks and bonnets, &c. The dress of the maid-servants makes no inconsiderable addition to the expence of a family in the article of washing. Their furniture also is much better. About 30 years ago, when the present incumbent was settled, there was not 6 clocks in the parish, and now there is not a house in Leslie where there is not either a clock or watch.

N U M B E R VI.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL.

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

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM MORRICE.

*Statistical Table.*

<b>L</b> ENGTH in English		Families	500
miles	7	Inhabited houses	500
Breadth	5	Married persons	800
Population about 1720	3183	Children, at an average	
— in 1755	1706	from each marriage	5
— in 1791	2075	Twins &c. born in the pa-	
Males	893	rish for the last 10 years	20
Females	1182	Unmarried men above	
In villages	100	50	12
In the country	1975	— women above	
Under 10	417	45	60
Between 10 and 20	297	Widowers	12
— 20 and 50	786	Widows	25
— 50 and 70	465	Average of births for 6	
— 70 and 80	76	years preceding 1791	35
— 80 and 90	34	Of the Established church	2041
		Seceders	

Seceders	10	Capital of their funds	L. 40
Roman Catholics	4	Annual income	L. 10
Proprietors residing	5	Stipend (glebe included)	L. 80
———— not residing	7	New houses built within	
Clergyman	1	these 10 years	76
Surgeon	1	Old do. pulled down	63
Schoolmaster	1	Scholars taught English	
Farmers under L. 50 per		and writing	240
annum	60	———— Latin	4
Shop-keepers	10	Acres of arable ground	5560
Innkeepers	3	Carts	72
Smiths	6	Ploughs	110
Masons	2	Valued rent Scotch	L. 3675
Carpenters	17	Real rent, 1750, ster.	L. 1225
Weavers	17	———— 1791, do.	L. 1874
Shoemakers	14	Rents spent in the parish	L. 1234
Tailors	20	Value of cattle, sheep,	
Millers	8	horses, and grain,	
Gardeners	3	exported	L. 400
Dyers	2	Salt, iron, soap, and o-	
Female domestic servants	12	ther necessaries, im-	
Poor	3	ported	L. 300

*Produce.*

Oats	4600 acres.	13280 bolls.	10s. per boll.	L. 6900
Bear	800	3200	12s.	1920
Potatoes	50	600	8s.	240
Turnips	60	1800	4s.	360
Sown grafs	50	7500 stones.	6d. per stone.	187

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Total value of annual produce L. 9607

*Value*

*Value of Stock.*

130 Horses, at L. 5 each	-	-	L. 650	0	0
600 Best cattle, at L. 5	-	-	3000	0	0
1200 Inferior, do. at L. 3	-	-	3600	0	0
3000 Sheep, at L. 5	-	-	750	0	0
			<hr/>		
Total			L. 8000	0	0

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The wages of a common labourer are 10d. a day. Best male farm-servants draw from L. 5 to L. 6 *per annum*, the second sort from L. 3 to L. 5; and best female farm servants from L. 2 to L. 3. 600 women are employed in spinning of lint, and knitting of woolen stockings; at which they earn from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week. The price of all sorts of provisions is double of what it was 40 years ago. —The fuel commonly used is peat, turf, and wood: the former, which is found in the parish, costs about 1s. per cart load when carried about 2 miles; the turf 6d. per load. The people in general are economical enough; nothing could contribute more to meliorate their condition than the encouragement of industry. —There are about 500 acres planted with wood, in a thriving way: on one estate alone about 300 acres are planted.—Some free-stone is carried so far as Aberdeen, 20 miles distant.

## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF MIDDLEBIE.

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

By the Rev. MR. ABRAHAM NIVISON.

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

MIDDLEBIE consists of three parishes, Middlebie, Pennerfaughs, and Carruthers, now united into one. In the Saxon language, *Bie or Bee*, it is said, signifies a station; and the addition, *Middle*, has been given to this place from the circumstance of being the middle station between Netherbie in Cumberland, and Overbie, or Upperbie, in Eskdalemuir; at both which places, as well as at Middlebie, are plain vestiges of a Roman work.—This district is 9 miles in length, and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  in breadth, though of a very irregular form, intersected in some places by the neighbouring parishes. The surface is flat, with gently rising hills interspersed. The soil is very various; mostly strong, deep, and wet, upon a cold tilly bed, but fertile upon the whole. The air is generally moist: After a long course of rainy weather, putrid fevers prevail much.

*Natural*

*Natural Productions, &c.*—The parish abounds with freestone of a reddish colour, and with limestone, which is used both in building and for manure. About 30,000 Carlisle bushels (each equal to 3 Winchester's) are annually sold from the limestone quarries, at 11d. the bushel when drawn from the kiln. Many acres are employed in raising oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, rye, wheat, and flax. Oats are the most common crop. Turnips, rye, and wheat, are far from being general. The parish supplies itself with provisions, and exports a considerable quantity of oats, barley, and bacon.—Great numbers of cattle, (which are generally very handsome, and without horns,) are annually bought by drovers, and carried into England. It is a common practice, among the farmers, to buy young sheep in August, and dispose of them the following spring. The sheep are of the long English kind, with white legs and faces. Harvest generally begins about the 1st of September, and is not concluded till November. The rent of the best arable land is about 20s. the acre; inferior land lets at 8s. 9s. or 10s. The general size of farms seems to be 100 acres, and the average rent about L. 50 or L. 60. Property is not often changing; but when it does, the land sells at from 20 to 25 years purchase\*.

*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The living, as augmented 1792, consists

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sifts

\* The present price of butcher meat, butter, cheese, and grain, is much the same as in the Edinburgh market, and in the three Lothians. A goose sells at 2s. 6d. or 3s. a duck at 8d. a hen at 7d. or 8d. So late as 1760, oatmeal, which now sells for 2s. sold at 8d. the stone.—The daily wages of labourers are 9d. or 10d. with victuals, or 1s. 3d. or 1s. 4d. without them;—of masons 1s. in the former case, and 1s. 6d. in the latter;—of tailors, who never work abroad without victuals, 8d. The wages of male servants vary from L. 7 : 10 to L. 10 per ann. and female servants receive half of these sums. This high rate is to be attributed to the vicinity of England, where the wages of servants are still higher than here.



sists of a manse, a glebe of 12 acres, 5 chalders of victual, L. 66 : 13 : 4 in money, and L. 5 for communion elements, so that it is altogether worth L. 150 *per annum*. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The amount of the collections at the church-door, fines, &c. is about L. 17; which, added to L. 5, the interest of a legacy, makes the whole annual income of the poor L. 22.—There has been no school here for 40 years past; but the legal steps for having a salary fixed on a school-master will be soon taken.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A woman died some years ago at the age of 109.—The principal disadvantages are the scarcity of fuel, and the wetness of the soil. Some of the heritors are making trials for coal, of which there is a favourable appearance. The fuel commonly used is peat and turf; some coals are brought from Canonbie.—Near the church are the vestiges of a Roman work, some account of which may be seen in Pennant's tour; and several coins have been found here.—The people in general seem to be economical, and contented with their situation, though it cannot be said that they enjoy in a great degree the comforts and advantages of society: there are many means by which their condition might be meliorated.—The roads were originally made and kept in repair by statute labour, which is now commuted. The turnpike road from Glasgow to Carlisle passes through the parish, in which is a toll-bar, lately let at L. 116 *per annum*.—These are some small tippling ale, or rather whisky, houses, in this district, most hurtful to the industry, health, and morals of the people.

Statistical Table.

Population in 1755	991	Merchants	2
———— in 1785	1356	Born in England and Ire-	
———— in 1791	1404	land	3
Males	696	Lawyers and writers	3
Females	708	Surgeon	1
Annual average of births	48	Of the Established Church	1307
———— of deaths	25	Seceders	97
———— of marria-		Average number of child-	
ges	13	ren produced by each	
Under 10	360	marriage	50r6
From 10 to 20	340	Inhabited houses	297
— 20 to 50	483	Horses	251
— 50 to 70	185	Milch-cows	639
— 70 to 100	36	Other cattle, about	1278
Farmers and their families	705	Sheep	3940
Weavers	20	Swine	594
Taylors	6	Real-rent, sterling	L.3730
Joiners	8	Heritors resident	23
Blacksmiths	6	———— non-resident	14
Masons	4	Poor	20
Millers	4	Small English ploughs	46
Shoe-makers	2	Scotch, ditto	63
Cloggers *	3	Chain, ditto	4
Male farm-servants	69	Carts	167
Female, ditto	80		

\* Persons who make strong shoes with thick wooden soles; very necessary and comfortable in a moist climate and deep wet soil.

NUMBER

## NUMBER VIII.

## PARISH OF FOVERAN.

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

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM DUFF.*

*Name, Extent, &c.*

**F**OVERAN, in the Celtic, is said to signify a Place of Springs, or of Water; though the parish possesses no remarkable peculiarity with regard to the number or nature of its springs.—It is bounded on the east by the sea, on the north-east by the river Ythan, which divides it from Forvie, (the ancient name of a parish now wholly overblown with sand), on the north by the burn of Tipperty; and extends 4 miles in length from east to west: the greater part of the parish is 2 miles in breadth. The nature of the soil is various, but for the most part fertile: next the sea it is sandy, next to that a fine deep loam, generally on a bed of clay; a considerable part consists of strong clay, some of which is cold, wet, and spouting. Scarcely any part of the parish is not arable. The corn fields are for the most part close and contiguous, as well as fertile; compensating in some measure for the want of trees, of which very few are to be seen here, though several plantations have  
been

been lately made. The ground rises by a gradual ascent from the sea, but in no place to any great height; and the parish, though not flat, is rather plain than hilly. The air is somewhat sharp and penetrating, especially when the wind blows from the east; it is however abundantly wholesome. Vegetation is remarkably quick and strong; and the crops of sown grass, in particular, are generally early and luxuriant.

*Rivers, Villages, &c.*—The river Ythan abounds with salmon, trout, and flounders. In it are innumerable beds of muscles; which are sent to Aberdeen, and sold at 1s. 8d. the peck, not only for the table, but for bait to the fishers, though the latter have of late discovered a reluctance to purchase them, as they have risen in the course of 12 years to double their former value. The bait, however, which they use as a substitute for muscles, not having answered so well, it is believed they will be obliged to comply with the demands of the tack-man.—Pearls are found in the bed of the Ythan; and, a few years ago, were pretty successfully searched for, three or four miles up the river.

At the mouth of the Ythan, is the village of Newburgh, a very dirty place, in a pleasant and commodious situation. This village, though lying in a good corn country, half way between Aberdeen and Peterhead, and exceedingly convenient for importing lime, coals, &c. and exporting grain from all the neighbouring parishes, has been unaccountably much neglected: it formerly contained about 200 inhabitants; but the number is now considerably reduced from want of proper encouragements and regulations. Within the memory of many persons in the parish, 7 fishing boats belonged to this village, now the number is reduced to one only, and even that is chiefly used for piloting vessels up the river. There is no harbour in the Ythan; an advantage which, considering

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the

the great number of ships that frequent the river, is much wanted, and which it is supposed could be obtained at a moderate expence, The Ythan is navigable for about 3 miles from its mouth: ships of 100 to 150 tons burden can come a mile up.

In Newburgh are 6 or 7 ale-houses; chiefly frequented by sailors, smugglers, and fishermen. In the country part of the parish is only one ale-house.

*Rent, Agriculture, &c.*—There are about 50 farms in the parish; some of them large, extending from 200 to 1200 acres, some of a moderate size, and some very small, besides several crofts of from 4 to 12 acres. One farm of 1200 acres is rented at L. 200 *per annum*; another is let for L. 130; several from L. 60 to L. 80; others from L. 20 to L. 40; and a few from L. 15 to L. 20, converting the victual-rent at 13s. 3d. per boll. Besides the rent, the tenants are bound to perform several services; particularly that arbitrary exaction, known by the name of *bonnage* \*, to which some of those who have lately taken farms, have refused to submit. The infield near the coast, which is in general the best ground in the parish, is let from 20s. to 30s. per acre.—The valued rent is about L. 4000 Scotch; the real rent extends from L. 2400 to L. 2600 sterling, including the salmon and muscle-fishings, which let at about L. 220 sterling.

Within these 14 and 15 years, agriculture has made very rapid advances in this district; and the method of cultivation has undergone a very remarkable change. Before that period, the lands were neither dressed, nor had any intervals of rest, but carried perpetual crops of grain, to the utter impoverishment of the ground. Now a great quantity of lime is used for  
manure;

\* Vide Vol. I. p. 433.

manure ; large fields of sown grass and turnips are to be seen ; and considerable numbers of cattle are fed on these green crops. The grain usually sown is bear, oats, and pease. On two or three farms, wheat has been tried with success, which, it may be presumed, will tend to promote its more general cultivation. Harvest begins about the middle or end of August. —In the parish there are about 300 horses ; 1500 cattle ; and an inconsiderable number of sheep ; the nature of the soil and the mode of agriculture generally pursued, not being favourable to the rearing of flocks.

*Trade and Manufactures.*—The only trade that deserves to be mentioned, carried on here, is the importation of lime, coals, and wood, (with which last 3 or 4 vessels are commonly freighted yearly from Norway or Garmouth ; ) and the exportation of grain and meal. The demand for lime has, within the last 7 years, increased in an astonishing degree : at least 30 cargoes having been imported this year. It is only about 26 years since the first cargo of that valuable species of manure, which was given gratis by one of the heritors to his tenants, in order to convince them of its advantages, was imported into this parish.

The stocking manufacture is carried on here, by the Aberdeen merchants, to a considerable extent ; but since the improvements which have taken place in the stocking-ooms, the price of knitting them has fallen so low, that the women who continue to knit can with difficulty earn a scanty subsistence. As the practice of sowing lint begins to gain ground in this country, it is hoped that the spinning of linen, by which a good deal more can be earned, will likewise gradually prevail\*.

Vol. VI.

I

Population,

\* The wages of servants are triple what they were 40 years ago. Male servants

*Population, &c.*—The population has of late considerably decreased, owing in some measure to the decline of the fishery, but chiefly to the practice of uniting several small farms into one. On a farm of 1200 acres there are not now 7 or 8 houses where 24 formerly were, and several emigrations have taken place from it.

Number of souls in 1755	1981	Carpenters and wrights	6
Above 7 years of age, in		Taylors	5
1775	1150	Shoemakers	7
————— in		Weavers	3
1791 *	1025	Masons	6
Number of souls in 1792	1243	Shopkeepers	6
Males	580	Yearly average of births	
Females	663	for 3 years	27
Farmers	50	————— of deaths	10
Cottagers	137	————— of marri-	
Male-servants	97	ages	6
Female-servants	124	Average of children pro-	
Grooms	2	duced by each marri-	
Gardeners	2	age	4
House-servants, male	2	Methodists	50 or 60
————— female	2	Seceders	9
Smiths	6	Episcopalians	7

*Ecclesiastical State, School, Poor.*—The stipend, including

servants commonly receive from L. 5 to L. 6; and female servants from L. 2 : 6 to L. 2 : 10. a year. Day-labourers are hired at 6d. a day, with their victuals, or 10d. without them. The price of provisions is regulated in a great measure by the Aberdeen market: Beef and mutton sell from 3d. to 4d. per pound;—hens from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.—and chickens from 4d. to 6d. the pair.

\* Several are above 80; and one man in the 96th year of his age.

a glebe of 5 acres, is L. 95 sterling.—The king is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks, and L. 3:6:8 sterling. The funds for the support of the poor arise from the interest of a capital of L. 210 sterling; a mortification of L. 1:6:8 *per annum*; and the collections at the church-doors, which last, at an average, may amount to L. 20 *per annum*, exclusive of the annual collection for the infirmary at Aberdeen. The number of poor who receive alms (not including such as are occasionally relieved), is about 40; and each of these receive from 2s. to 3s. every quarter, for the distribution is made quarterly.

In 1782, the wants of the parishioners were, in a great measure, supplied by the importation of 4 cargoes of grain from England, which sold at about 28s. per boll. As this price was too high for the poor to pay, the heritors contributed L. 20, the tenants L. 20, a third L. 20 was taken from the poor's funds, and L. 20 more was borrowed, making in all L. 80; with which the session bought oat and pease meal: the former they sold at prime cost, 1s. 3d. per peck; and with every peck of oat-meal so sold, they gave 2 pecks of pease meal gratis; by which means the poor had their meal altogether at 5d. the peck, and their wants were seasonably and effectually supplied. One of the tenants not only advanced the last L. 20 without charging interest, but sold a considerable quantity of meal to the poor at 1s. per peck, when it had risen to 1s. 6d. in the market, as an evidence of his gratitude to Providence for blessing him, amidst the general scarcity, with a plentiful crop.

*Miscellaneous Observations* \*.—The people are civil and hospitable

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\* There were in the parish 2 druidical temples, one of which was very complete, but both are now entirely destroyed. Near Newburgh, are the ruins of



hospitable to strangers, charitable to the poor, humane and compassionate to the ship-wrecked, when such accidents happen; and, in general, just and honest in their dealings. Smuggling, however, is frequently carried on, and tends in no inconsiderable degree to corrupt the morals of the people: but this contraband trade seems, through the salutary measures adopted by government, to be at present on the decline; and its total annihilation is devoutly to be wished for by every friend to virtue and industry.—The mode of living has undergone a great alteration of late. The tenants in general are in good circumstances, live comfortably, and maintain a decent appearance. A taste for finery in dress has pervaded all ranks.—The principal disadvantage is the scarcity of fuel: peat is most commonly used, but procured with difficulty, owing to the scarcity of moss. The heavy duty on coal prevents its being more generally made use of, notwithstanding the facility of procuring it.—The roads in the parish, which are tolerably good, are made by statute-labour. Many of the tenants wish for turnpikes, being fully sensible of the advantages arising from them.

*Hints for the Melioration of the Situation and Circumstances of the People.*—As proprietors, who reside upon their estates, have daily opportunities of observing the wants and sufferings of their tenants, whom it is equally their duty and interest to protect and encourage, they might probably, in a great measure,

of an old chapel, called the Red Chapel of Buchan. About half a mile from Newburgh, the ruins of the old castle of Knockhall, one of the seats of the family of Udny, pleasantly situated, strikes the eye of the spectator. Some remains of another castle belonging to a family of the name of Fiddes, now extinct, are still to be seen; and there are several tumuli or cairns in the parish.

sure, supply the one and relieve the other, by adopting some such plans as the following :

1st, To let their lands at moderate rents and grant long leases to their tenants ; with suitable encouragement for making improvements on their farms, (either by clearing the ground of stones, draining, inclosing, or bringing muirs and waste land under cultivation and pasture), and by allowing them a reasonable compensation for what they have judiciously expended on such improvements.

2dly, To abolish all personal services, especially during seed-time and harvest, together with miln-multure, allowing the miller only payment for his trouble in grinding the corn to the tenants.

3dly, To let farms of a moderate size to sober and industrious tenants, even in preference to those who promise a larger rent, which, after all, they may not be able to pay.

4thly, To prevent, by proper restrictions, in the leases they grant to their tenants, as well as by their own example, all unreasonable and extravagant exactions of rent, as well as of personal services from sub-tenants ; who too often feel the scourge of those petty oppressors, to whose tyranny they are subjected, when they are not restrained by prohibiting clauses, enforced by proper penalties in their leases. For instance, a tenant might be prohibited, under the penalty of forfeiting his lease, from letting land to cottagers above a certain sum, (which must, no doubt, vary according to the nature of the soil, and the situation of the place), as well as from demanding any of those feudal services, which are only so many badges of slavery.

5thly, and lastly, It might be advantageous, in an age so famed as the present for associations, to institute parochial clubs, consisting of the proprietors, minister, and such farmers of the parish, as choose to become members, to meet twice

a year, in spring and autumn; when the former would have opportunities of inquiring into the plans adopted by the latter, in the management of their farms, and of giving seasonable advices to the slothful, and suitable approbation and encouragement to the industrious. At these meetings, at which the proprietors and minister might officiate in rotation, as presidents, a collection should be made by voluntary assessment, according to the different circumstances and inclinations of the members, out of which, after defraying the expences of the meeting, which should never exceed 1s. 6d. each, the surplus should be converted into a fund for encouraging industry among the cottagers. Out of this fund, small premiums from 5s. to 10s. might be distributed to 4 or 5 cottagers yearly, who should raise the best turnips or grafs upon not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an acre each. By a judicious and impartial distribution of these small premiums, a spirit of industry and emulation would be excited among the cottagers; their crops of grafs and grain would be more plentiful, and their situation and circumstances would become much more comfortable. By such periodical meetings landlords would become thoroughly acquainted with the situation, management, and conduct both of the tenants and cottagers; those ties which unite men to men would be drawn tighter and closer; sentiments of respect and gratitude—of attachment and confidence, would spontaneously arise and expand, in the hearts of the tenants towards their landlords, whom they would thus be induced to consider as their patrons and protectors; and, by this primitive and patriarchal kind of intercourse, so agreeable to a benevolent mind, the general harmony and happiness of social life would be improved and augmented.

N U M B E R IX.

PARISH OF DAMELINGTON.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF  
GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. MR. DUNCAN M'MYNE.

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*Name, Soil, Climate, &c.*

**T**HE true orthography of Damelington is said to be *Dame-Helen's-town*, after a lady of rank and fortune, of the name of Helen, who built a castle near this place.—The parish is about 8 miles long, and between 2 and 3 in breadth.—The soil in the lower parts, lying upon the river Doon, is a strong, rich, deep clay: around the village of Damelington, it is dry and gravelly; and towards the hilly parts, hard and rocky. About a mile below the village is a large morass\*, which formerly rendered the climate very unhealthy, particularly to children; but since it has been drained, and two small streams carried through its centre, the climate is

\* An experiment was tried to improve this large tract of useless ground, by covering it thick with water gravel, which had a wonderful and immediate effect; but the expence was so great, that it was found necessary to relinquish the scheme.

is become more salubrious, the children are stout and healthful, and there are now many instances of longevity in the parish.—Immediately beyond this large morass, runs the river Doon, where there is perhaps the largest tract of natural meadows that is to be found in any part of Scotland. These fine meadows are apt to be overflowed, by which their grass is filled with sand and rendered hurtful to cattle; and often, in great speats, a great deal of hay is carried away. In order to prevent this damage, the proprietors cut through a very high and solid rock at the foot of Loch Doon, (from whence the river flows), but the event did not answer their expectations. Loch Doon is a beautiful piece of water, 9 miles long, abounding in trout, with a hard rocky coast. On an island are the remains of a fine old castle, and there was a beautiful natural cascade at the foot of the loch, before the cut was made.

*Minerals.*—The parish is full of fine coal, and freestone, in almost every corner of it. These two useful articles terminate here, there being none to the southward beyond this parish. Coal is carried from hence, to the distance of 30 miles, into Galloway. There is also iron-stone to be found in the parish, and lead in some of the hills. Near the village of Damelington is the cheapest and best coal that is to be found in the west of Scotland.

*Population, &c.*—The following table will exhibit the state of the parish, as to population, rent, &c.

Population in 1755	739	Annual average of births	
———— in 1792	681	for 2 years	25
Above 12 years of age	472	————— of burials	
Below 12	209	als	15
			Rent

Rent	L. 1700	Sheep	8000
Black-cattle	800	Heritors resident	1
Horses	50	—— non-resident	3

The population, in the country part of the parish, has considerably diminished, owing to the monopolizing of farms, or conjoining a number of possessions into one; but it has increased in proportion in the village of Damelingtoun, which contains about 500 inhabitants. Seven fairs are held in it every year; and it has 5 or 6 public houses, kept by people of good character. Near the village are two large commons, let at a reasonable rate to the inhabitants, for feeding their cattle upon. Each common may feed 25 or 30 cows. There is plenty of coal, freestone, and good water, all around; so that, upon all these accounts, Damelingtoun is particularly well situated for a woollen manufactory, especially as it is in the neighbourhood of numerous and fine flocks of sheep. Accordingly, a few public-spirited men propose immediately to establish both a woollen and a cotton manufactory here; which, in time, will probably be productive of the happiest effects; as the inhabitants of the village are a sober, industrious, regular, and well-informed set.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The stipend is 1200 merks Sc. all in money; with a glebe of 11 acres.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Sc.—The average number of poor is 27, maintained by weekly collections, and the interest of a capital stock of L. 110. The monopolizing of farms, and the cheapness of houses and coal in the village, has contributed much to increase the number of the poor; but they are very diligent and industrious.—In the parish are the remains of 3 old castles, one of them on an island in Loch  
 VOL. VI. K Doon,

Doon, before-mentioned. A beautiful moat, furrounded with a deep dry fosse, stands immediately above the village of Damelingtoun; and large cairns of stones are to be found in many places.

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF CULTER.

(PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN  
AND TWEEDALE, COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM STRACHAN.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface.*

CULTER is a Latin word, signifying a Coulter or Ploughshare, though it is uncertain upon what account this parish was so named.—The length of the parish is about 8 miles; and the breadth varies, but is at an average about 4 miles. The level or lowland part of the parish, which is well cultivated and improved, is about 2 miles broad from the banks of the Clyde, which separates this from Symington parish, to the foot of the hilly ground on the south. The situation is delightful; and the prospect, though not extensive, is beautiful, the ground being mostly either well inclosed with ditch and hedge, or covered with thriving plantations, which contribute greatly to adorn the country. Part of the ground is so plain, that an avenue to a gentleman's seat in this parish, though upwards of a mile in length, is perfectly level. The southern district consists chiefly of high mountains, called



Culter-heights and Culter-fell\*, (which last rivals Tinto-hill in height), partly green, and partly covered with heath and coarse grass, well adapted to the breeding and feeding of sheep.—There are 4 pretty large store-farms in the parish, (though not without a considerable proportion of arable land in them, producing excellent crops) one rented at L. 70, another at L. 120, and the third at L. 240; the fourth is occupied by the proprietor. The number of English acres in the whole parish amounts to about 7377 †.

*Woods, Soil, Productions, &c.*—One of the hills is covered on one side with a large wood, consisting chiefly of fir, oak, ash, &c. part of which is natural. Many thousands of trees have also been planted in different parts of the parish, within these 7 or 8 years; and the whole district is so much improved by art, as must impress one with a favourable opinion of the good taste of the proprietors, who seem to vie with each other in improvements. The soil of the lower part, though in general naturally light and sharp, when justice is done to it in cultivation, seldom fails to make rich and early returns of oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, flax, or rye-grass and clover. Inclosed land lets at an average from 30s to 40s the acre; out-field land lets at various prices. Pasture-parks rent amazingly high: one of the proprietors finding this scheme advantageous, has let out a great part of his estate for pasturage, for some years past. The valued rent is L. 1600 Scotch, and the real rent nearly L. 1600 sterling.—The number of heritors is

7.

\* It is worthy of remark, that on the morning of the 13th of June 1791, this hill was quite covered with snow.

† Mr Strachan certainly means that part of the parish which has been measured, not the whole district.

7, of whom 3 reside principally in the parish. The people are in general commodiously lodged, the proprietors having built substantial farm-houses for their tenants. More flax is raised here than in any part of the neighbouring country, and the soil is very proper for that crop. People from a considerable distance will cheerfully pay 2s. 6d. for as much land as is requisite for sowing a cap-full, or forset of seed, 40 of which measures are allotted to an acre: each forset generally produces from 12 to 25 lb. of dressed flax from the mill.—The harvest is in general earlier by a week than in other parish in the vicinity.—The air in the southern part of this district, is very sharp in winter, the hills being generally covered with snow; while the inhabitants in the lowland places enjoy a clear and dry air.—Culter-water, which falls into the Clyde, after bisecting the parish, abounds with trout.

*Population, &c.*—The state of the parish, as to population, and in other respects, will be seen from the following table :

Number of souls in 1755	422	Relief Seceders	30
————— in 1791	326	Burgher ditto	8
Males	147	Births from September	
Females	179	1785, to April 1791	40
Under 10	70	Marriages, ditto	12
From 10 to 20	69	Deaths, ditto	30
—— 20 to 30	64	Masons	4
—— 30 to 40	49	Wrights	3
—— 40 to 50	32	Weaver	1
—— 50 to 60	26	Shoemaker	1
—— 60 to 70	12	Smiths	2
—— 70 to 80	3	Miller	1
At 80	1	Ploughs	22
			Carts

Carts	51	Cows	181
Sheep	4610	Horses	82

The horses, which are generally bred here, or in the vicinity, are strong made, capable of enduring much fatigue, and have lately advanced in value. A good many sheep and black-cattle are fattened by the gentlemen, and some of the farmers, who find a ready sale for them, purchasers appearing from Lanark, Hamilton, and even from Glasgow. Numbers are now also sold into Biggar; where, for some time past, has been an excellent market for butcher meat of all kinds.

*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—The stipend is L. 41:13:4 Sterling, (including 50 merks Scotch for communion elements), 2 chalders of oatmeal, and 1 of bear. The glebe consists of 8½ acres, and may be rated at L. 10.—Sir Charles Ross of Balnagowan is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 8:6:8, with a house and garden, and other emoluments, amounting to about L. 5 more. The collections at the church-doors amount to about L. 8 *per annum*, a large sum, considering the small number of inhabitants, but owing chiefly to the liberal offerings of some genteel families resident here. This, with the interest of L. 103, the capital of the poor's funds, is distributed once a fortnight among the enrolled poor, who are 7 in number; and part is employed in relieving the occasional distresses of others, and in paying the fees of poor scholars. No beggars are to be seen in the parish.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The people are healthy, being mostly employed in active occupations, and are sober and exemplary. Rheumatisms and colds are the most prevalent diseases.—There are in the parish four encampments, all of a circular figure, called rings by the common people: likewise

a small circular artificial mound of earth, on the banks of the Clyde, within view of two others at a considerable distance.

—The principal disadvantages are the distance from coal, which is brought 11 miles from Douglas, and the want of a bridge over the Clyde, which is often impassable. There are few peat-mosses here, and not many people who dig more fuel than is necessary for drying their grain for the mill.—There are some mineral springs, impregnated with iron; and iron-stone, said to be of an excellent quality, is found in great plenty, in different parts of the parish.

NUMBER

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF MARYCULTURE.

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

By the Rev. MR. JOHN GLENNIE.

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

THE original orthography of this parish seems to have been *Marie cultura*.—It is of an oblong form; 6 English miles in length, and 2 in breadth; extending from the river Dee to the Grampian mountains. The soil on the river side is naturally thin and sandy; on the rising midland it becomes deeper and blacker, with a bottom of clay in some parts; and more southward, the ground turns swampy, turfy, and mossy. The extremities of the parish are in some places rocky hills and mosses; in others, green hills with large stones, rushy muirs, and heath. Indeed the whole district is rocky and stony, except some small haughs and dales on the river side; and thoroughly to improve, inclose, and render tolerably fertile, a piece of waste ground here, may be almost termed a new creation. The old farms extended across the whole breadth of the parish, from the Dee to the Grampians, by which means every tenant had a portion of all the different soils.

The

The *Dee*, which washes the north side of the parish for above 6 miles, is famous for its salmon, which are caught by flat-bottomed skiffs and nets. There are 5 salmon-fishings in the parish.—This stream frequently overflows its banks, particularly in May and June, after a snowy winter, which often damages the sown land: but the most hurtful floods usually happen in September, when they carry off great quantities of cut grain, and level the standing corn among the sand. A remarkable flood occurred on the 17th September, 1768, by which many suffered considerably.—There is a ferry for horses, carriages, &c. opposite to the manse.

*Rent, Natural Productions, &c.*—Including the farms in the possession of the heritors, and the fishings, the rent of the whole parish will amount to L. 1000 sterling. There are 28 ploughgates of land in this district; 20 of which belong to one heritor, and other two gentlemen have 4 each. Black cattle have been fed here, that sold from L. 20 to L. 25 each. The produce of the parish more than supplies the inhabitants with provisions. The old rents were made up of money, meal, bear, sheep, hogs, lambs, poultry, butter, eggs, and manual services; but, of late years, those called *ipfa corpora* are all converted into money.—Red and white clover and rye-grass are sold by many of the farmers, as also turnips. Some of the best arable land is let at 20s. and some of the worst pasture at 5d. per acre.—In the minister's glebe is a quarry of granite. A large portion of the parish is covered with wood. In *Kingcausie-wood* are some deer of the roe kind, of a small size, increasing in number every year.—The parish in general is uninclosed. The people are convinced of the advantages of inclosing, but have neither money, nor length of leases, sufficient for that purpose.

*Manufactures.*—Spinning and knitting worsted stockings is the general employment of all females from 7 years old and upwards. The combed wool for that purpose is given out by hosiery from Aberdeen, in different parts of the parish, on certain days, called *Factory Days*, on which also the wrought stockings are received. Each pair costs, for spinning and knitting, from 1s. to 3s. 6d. the cheapest are accounted the most profitable, both to the worker and the merchant.—The common fuel is peat and furze, but the peat-mosses are now quite exhausted. Peats are bought in Fetteresso parish, at the rate of 1s. a small cart load: coals can be got cheaper in Aberdeen\*.

*Population.*—The state of the parish, as to population, is as follows:

Number of souls in 1755	746	Discharged soldiers	3
_____ 1790	630	Chelsea pensioners	2
Males	280	Roman Catholics	25
Females	350	Episcopalians	8
Taylors	4	Seceders	2
Weavers	10	Annual average of births	16
Wrights	3	_____ of deaths	11
Norfolk plough-wright	1	_____ of marri-	
Sailors	4	ages	5
Shoemakers	4	Married men	120
Gardeners	4	Batchelors and widowers	14
		Inhabited	

\* The prices of provisions are the same as at the Aberdeen market. The day's wages of a common labourer are from 8d. to 10d; of house carpenters, 10d. to 1s; and of taylors, 6d. and victuals. Male servants receive from L. 5 to L. 6; female ditto, L. 2, and upwards, per. ann. Male shearers, from 20s. to 30s. female ditto, from 15s. to 20s for the harvest season.

Inhabited houses	145	Coach	1
Ploughs	36	Heritors	3
Carts	40 to 50	Minister's family (not in-	
Waggon	1	cluded above)	34

This parish was more populous 70 or 80 years ago than it is at present. This decline of population is owing to the failure of peat and turf for fuel, and the removal of several persons from hence to Aberdeen, with the view of getting constant employment.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The value of the living will be from L. 70 to L. 75 sterling, including a glebe, 10 acres of which have been rendered arable by the present incumbent, at a great expence.—The minister, for some years past, has kept an academy, taught by two of his sons; at which are usually from 20 to 26 young gentlemen, some from the West Indies and America, and others from England.—The poor receiving alms constantly, are from 30 to 35, and several are occasionally relieved: the sum of collections, annual-rents, and penalties, for their use, is from L. 30 to L. 38 *per annum*, of which about L. 4 is collected for, and given to the infirmary of Aberdeen. In 1782 and 1783, many lived very sparingly and hardly in this parish: the kirk-session bought meal and pease repeatedly at Aberdeen, when they could be got, and distributed or sold them out at reduced rates; but the people have not yet recovered the extraordinary stress and expence of these years. The heritors are always doing good, and contributing to the relief of the distressed.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are generally sober and industrious; and must be economical, as they can-



not afford luxuries. Some are 6 feet 2 inches in height; and a man who died lately, was 6 feet 7 inches high. A widow woman died last year aged 102, and a man lately at the advanced age of 104. — Potter's-earth is found in the parish. — The road along the fourth side of the Dee is in general good. — The statute labour is both exacted in kind, and commuted for money, — No turnpikes are needed or wished for in the parish,

**NUMBER**

## NUMBER XII.

## PARISH OF DAVIOT.

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

By the Rev. MR. ROBERT SHEPHERD.

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*Extent, Surface, and Soil.*

THE parish of Daviot, strictly so called, extends to about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, and 2 in breadth. But several lands in the parishes of Chapel and Fyvie, were, in the end of last century, annexed to it, *quoad sacra*, by act of Assembly; so that the whole, under the minister's charge, is nearly 5 miles in length and 4 in breadth.—The soil of the parish is various, consisting partly of strong clay, partly of rich loam, but in general fertile. Its exposure is chiefly to the S. and S. E. and there are few hills in the parish.

*Number of Inhabitants.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 975 souls; the number of inhabitants in the proper parish of Daviot is nearly 700, but in the whole parish under the minister's charge, 900: of these, 40 are Episcopalian.

*Rent*

*Rent and Size of Farms.*—The whole rents of the parish are above L. 950 sterling. The valued rent is L. 2250 Scotch. The rent of the farms is from L. 10 to L. 60 sterling; and the size from 20 to 100 acres. There are above 500 acres inclosed. The new husbandry begins to take place of the old, but a regular rotation of crops is not yet established. One of the heritors buys yearly from the West Highlands a good many cattle, which turn out uncommonly well when put into his rich inclosures. Owing to this circumstance, however, it is impossible to give an exact number of the cattle, as this fluctuates very much, there being at present not 40 cattle where there were about 300. There are about 20 acres of turnips, and 300 acres of sown grass, some of it very old and rich. The inhabitants raise a good many potatoes for private use. —The time of sowing oats is from the middle of March to the end of April; of sowing bear, from the middle to the end of May; and of sowing turnips, the first three weeks of June: flax of late has been introduced, and is sown in the beginning of May.—Harvest continues from the middle of August to the middle of September.—The principal manure used in this district is lime, which is partly English lime, from Aberdeen and Newburgh, and partly Scots, from Udney and Pitmedden.

*Manufactures, &c.*—There is a licensed distillery, and a flax, malt, and barley-mill, all which have good employment; and the knitting of stockings is general in the parish.—There are few good houses in the parish, but some good houses have been built for the distillery and mills before-mentioned.—The principal fuel is peats from the moss, and turf from the mulr.—There are two Druids temples, one of which makes part of the church yard.

*Heritors.*

*Heritors.*—There are 4 heritors in the parish ; of whom one resides.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—This parish was formerly a parsonage or prebend in the diocese of Aberdeen, and was given as an alm's gift by Malcolm Canmore to the Bishop of Aberdeen. —The stipend was lately augmented, and is now three chalders of victual, and L. 53 : 6 : 8 sterling.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The people are in general sober, industrious, and peaceable, and contented with their situation. —The advantages are early harvests, good soil, and the industry of the people ; the disadvantages are short leases, distance from lime, (from Aberdeen, twenty English miles), and want of encouragement to improve on any large scale.

*Longevity.*—One person in this parish died at the age of 113 ; her son is now 100, and in good health. The late incumbent at Daviot was about 56 years minister. At the time he was 50 years minister of this parish, there were four elder members in the presbytery of Garioch, the eldest of whom was in the 61st year of his ministry, and other two lived till they were 60 years ministers of the Established church. It is strong evidence of the healthy climate of the Garioch, that out of 15 members of presbytery, the 5 oldest upon the roll lived to be all of them nearly, and some of them above 60 years ministers, and from 80 to 90 years old.

## N U M B E R. XIII.

## PARISH OF BALQUHIDDER.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUMBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH  
AND STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. MR. DUNCAN STEWART.*

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*Name, Extent, and Soil.*

**B**ALQUHIDDER, in the Celtic language, means a Village upon which five Glens open, or a Village in the centre of five Glens.—It is an inland and highland parish of about 15 computed miles in length, lying from E. S. to N. W. and the greatest breadth is about 7 miles. The most considerable part of the parish consists of hills, which in general are very steep and high, partly covered with heath, but mostly green, the heather of late years having been much destroyed by the sheep manure. The soil upon the declivity of the hills is for the most part deep and dry, and produces excellent pasture for black-cattle and sheep, but from the height and steepness of the hills, seems particularly fitted for the latter. Part of the hill ground is swampy, producing sprouts and strong grass, fit for standing winter storms. The flat part of the parish is narrow; the soil of which is partly a light loam made up of sand and clay, carried down with great rapidity by the

torrents from the adjacent hills, and partly four and mossy, which is very level, a great part of it being covered by three lakes.

*Lakes, Inundations, and Fish.*—The lakes are Lochdoine, Lochvoil, and one half of Lochlubnaig. In time of floods, the intermediate grounds, both meadow and arable, are almost wholly inundated, so as to form one continued sheet of water about 12 miles in length. There are, perhaps, 10 or 12 such floods in a year. When any of them happen in the months of August or September, which is often the case, they occasion very considerable damage. These lakes are connected by the river Balvag, and are one of the sources of the Teith, which passes through Callendar of Monteith, and runs into the Forth near Stirling. These lakes and river abound in common-trout, bull-trout, and jar, all of an excellent quality; a few salmon appear in the proper season, and great numbers in spawning-time. The trout is in greatest perfection in April and May; the jar in August. There is a considerable fall at a small distance from the foot of Lochlubnaig, where, by cutting some feet of rock, carrying forward the level, deepening a few fords, and straightening the course of the river, it is likely a considerable quantity of ground might be gained from the lakes, the overflowing be greatly prevented, or at any rate more speedily carried off. Mr Buchanan of Achleshie, a considerable heritor in this parish, and an enterprising and successful improver, has this season begun to cut the rock near the foot of Lochlubnaig: if all the other heritors concerned will heartily co-operate, it is to be hoped the good effects will soon be visible on these often deluged lands. The plan proposed seems rational and equitable, viz. that the different proprietors upon the sides of these lakes and river, should bear the expence in proportion to the benefit which shall eventually ac-

crue to each. The only other lake in the parish is the head or west end of the beautiful Lochearn.

*Hills, Woods, &c.*—The hills in the N. E. and W. end of the parish are partly rocky, but, upon the whole, it cannot be said that much surface is lost either by rocks or barrenness of soil. The highest hills are the south point of Benmoir, which, according to Mr Stobie, is 3903 feet above the level of the sea, and the west side of Benvoirlich, 3300 feet in height.

According to tradition, all the lower grounds, and the foot of the hills in this parish, were formerly covered with woods. And in the mosses there have been found large trunks of oak, aller, and birch. There is now little more of oak and birch than serves the inhabitants for roofing their houses, and for the utensils of husbandry. At the last cutting, the oak-wood sold at L. 1400 sterling, chiefly for the sake of the bark.

There are some appearances of lead-ore, on the property of Mr Drummond of Perth, in this parish: several trials have been made, but no proper vein discovered. There is abundance of limestone of easy access, in different parts; but fuel for burning is scarce.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air is moist, the climate being very rainy, owing to the great height of the hills which break the clouds, though at a considerable distance from any sea. The heaviest rains come by the S. and S. W. winds in summer and harvest; and the severest storms in winter and spring are from the N. E. The most frequent diseases are fevers and rheumatisms, probably owing to the variable climate, (the transitions from heat and cold being sudden and irregular), to scarcity of fuel, damp houses, and the people wearing the same kind and quantity of clothes in summer as in winter. After all, the climate cannot be called unhealthy. There are several in the  
parish

parish just now above 80 years of age, and there have been different instances within the last 20 years of persons dying above 90 years old.

*Number of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—The number of horses is about 170; of black cattle, about 800; and of sheep, 18,000. The sheep are mostly of the strong black faced south country breed. The size and hardiness of the animal seem to have been more attended to than the quality of the fleece, the wool being long and coarse. The average price of white wool unwashed, for some years past, is 7s. 3d. per stone, tross weight, and of the layed or tarry wool, 5s. 3d. per stone. If the quality of the wool could be improved without diminishing the size of the animal, or making it less able to endure cold in any period of its existence, it would greatly increase the value of lands in this parish. The only objection, which seems well-founded, to an attempt towards meliorating the wool in this climate, arises from this circumstance, that all the fine-wooled kinds of sheep are bare or short in the pile when dropt as lambs. The month of April and the beginning of May, which is the lambing season, are in this climate cold and often rainy; whence it is believed, that the rough or coarse wooled lambs alone could stand the weather. It will not be proper to have the lambing season more advanced in summer, because neither the lambs nor their dams will, in that case, be sufficiently strong and hearty to bear the severity of the ensuing winter. The carcass of a wether, when three years old, commonly weighs about 40 lb. Dutch weight, and has from 4 lb. to 6 lb. of tallow, when fit for slaughter, towards the end of September.

*Population, &c.*—According to the returns to Dr Webster, the number of souls was 1592; at present it has decreased to about 1300. The annual average of baptisms for 6 years,

M 2

preceding



preceding 1790, was 54; of burials, 25; and of marriages, 13. The natural small-pox was very mortal in winter 1786 and 1787. Five children in one family were cut off by this dreadful malady in the course of one week: this havoc alarmed the neighbourhood, and introduced inoculation with success.

There are 14 heritors, of whom 6 for the most part reside. The number of ploughgates of old extent is 60; 16 of which, both hill and dale, are now let in sheep-walks to 8 tacksmen: these were formerly occupied by 50 tenants, besides a number of cottagers; the remaining 46 ploughgates are divided among a number of small tenants, 3 and sometimes 4 to each plough. Upon each farm, besides the tenants, there are one or two cottagers, consisting of weavers, taylors, dyke-builders, and old-women\*. There is 1 writer in the parish; and 3 students of philosophy from it attend the college of Glasgow.

*Villages.*—There are two villages in their infancy, one near the head of Lochlubnaig, and the other at the head of Lochearn, both upon the military road leading from Stirling to Fort William. The last is extending rapidly; the houses of it are all built with stone and lime, by the sides of the road. Each house-holder has a few acres of land, partly arable and partly in a state of nature, capable of being made arable: these the different

\* Most of the tenants keep a maid-servant for the purpose of spinning woolen and linen yarn, for cloathing the family, and for sale; and for out-work in the season of peats casting, and of hay and corn-harvest, whose yearly wages are about L. 3 sterling. There are few men-servants employed, excepting herds, who, besides their maintenance, are allowed for their wages or fee to keep from 40 to 60 breeding ewes with their master's flock; the profits of which are from L. 8 to L. 15. sterling commonly. The wages of men labourers per day, are from 10d. to 15d. without meat, and from 6d. to 9d. per day with meat; carpenters get 10d. masons 1s. 2d. taylors 6d. with their maintenance.

different possessors are industriously improving, by draining, blowing, and digging up large stones to be used in inclosing their different lots. This must soon produce a different face to these lands, and, in the meantime, gives the traveller the pleasant idea of the progress of cultivation in this quarter.

*Division of Lands, Rent, and Crops.*—There is no part of the parish in common; the marches of each proprietor are known, and, with few exceptions, the marches of each farm are distinctly marked. Every farm has what is called a head-dyke, which divides the hill-pasture where the horses, yeld-cattle, and sheep of the farm, range, from the arable and meadow ground, and pasture of the milch-cows. Most of the farms are divided from each other by march-dykes; these, with a head-dyke on one side, and the lake or river on the other, compleatly inclose the farms: some of them are sub-divided. The rent of the hills is from 1s. to 3s. for the grafs of every sheep. Where there are several small tenants upon one farm, the farm is (what they call) *foumed*; which means, that the number of cattle it can properly maintain or pasture, is ascertained, that none of the tenants may exceed his just proportion, nor over-stock the farm. The rule in *fouming* is, 4 sheep equal to 1 cow, and 8 sheep equal to 1 horse. The meadow and arable land lets from 5s. to 15s. per acre. The rent of the whole parish is L. 2600 sterling. The extent of the arable and meadow grounds, bears but a very small proportion to that of the hills. The crops are oats, bear, potatoes, and flax. The returns from oats are very inconsiderable, generally 2, seldom 3 or 4; of bear, from 4 to 6; of flax, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a stone, tron-weight, from a lippie of seed, allowing it 200 square Scotch yards of ground. The returns from potatoes are from 15 to 20 bolls. Most of the inhabitants subsist for breakfast and supper upon this useful root for at least 6 months

months in the year: they commonly eat it with milk, and use it for bread to dinner with beef and mutton.

There are 4 mills for dressing flax; the average drest for 6 years past, is about 600 stones.

No green crops are raised, excepting upon the farm of Edinample, by the proprietor, who farms, according to system, an excellent soil, lying upon limestone. The crops raised in the parish are by no means sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants: about one-fifth part of the oat-meal used, is imported. The price of provisions is regulated by the Stirling market, with the addition of the expence of carriage, and a small profit to the retailer.

*Imports and Exports.*—The imports are, oat-meal, small early oats for seed, tar and butter for smearing their sheep, which practice of late has become very general, being found of great benefit by defending the animal from cold, and improving the quality of the wool. The exports are, sheep to the Glasgow and Edinburgh markets, and also to England. For some years past there has been a great demand for sheep-hogs and lambs from the West and North Highlands, but it is decreasing, as these lands are now mostly supplied from adjacent farms that are already stocked: as a necessary consequence, lambs are falling in price, which must soon affect the value of sheep farms in this country, almost all of them being at present stocked with breeding ewes. The returns from a wedder stock will not afford the rent at which many of these farms are now let. A few black cattle are sold for *winterers*. A considerable quantity of wool, both white and tarry, unwashed, is annually exported.

*Church, Poor, and Schools.*—The church was repaired and the manse built in 1774. There are no sectaries of any denomination

mination in this parish. The value of the living is L. 80, all in money, besides the glebe, which is of no great value, most of it being either rocky or marshy ground. The Duke of Athol is patron \*.

There are from 20 to 30 for some years past upon the poor's roll; the only funds for supporting these, are the Sunday collections, and the interest of a small sum accumulated from a few particular donations, and the surplus of the Sunday collections. This sum has increased within these 18 years from L. 25 to L. 100 sterling. There are two general distributions in the year, to such as can travel through the parish, for purchasing shoes, &c. and frequently to those who are confined by age or distress.

Besides the parochial school, there are other two charity-schools in the parish, with small salaries from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland. One of these is at Lochearn-head, the other about the middle of Strathire; these are upwards of 6 miles distant from one another; and each of them about 5 miles from the parochial school. There are from 60 to 80 scholars commonly in each of these schools, during the months of December, January, February, and March. Towards the end of Spring, most of the boys go to the low country, where they are employed in herding till the ensuing winter; and, besides gaining a small fee, they have the advantage of acquiring the English language.

*Miscellaneous Observations*,—The language of the common people is the Celtic †, but most, (if not all of them), can buy

\* Mr Robert Kirk, one of the incumbent's predecessors, gave the first version of the psalms in the Gaelic language.

† The names of places are evidently Celtic; as, *Edinample*, which means, Facing

buy and sell and transact business with their low-country neighbours in English.

The military road from Stirling to Fort William passes through this parish 10 miles; 8 of which have lately been put in excellent repair at the expence of Government; 2 miles are still very bad, and there is so much *up* and *down* hill in the present direction, that it cannot be made a tolerable road for carriages. An alteration in the line has been proposed, which has this season been inspected and approved of by Colonel Montgomery; and it is hoped will be executed next summer. As the communication by Glenco and the ferry of Balacholish to Fort William is now opened, when the alteration near Lochearnhead is made as proposed, the whole line from Edinburgh to Fort William or Appin, will be easy and comfortable. There are several lines of communication through this parish, which are yet only formed by the statute services. As these services are now converted into money, there will be a fund, which, if properly managed, will in a few years make these roads tolerably good. There are 2 excellent bridges, one of 3 arches, the other of 2, built about 10 years ago upon the water of Balvaig; and 5 bridges were built this year upon rapid burns in different parts of the parish by subscriptions in the country, with a small aid from the county funds.—Good roads and easy access to markets are to be numbered among the advantages of this parish. Want of manufactures, and scarcity of fuel, are its

Facing a Pool or Lake; *Glenogil*, a Glen covered with young Wood; *Strath-sre*, a Warm Strath; *Achtu*, a Plain growing Sprots; *Glenbeckie*, the Glen of Male-Deer or Harts; *Lochluonaig*, a Winding Lake; *Stronver*, a Promontory or Nose of a Hill; *Gartnosuart*, the Field of Cold Streams; *Murlagan*, Large Hollows; *Monochalnuoch*, a Woody Hill facing the North; *Monochalmore*, a large Woody Hill; *Inverchernaig*, the Conflux of the Water of Hessed; *Drumlich*, the Ridge of a Hill; *Blacricoch*, March-Field; *Invercrany*, the Conflux of the Black Water.

its principal disadvantages. Peat is the only fuel used here, and is, besides, of so difficult access, that most of the inhabitants carry some coal from Bannockburn, a distance of about 30 miles.

The people are, in general, lively, intelligent, fond of news, and hospitable to strangers. Few of them are rich, and not many of them poor : upon the whole, they live comfortably. The consequences of the civil war in 1745 may with justice be reckoned the cause of their civilization. Till that æra, many strong traces of the feudal system, with its peculiar disadvantages, remained. The men in general are from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 9 inches high, tight, and well-looking : the women, from 5 feet to 5 feet 6 inches, not remarkable for their looks ; they rather exceed their circumstances in dress before marriage.

## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF  
GLASGOW AND AIR.)

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES YOUNG.*

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*Extent, Soil, and Climate.*

THE name of the parish, and of most places in it, is derived from the Celtic. The form is very much of an oblong square, being 12 miles in length from E. to W. and somewhat more than 8 in breadth; and the whole square content of it may be above 100 miles, or 50,000 acres. At the church the dale country terminates, and southwards the parish is generally a pasture country for sheep. The soil is generally good and rough, and the hills are covered with green. The air is generally healthful, witness the long lives of many who have died above 90, or near it, and some now in the parish have reached that period.

*Springs, Rivers, and Lakes.*—In such a hilly country as this, there must be several mineral springs, but they are not much used. The river Nith takes its rise in the S. W. end, and runs through the middle, of the parish. There are 3 lakes  
on

on the north side, which run into the water of Lugar at Cumnock. There are several pikes found in this water; and abundance of trouts in the river Afton, which takes its origin in the south part of the parish, and runs into the Nith near the church. These rivers are not navigable. The Nith, for 3 miles, runs in a straight wide plain with a small declivity; which, in the opinion of some, was formerly a marsh: on both sides of the stream in this plain there are fertile grounds and meadows, but they are sometimes overflowed in speats.

*Minerals.*— There are various mines of coal and lime, which serve the neighbourhood; though little is consumed, owing to the want of a navigable river; in which case, a greater estate would arise from them than from the surface of the land.— There is now a lead-mine working in Afton barony, about 3 miles S. W. from the church, in which a company of Quakers have entered into a contract. Twenty miners are employed, and more are expected according to the apparent success. A wodd mine was lately found on the estate of the Earl of Dumfries.

*Population.*— According to the returns to Dr Webster in 1755, the number of souls was 1497; though, when the present incumbent was settled, about 1757, the number was little more than 1000. It may now amount to about 1200, two villages having been built near the church, and on Afton-water, where there was but one house in 1757. There may be 40 births, near as many deaths, and about 10 marriages, *per annum*. There may be 80 farmers and storekeepers, and more cottagers, 200 men-servants, near as many women-servants, about 400 horses, near 1000 milch-cows and their followers. The number of sheep cannot be easily guessed at.



Four or five of the lower kind of heritors reside in the parish, but the principal proprietors, who are General Stewart, Sir Andrew Cathcart, Mr Ross of Kerse, Captain Maxwell, &c. are non-resident, About 12 of the inhabitants are Seceders.

*Produce.*—The parish produces chiefly bear and oats, Abundance of potatoes are raised, and mostly used for the support of the inhabitants. Quantities of bear, cheese, and butter, are exported, and with them the farmers make up their rents. The crops are liable to several accidents when the harvest is late, and suffer much by early frosts, mildews, and shaking winds, especially in the marshy and fluid grounds, The harvest in 1790 was just finishing at the date of the minister's report, (9th November.)

*Ecclesiastical State, &c.*—This district was detached from the parish of Cumnock, and formed into a separate charge about the middle of the last century.—The present incumbent was settled in 1757; and his predecessor had the charge no less than 54 years.—The Earl of Dumfries is patron.—The living is L. 640 Scotch, including communion elements, one chalders of meal, and another of bear. The glebe is greater than the legal size, but lies open and uninclosed, the high road passing through the middle of it, ——— There is an established school, endowed with a salary of L. 100 Scotch, consisting sometimes of 30, and sometimes of 40 scholars; but, as it cannot accommodate the one half of the parish, several private schools are kept in distant parts of it, ——— About L. 26 sterling arising from the collections at the church-doors, and the interest of L. 200 of capital stock, is annually distributed among the poor,

poor, who are not very numerous, though the parish is often incumbered with indigent strangers.——Near the church stood an old castle, now entirely demolished, which, for some centuries, was the property of the Dunbars of Mochrum,

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## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL.

(PRESBYTERY AND COUNTY OF AIR, SYNOD OF  
GLASGOW AND AIR.)

*By the Rev. MR. JOHN RAMSAY.*

*Name, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE etymology of Kirkmichael, (the church dedicated to St Michael), is obvious. The surface of the parish is hilly, and, towards the south and east, mountainous and rocky; mostly green, and of a clay soil, inclining to loam rather than to strong clay, upon a tilly bottom. There are a few patches of light gravellish soil, in the form of conical hills; and, on the banks of the rivers and burns, are some flat dry holms. The ground is for the most part arable, but turns to the best account, where there is a judicious mixture of tillage and pasture. The climate is rather variable and moist, especially in autumn, and early in the winter. The people are in general healthy, nor do any particular diseases prevail.—The water of Girvan runs through this parish; and the river Doon bounds it for several miles. The latter is a considerable stream, well adapted for manufactures, being a large body of pure, soft, limpid water, with many falls for machinery: by

a sluice out of Loch-Doon, out of which it issues, the river can be kept under perfect command, so as neither to exceed nor prove deficient in respect of water.—The length of the parish is 9 miles, and its breadth 4.

*Minerals, Fuel, and Woods.*—Freestone is found in a few places, but no regular quarry has been opened. A great quantity of moor-stones are scattered up and down the surface: the grey granite chiefly prevails. Limestone has been discovered in several places, chiefly on the south, where there are extensive and valuable quarries of that useful article. No coal has as yet been discovered in the parish, though there is an appearance of it. The common fuel is coal, brought from 4 to 6 miles distance, and costing 3s. per ton, at the pit. An ordinary farmer will consume 12 ton in a year. On 2 or 3 farms, peats are used in part. One hill is supposed to contain lead: some attempts were made to bring it to light, but without success. Shell-marle has been dug out in a few places, but in no great quantities. There are immense stores of hard marle, of various degrees of richness; but, on account of its being slow in its operation, and not admitting of distant carriage, it has been used only in the vicinity of the pit. It would be a valuable treasure where lime is scarce.—In the parish are many natural woods, chiefly of oak, ash, birch, and alder, of great value to the proprietors, and very convenient for the country. They are cut once in 40 years, though, if they were properly managed when young, more crops might be taken.

*Produce, Inclosures, and Manure.*—Of late, great quantities of good oats have been raised; some bear, a few pease, and little or no wheat. The culture of potatoes is well understood, and great crops are produced. Hitherto lint has appeared only

ly in some patches: turnips have been tried, but with no great success, the soil being too wet, and the servants have an aversion to them, as they are thereby exposed to much cold dirty work. Many of the farms have natural meadows, and several farmers sow artificial grasses, both for pasture and hay. In this remote part, hay cannot be sold to any great extent. About 30 years ago, the country was for the most part uninclosed: low ill paid rents, poor farmers, starved cattle, puny horses, no carts, and scarcely a tolerable instrument of husbandry, prevailed every where. Now the reverse of all these is the case. The farms, two or three excepted, are now all inclosed, and subdivided; the hedges in many places are excellent strong fences; the work of ditching and hedging is well understood, and generally well executed. A kind of stone fence, called Snap-dykes, peculiar to Carrick and the north parts of Galloway, is admirably fitted for sheep parks; being from 4 to 6 feet in height, strong and firmly locked together at the top. It costs from 4s. to 7s. per fall of 18½ feet.—Lime, as a manure, is now very common, and is usually laid out on the sward, at the rate of 100 to 160 bolls of powdered lime, which costs 6d. per boll at the kiln, on each acre, and gives a good return (from 4 to 6 quarters) after the first year. Oats weigh, at an average, 36 lb. the Winchester bushel, and are the general and most profitable crop in this part of the country\*.

*Horses,*

\* There is a method of preserving corn, peculiar to this part of the country, called Rickling, thus performed: After the corn has stood some days in uncovered half stooks, from 40 to 60 sheaves are gathered together, and put up into a small stack, (the sheaves being set up as erect as they will stick together,) and covered with a large sheaf, as a hood, tied down with two small straw ropes. It keeps corn and fodder to admiration. Scarcely any spoiled grain is heard of in this country; though the climate is so wet, that without this

*Horses, Cattle, and Sheep.*—For many years past, few horses have been bred in this neighbourhood, the waste being chiefly supplied from Ireland, though of late, owing to their increased price, some of the farmers have begun to rear them, and are well paid for their trouble, as home-bred horses are more profitable, and more to be depended upon, than foreigners. Breeding cattle makes part of the business of almost every farmer: they are chiefly of the Galloway kind, short-legged, long and deep in the body, broad above, without horns, hardy, handsome, easily fed, and sell well at the end of the balance. They are high priced to their size, but swell incredibly when promoted to better pastures. The common breed of cows are not remarkable for the quantity of milk they give, nor is the dairy, as an article of export, much attended to in this part of the country, though good butter for private use is made here. The manufacture of cheese is not understood. At and above 4 years old, the bullocks and cut queys are driven to the English market, and fetch great prices. Considerable numbers of Highland and Scotch cows are fatted

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this precaution, it would be difficult to preserve it at all in bad seasons. It does best with short grassy corn, keeps the grain sound, and the fodder sweet, and prevents heating in the stack.

There is a method of preserving beans, practised here for several years, always with success. When cut, they are laid in regular handfulls, all one way, and suffered to lie 8 or 10 days upon the ground; then two persons going together, each lifts a handful, and sets it down on the root end, the one opposite to the other, so as to be separated at bottom, and to support each other at top. The same operation is repeated on the open sides, till it becomes a round hulk, and more is added all round, till it stands firm, always taking care to keep the heap open below, to give it stability, and to allow the air to pass. It is wonderful how the hulks will resist very severe blasts; and the present incumbent, in the year 1787, had two acres of beans, which stood 44 days in the rain, without damage. When ready for stacking, they are bound with thumb ropes, and put on the carts.

for home consumption. All the black cattle, the milch-cows excepted, lie in the fields the whole year round, and are fed in winter with hay and straw. Few sheep are raised in this parish: formerly every farmer had a flock which grazed promiscuously with his black cattle and horses. As there were no inclosures, and the ground overstocked, all were in poverty, and in hard seasons numbers perished for want: now, there is plenty of food both for man and beast. Many of the farmers keep a few sheep for their own use, but nothing like a flock is to be seen except on two or three farms. Swine have been tried, but generally given up.

*Rent.*—The parish, at a gross computation, is supposed to contain about 10,000 acres; 1400 of which are under tillage, the remainder in woods, hay, and pasture. Land lets from 3s. to 10s. per acre, on 19 years leases. The rents are generally well paid. The valued rent is L. 3904 Scotch. The statute labour is commuted at the rate of 25s. for each L. 100 of valued rent.

*Manufactures, Exports, and Mills.*—Though there is not a town, and scarcely any thing that deserves the name of a village, yet the parish is not altogether without manufactures: several thousand ells of plaiding are spun and wove in it. In this article the old women, the wives of labourers, and the women-servants of farmers, are occasionally employed. The raw undressed plaiding brings from 7d. to 12d. per ell, and is sold to merchants from Glasgow, at Ayr and Maybole fairs. For some months past, the woolen manufacture has been greatly lessened, by the weavers being employed in weaving muslins sent from Glasgow, the muslin being both a lighter and more lucrative work.—The chief exports are oats, oatmeal, black-cattle, woolen cloth, and from one district, some butter

butter and cheefe. A good many cattle are imported from the muir countries and the Highlands, kept a year, and sent to the English markets, or sold to Scotch butchers for the consumption of the manufacturing towns. Of late, the quantity of oats raised, and of oatmeal exported, has been considerable; though formerly the inhabitants were often supported, during summer, by importations from Ireland and the north of Scotland. In nothing has this part of the country received greater improvement than in kilns and mills. Formerly the latter were miserable machines, at which much time was consumed, and the grain horribly abused. Now, there are tyle kilns at all the mills, and at many of the farm houses. The mills have excellent machinery, conducted by skilful tradesmen, and grain is manufactured cheaply and profitably. As good barley can be made in this parish, as any where in the kingdom. There is also an excellent lint-mill, which, it is hoped, will encourage the growth of flax.

*Roads.*—This parish is excellently accommodated with fine gravel roads, owing to the public spirit of the heritors, and their wisely foreseeing that it would eventually promote their own interest. About 20 miles of road have been made and supported for many years. In 1769, the heritors agreed to borrow a sum to enable them to make the roads at once, and to take the conversion-money, before mentioned, for their repayment, which was accordingly done. The benefit to the public has been great, and the heritors have been repaid in part, but not in full: if they should not receive full payment in specie, they will certainly be reimbursed by the increase of their rentals. There is not a turnpike in the parish\*.

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*Population.*

\* Among the improvements to be taken notice of in this parish, the visible



*Population.*—It appears probable, from several circumstances, that this parish was more populous half a century ago than it is at present. At that time, the farms were small, and abounded with inhabitants. When inclosing became general, about 30 years ago, the farms were enlarged and made more commodious. At first, many of them were laid out in pasture, and committed to the management of one person. As there was less country work, and few or no manufactures, many of the old inhabitants were obliged to remove. So far as the parish registers are preserved, it appears, that there were more marriages and baptisms, previous to, and about that period, than there have been ever since; though the returns to Dr Webster from this district was only 710 souls, whereas the total number at present, is,

Inhabitants	956	Yearly average of burials	13
Married	294	Heritors resident	1
Under 10	233	——— non-resident	5
Between 10 and 20	219	Weavers, apprentices and	
Above 20, unmarried	158	journeymen	20
Widowers	18	Carpenters, do.	14
Widows	34	Blacksmiths, do.	6
Yearly average of baptisms		Shoemakers, do.	3
for 7 years, preceding		Tailors, do.	4
1791, from the registers	25	Masons	3
————— of marriages	9		

### *Ecclesiastical*

ble alteration in industry, cleanliness, and comfort, that has been introduced among the common people, is none of the least. In many of the farmers houses, a man of good rank can be entertained and lodged very comfortably. Clean houses, dry warm beds, and plain wholesome well-dressed food are common here; and, to increase the relish of the whole, there is generally a hearty welcome, and in many individuals also a fund of rational, useful conversation,

*Ecclesiastical State, School, and Poor.*—All the inhabitants are of the Established Church. An excellent and commodious church was built in 1787. The stipend, including an allowance for communion elements, amounts to 48 bolls of meal, and L. 65 : 15 sterling, in money, with a glebe of 14 acres, worth L. 10 *per annum*.—The king is patron.—— There is an established schoolmaster, whose salary is a pitiful 100 merks, paid by many different hands. It is to be regretted, that an office so laborious and useful should be so meanly provided for. The schoolmasters certainly deserve compassion of the legislature, and it would be disgraceful to oppose a reasonable augmentation of their salaries.——The poor, on the parish roll, are from 16 to 20, very scantily provided for on the whole, as the funds for their support, arising from the interest of some mortgaged money, the collections at the church-door, and the fines of delinquents, amount only to between L. 20 and L. 30 *per annum* \*.

### *Miscellaneous*

*sation.* These are solid proofs of the increasing improvements of the country, though at the same time it must be owned, that what has been said above is not applicable to every individual.

\* The daily wages of carpenters are 1s. of taylor's, 7d. and of masons, 1s. victuals included in each case; of day-labourers, from 8d. to 1s. in winter, and from 10d. to 15d. in summer. Men-servants employed in husbandry get L. 7, and women-servants L. 3 a year, with bed, board, and washing. Wages of every kind have risen one third at least within these 15 years. The farmers employ two kinds of men-servants, the one such as are called Cote-men, who are married, and live on the farm, who receive what is called a benefit, viz. a house and yard, a cow kept in grass and fodder, 6 and one-half bolls of meal, liberty to plant a certain quantity of potatoes, from L. 4 to L. 6 in money, and a stipulated measure of fuel led home; worth in all from L. 13 to L. 15 sterling. The other kind of men-servants are unmarried lads, living in the farmers houses. The wiser farmers chuse a mixture of these; as the cote-men are steady, and the lads active. If the wages are higher than formerly,

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are in general sober and industrious, and few have no visible means of subsistence. Many of the farmers are respectable intelligent men, who know they have a character as such in the country, and are at pains to support it. They are generally solicitous to give their children a good education; and there is a happy prospect in this corner, that many of the young people will turn out sensible useful members of the community. As to their religious character, there is certainly less apparent seriousness, and less respect to the external ordinances of religion, than were to be seen in former times. It is to be regretted, that a proper respect to religion should ever be diminished: it gives ground to suspect that there is not a real regard to it. If this increases, and becomes general, the consequences will be dreadful. Morals, among the bulk of mankind, will stand upon a precarious foundation, as they will be without the restraints necessary to keep them from going astray.

There are only 3 public houses in the parish: indeed one might serve all the purposes of refreshment. Whisky, so prevalent

merly, much more work is done by the same hands. Threshing in the morning is universally introduced, and winnowing at night, that the light of the day may be employed out of doors. Such farmers as have large quantities of grain, get it threshed at 10d. the boll, or English quarter.

Butcher meat of every kind, butter, cheese, wool, and hay, are sold by the tron stone of 24 lb. avoirdupoise. The meal stone weighs 17 1-half lb. avoirdupois. The old measures for the county have generally gone into disuse, and the Winchester bushel is now universally used; 8 bushels make a boll of oats and barley, and 4 bushels a boll of wheat, pease, and beans; the potatoe peck contains 8 English gallons. With respect to oats and barley, the present measure is considerably better, and, as to wheat, pease, and beans, it is much worse, than formerly.—Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, sell for 6s the stone, fowls for 10d. and chickens 3d. each, butter 8d. and common cheese 3d. halfpenny per lb. tron; good bear, 20s. good oats, 18s. pease and beans, 14s the boll.

valent in many places, is not esteemed a genteel drink in this corner. The general beverage, of late, among the better sort of farmers, is good porter, which they find to afford nourishment as well as chearfulness, when moderately used.

The language is a mixture of Scotch and English, without any particular accent. In this district, as in every other, there are certain provincial words and phrases peculiar to itself. It is probable that the Celtic was once the common language, as many names of places in this parish seem to be of that etymology.

It must strike every one, that the advantages of this parish are very considerable. There are good roads, great abundance of wood, lime-stone in different places, immense funds of hard marle, and coal at no great distance. The disadvantages it labours under are, the uncertainty of the climate, the unequal and steep situation of the surface in many places, and the springiness of the soil, the water often bursting out towards the base of the hills. This last inconveniency may, in a great measure, be remedied by draining.

## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF STAIR.

(PRESBYTERY, SYNOD, AND COUNTY OF AIR.)

*By the Rev. JOHN STEEL, of Gadgirth.**Date of Erection.*

**S**TAIR was first erected into a parish in 1653, for the accommodation of the noble family of Dalrymple of Stair, whose residence was a great distance from Ochiltree, their parish church. With a view to this accommodation, that family agreed to pay three chalders of victual, one half of the stipend then allotted to the minister. The other half was to be paid by the parish of Barnwell, then suppressed and united to the adjoining parishes of Craigie and Torbolton. On account of some differences between the parties concerned in the transaction, and a wrong locality of the stipend, the errors of the first erection were rectified by a new process in 1709, when several lands were disjoined from, and others united to, the parish. This new erection, though it produced a different locality, made no alteration in the sum of the stipend; which, however small or inadequate to the support of a family, remains still unaugmented, though in some years it has produced no more to the incumbent than L. 35.

*Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.*—This district lies between the rivers Air and Kill; and is about 6 miles in length by 2 in breadth, though at one place it is completely intersected by the parish of Ochiltree. The soil, that of some small vallies along the sides of these rivers excepted, is a stiff clay. The general appearance of the parish, as well as the productiveness of the soil, has been greatly improved since the year 1735, when the present incumbent was settled. At that period, there was no fence of any kind, excepting one small inclosure of fir near Barskimming, and some coppices of natural wood. In summer, the cattle were herded between the different corn fields; and in winter, they ranged at large over the whole country: at present, every farm is inclosed and subdivided; and so completely have the notions of the commonality changed in this respect, that scarcely any person will agree to take a farm, or pay an adequate rent, unless the lands are properly inclosed: although formerly their prejudices against inclosures were so violent, that dykes and gateways were frequently broken down as soon as erected. This, the present incumbent had frequently the unhappiness to experience when he first began to inclose his property in this parish, and in that of Coyton.

*Heritors and Produce.*—The heritors are 6 in number. To the activity, exertions, and public spirit of the four principal ones, (Sir William Miller of Barskimming, General Stuart of Stair, Mungo Smith of Drongan, and the incumbent), is chiefly to be ascribed the rapid improvement of agriculture in this place, and the great increase of the value of their own estates, which are now successively planted with thriving timber, inclosed and improved in a very elegant and judicious manner. The grain raised in this parish is, oats, bear, pease, beans, and wheat; turnips and potatoes are also cultivated. This and the neighbouring districts are remarkable for produ-

cing good cheese and butter. The practice of laying down the land with artificial grasses, introduced by the incumbent in 1737, has contributed greatly to increase the quantity, as well as to improve the quality, of these articles of produce. To the same cause is evidently to be ascribed the improvement which has taken place in this district, with regard to the breed of horses and black-cattle. Both are incomparably better fed, during winter as well as summer, since the introduction of these grasses. Instead of the naked pastures upon which the horses were formerly driven, the greater part, even of the smallest farmers, have at present a small inclosure sown with red clover, which is cut twice or thrice in the season, and given the cattle in the intervals of work. The same expedient has also greatly increased the food of the milch-cows; winter feeding, however, is still defective in this neighbourhood, the soil being too wet for turnips. The incumbent has been generally successful in recommending to the tenants to plant rows of trees around their grass inclosures, as a shelter and ornament to the fields.

*Minerals.*—The parish of Stair is exceedingly well supplied with fuel. On the lands of Drongan is an extensive coallery, which has been wrought above a century, to the great benefit of Air and the neighbourhood. On the property of the incumbent are also two coalleries with fire engines, which promise a long and cheap supply to the country of that necessary article of life. In the lands of Dalmore, upon the banks of the river Air, is a species of whetstone, well known in the country by the name of the Water of Air Stone: it has been exported to different parts of Europe and America, and has been found preferable to every other stone for sharpening edge tools. Near the same place is also a quarry of black lead, specimens of which have been sent to Whitehaven, and have been  
found

found to answer all the purposes of that useful mineral. On the lands of Dalmore have been found some strata of copper and antimony; which, from experiments already made, promise to be productive of these metals, and at some future period may probably be wrought to advantage. No limestone has yet been found in this parish, though, from its abundance in some part of the country not far distant, there is a probability that the agriculture of the district may be still farther encouraged by the discovery of that article.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In 1755, the number of souls in this parish was 369, now it is increased to 518.—The church was lately repaired, and is in good order. There is no manse at Stair, the present incumbent residing at Gadgirth castle, the seat of the family of Chalmers, to which he succeeded in 1748. When he was first settled, the tenants and labourers were poor, ill clothed, and worse fed; the farm houses were small, ill furnished, and mean in their appearance. Notwithstanding the advanced rents which they now pay, the tenants are in much better circumstances, and their taste for cleanliness, dress, and every decent accommodation, has increased in proportion to their wealth. The inhabitants in their morals are sober, honest, and industrious; and, amidst all the animosities and divisions which have arisen in this country, they have remained steadily attached to the Established Church. There are two turnpike roads in the parish; and three bridges over the water of Air; one of which was built in 1745 at a very considerable expence: another of them, erected at the private cost of the late Sir Thomas Miller, Lord President of the Session, near his house of Barskimming, consists of one arch, springing on each side from a perpendicular rock above 40 feet high. This, with his extensive plantations, and other improvements along the banks of the rivers, aided by the romantic beauty of



the place, form a landscape rarely to be met with in an inland situation.—It is only since the settlement of the incumbent that the use of waggons and carts has been introduced into this parish; formerly all the grain, manure, coals, and other articles, used to be transported from one place to another in sacks or in creels, on horses backs.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF RICCARTOUN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF  
GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER MOODY.

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*Name.*

**R**ICCARTOUN is evidently a corruption of Richardtoun. It is generally supposed to have been so called from a Sir Richard Wallace who lived in the vicinity of the village, and who is said to have been uncle to the celebrated patriot, Sir William Wallace. Of his house no vestige now remains: the place, however, where it stood, is well known.

*Extent, Soil, and Rivers.*—The parish is 6 miles long, and on an average 2 miles broad. The village of Riccartoun is within an English mile of the market place of Kilmarnock; and divided from the suburbs of the town by Irvine water. The soil of the parish is, in general, a deep clay. The lands are all arable and well inclosed, excepting a moss which may contain about 250 acres.

Irvine water, which runs through the parish, has its source in the parish of Lowdon. There is also another small river, called  
the

the water of Cessnock, which runs through part of the parish, and, in one place, forms the boundary betwixt it and Galston. Irvine-water produces excellent trouts. Sometimes salmon are caught in it.

There is nothing peculiar in the climate of this parish. It is subject, along with the other parishes on the west coast of Scotland, to frequent falls of rain. The weather is thus, at times, very variable; the inhabitants, nevertheless, enjoy a good state of health: nor are there any diseases peculiar to the parish. Although there be not many instances of people arriving at a very great age, yet not a few reach their 60th and 70th year.

*Population.*—When the returns were made to Dr. Webster, the number of inhabitants in the parish amounted to 745: they are now increased to 1000. The increase has taken place in the village.—There has been no register of burials kept in the parish for many years past: the annual average of births for 5 years preceding 1792, was 38; and of marriages, 12\*.

*Rent.*—The valued rent is L. 4000 Scotch. The real rent will amount to upwards of L. 4000 sterling *per annum*. Farms let from 15s. to 30s. per acre, and contain from 60 to 150 acres each.—There are 8 large proprietors of lands in the parish, with a few smaller ones. Of the greater proprietors, 3 either constantly or occasionally, reside in the parish.

#### *Ecclesiastical*

\* Men servants wages are from L. 6 to L. 9, per annum. Women servants wages from L. 3 to L. 4. Day labourers receive 14d. in summer, and 1s. in winter, without their meat. Taylors now receive 9d. a day, with their victuals, which is more than double what they got about 20 years ago. Carpenters and masons have usually 20d. a day.

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, and School.*—There are very few Seceders, and no Roman Catholics in the parish. Before the year 1648, there was only one minister for the parishes of Riccarton and Craigie. A disjunction of the parishes was then made, and a minister settled in each. The church of Riccarton was almost wholly rebuilt in the year 1772, and is in tolerably good repair. The manse was lately rebuilt. The patron of the parish is Sir William Cuninghame of Caprington, Bart. The stipend is 5 chalders of victual, meal and bear, L. 340 Scotch in money, with a glebe containing 8 acres of arable land.

The poor in this parish are, at present, but slenderly supported. Almost the only fund for maintaining them arises from the voluntary contributions of the people at church. A considerable sum of money which belonged to them was, some years ago, lost by the failure of a mercantile company. The number of poor is fortunately not great. There are only at present upon the roll 15 persons, none of whom are permitted to beg. About L. 24 may be yearly collected.

The school here is very well attended. The people are, in general, desirous to give their children all the education which their circumstances will permit. The encouragement however, is not great, the salary being only 100 merks. The wages are for teaching English 1s. 6d. for writing, 2s. and for arithmetic, 2s. 6d. per quarter.

*Crops.*—The principal crops raised in the parish are oats and bear: the farmers find from experience that the soil is much more favourable for producing oats. 'Till within these few years little or no wheat was sown in the parish; a considerable number of acres are now, however, sown yearly with wheat, which, when the ground is well prepared, succeeds very well. The useful practice of summer-fallowing is much more com-

mon than it was some years ago. Pease and beans are also sown, and sometimes prove a very profitable crop.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—At the village there is a mount of considerable bulk, the greater part of which appears to be artificial. On this, as on many others of the same kind, our ancestors met for distributing justice.—The people are in general sober and industrious. The tradesmen in the parish are, with a few exceptions, either shoemakers or weavers.—This district enjoys many natural advantages. Limestone is found in great quantities. The parish is also well supplied with coal at a reasonable price. The coal belonging to Sir William Cunningham of Caprington, is justly esteemed the best in Ayrshire. Great quantities of blind-coal have of late been raised in the parish; carried by land to Irvine, and thence exported to Ireland. It was proposed, some years ago, to dig a canal from Riccartoun bridge to join the sea at the Troon; and it is to be wished that this scheme could be revived and carried into execution, as the benefits which would arise from it, particularly to the proprietors of coal, would be very great.

## NUMBER XVIII.

## PARISH OF MONTQUHITTER.

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

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.

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*Name, Extent, Soil, &c.*

**M**ONTQUHITTER, i. e. the Place for ensnaring the Deer, was disjoined from the parish of Turriff in the year 1649, and received its name from the farm whereon the church was built.—From E. to W. Montquhitter extends about 6 English miles,—from S. to N. about 9,—and from S. E. to N. W. about 10½ miles. The number of acres is therefore great, but they have not been ascertained, unless on a few estates, by the land surveyor. As it abounds with large tracts of moss, and with hills of moderate height covered with heath, the general appearance is dark and forbidding, until the eye is diverted to these extensive fields which the hand of industry has reclaimed and enriched by tillage.—By the side of rivulets, the ground is generally red, deep, strong, and cold, producing luxuriant crops which seldom arrive at full maturity. The dry soil, when of a red or black colour upon a stratum of deep and pebbly clay, repays, when properly cultivated, by rich

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crops

crops of grain and grafs, the toil and expence of the husbandman. Large tracts of inferior quality have been improved to good account by lime and water; but tracts, still more extensive, of a light moorish soil, being denied by nature a proper degree of the vegetative principle, or having been reduced, by paring and burning, to sterility, cannot be reclaimed on a short lease to any advantage. It requires no less than 80 bolls of lime to stimulate an acre of new soil.

Notwithstanding the extent of mossy and swampy ground, the air of Montquhitter parish is pure and healthful. These fogs, called Mildews, though pregnant with mineral exhalations, seem to be more pernicious to the vegetable than to the animal tribes. The chin-cough, measles, and small-pox, return periodically; but the virulence of these disorders is now greatly lessened by judicious management. Rheumatism, consumption, and fever, are the diseases which most frequently prevail: but, perhaps, no parish in the island can be pointed out where health and longevity are more generally found.

*Rivers, Minerals, Cattle, &c.*—Montquhitter parish is watered by two small rivers, which receive the tribute of numberless and copious springs. One of these discharges itself into the Ythan: and the other, after assuming various names as it passes along, discharges itself, near Turriff, into the Doveran. These abound with delicious small trout of the common kind. During spring and autumn large trout, of a red colour, pay us a visit; but, when these strangers have obeyed the impulse of the season, they again return to the nobler streams. The trout, however, being much injured by the net, by the particles of lime washed from our fields, and by the essence of steeped flax, are daily decreasing in number.

Below a stratum of pebbly clay, extensive quarries of red freestone lie in the direction of a plane, much inclined from

E.

E. to W. This stone, though much impregnated with iron ore, rises in large masses, and is very fit for building.

The cattle formerly reared in Montquibitter parish were generally small sized, though well shaped and hardy, until a superior breed was introduced by the late Mr Cumine of Auchry, to whom this parish justly attributes its principal improvements. Prior to this æra, cows, that yielded 4 pints of milk in the day, were thought pretty good; few male calves were reared; and the farmer generally bought his oxen (whereof 12 were commonly yoked in one plough) when young, in distant markets, and sold them, when old, at great discount. Now, cows give from 6 to 13 pints of milk in the day; male calves are carefully reared; and our farmers frequently supply, with labouring cattle, those districts from which their fathers purchased their numerous and expensive sets. Cows, according to their weight and quality, sell from 4 to 8 guineas each, and oxen sell from 5 to 10 guineas each: some oxen and cows far exceed these prices\*.

## Q 2

*Population.*

\* This parish can boast of one cave only, the work of art, employed for a purpose inimical to society, and now destroyed. Towards the close of last century, two young men, whose connections and residence were entirely unknown, appeared at every public meeting. A country man, who observed smoke rising from a bank of moss in a wild hollow, marked the place, and convened the neighbours, who discovered the mouth of a cave. In the cave they found an old woman, who declared that she and her two sons had lived there for some years;—that her sons had always supplied her with provisions of every kind;—but that she was prevented by various motives from mentioning why she and they had settled in so clandestine a manner, and in so solitary a place. The woman thereafter lived and died in Montquibitter parish; but her sons, when their lurking-place was discovered, left the country.—Some people having been pursued near that hollow, and others, who were known to have money upon them, having unaccountably disappeared, it was supposed, that the Glanders (the name which the two young men assumed) had lived by theft and robbery, wherewith they scrupled not to associate that

a. f. l.



*Population.*—In 1755, the return to Dr Webster from this parish was 997 inhabitants. In 1757, the number of souls fell short of 800; but, since that time, population has rapidly increased, partly by the practice of dividing large farms in order to accommodate small tenants, but principally by the establishment of Cuminestown village, in 1763.

Number of souls in 1776	1400	Under 10	152
In the country	1136	From 10 to 20	192
In Cuminestown	264	— 20 to 50	498
Number of souls in 1791	1470	— 50 to 70	168
In the country	1066	— 70 to 100	56
In Cuminestown	404	Merchants	6
Families in do.	110	Handycraftsmen	41
Males	171	Farmers	43
Females	233	Household servants	2
Under 10	86	Labouring, do.	170
From 10 to 20	77	Of the Established church	1400
— 20 to 50	148	Seceders	5
— 50 to 70	76	Roman Catholics	5
— 70 to 100	18	Episcopalians	60
Merchants	5	Annual average of bap-	
Manufacturers	2	tisms for 7 years	35
Handycraftsmen	51	— — — — — of buri-	
Apprentices	7	als, do.	20
Servants	16	— — — — — of mar-	
In the country, families	233	riages, do.	13
Males	510	Heritors resident	5
Females	556	— — — — — non-resident	6

The

awful attendant murder. Such is the force of early prejudice, that, for half a century thereafter, Glanders' hole and Glanders' how, were marked with dread by the older and weaker class of country people.

The rage of emigration never agitates the bosoms of the people, and every hovel boasts a suitable inhabitant.— Strangers, upon settling here, find themselves much at home, and those who have been born in the parish are fondly attached to their native soil. “How can I live,” said a poor fellow, not destitute of genius, who had wandered to Edinburgh in search of business, “oh! how can I live, out of the sight of “the bonny parks of Auchry?” To the bonny parks of Auchry his predominant passion obliged him to return, and he is now active in encreasing the population by a numerous family.

*Appearance and Character of the People, &c.*—The people are generally middle sized, raw boned, sinewy, and not a little distinguished by the characteristic feature of Scotland. Few exceed 6 feet in height, almost none are below 5 feet 5 inches. The men, for the most part acute, sagacious, sober, industrious, are now educated in a style superior to their station. Very few chuse the sea-faring or military line; but those who do, are esteemed for steadiness and bravery. The women are well shaped, active, and trained to manufacture from childhood. The Norman blood still flames on the heads of some; not a few are adorned by fair and yellow locks; but, in general, the animated countenance is shaded by black or by dusky hair.

Although no capital branch of manufacture is established in the parish, yet manufacture is greatly advanced by the labours of the people. Linen yarn is spun for the merchant almost in every family. Some thousand pairs of cargo hose, at 1s. per pair, are annually sent to market. Fine wool, given out by the manufacturers of Aberdeen, is spun and knit into stockings. A few make woollen and linen cloth for sale: and a numerous class of weavers are well employed.

A very great change, as to diet and dress, has taken place during

during the 40 years last past. Prior to that æra, neither teakettle nor tea could be found but in two families. Two hats only appeared at church. A lady adorned herself with the plaid; and a gentleman was not ashamed of home spun cloth. — But now, most families drink tea once, and many twice a-day. The farmer, merchant, and tradesman, enjoy in a moderate degree the comforts and accommodations of life. The ploughman turns out to church and market with his hat, good linen, and broad-cloth; and, it may be taken for granted, that the country belles will exert themselves to outshine the country beaux\*.

*Stipend*

\* The price of provisions is greatly affected by the stile of living. 40 years ago, beef sold from 1d. to 2d. per lb. a hen or duck for 2d. halfpenny, 14 eggs for 1d. a sheep for 2s. a stone of cheefe at 24 oz. per lb. for 3s. 4d. and a stone of butter for 6s. 8d. — But now beef, mutton, lamb and veal, in their respective seasons, sell from 2d. halfpenny to 3d. halfpenny per lb. — a duck or hen is valued from 6d. to 9d. — a stone of cheefe is worth from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. and of butter from 8s. to 13s. 4d. — and the demand from London estimates 12 eggs at 2d. or 3d. Our butter, which is very good, is presently in request; and I hope our country dealers will, for their own sakes, pay due attention to the curing of this valuable necessary.

A day-labourer, according to his merit and the season, draws from 5d. to 9d. per day. When he works by the piece he may clear from 9d. to 1s. The wright claims 1s. the mason, 1s. 4d. and the taylor, 5d. and his meat, per day; but most tradesmen work by the piece. The wages of hired servants are rapidly increasing. A growing lad claims, along with his food, L. 3 : 10, or L. 4 : 10; a grown man from L. 4 : 10 to L. 6 : 10; a maid-servant from L. 2 : 2 to L. 2 : 15 in the year. Formerly a maid-servant or lad was well satisfied with L. 1, and a capable man-servant with L. 1 : 13 : 4. per ann. At that time the price of every other service was proportionally low.

The maintenance of a tradesman's or of a day-labourer's family does not entirely depend on what he himself gains; for if his wife and children are industrious, they share the merit of furnishing subsistence. When a day-labourer or tradesman rents a croft, his wife commonly pays landlord and merchant, by the produce of her cows, and by manufacture; and leaves it for the husband,

*Stipend and Poor's Funds.*—The church was built in 1764, and the manse in 1778. The stipend was lately augmented to L. 61 sterling in money, 34 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear. The glebe contains 12 acres, much improved by the present incumbent. Francis Garden of Dalgety, is patron.

The poor of the parish fluctuates in number. At present 30 persons claim a supply, and, according to their respective necessities, receive from 10s. to 40s. each, *per annum*. This small supply, in conjunction with their own industry, and the charity of neighbours, affords the sober support of life. A poor man, with a numerous family, often receives a present; and the dead of the indigent are buried at the public expence. The stock of the poor, exclusive of L. 11 mortified for a particular purpose, amounts to L. 120. Some time ago, the annual collections produced L. 12, but now produce L. 30 a year. During last century, the annual collections seldom amounted to, and never exceeded, L. 3 : 10 sterling.

*Progress of Improvement.*—The parish can boast but of few persons distinguished for learning, but many eminent for valuable qualifications have been produced here, at the head of whom stands Joseph Cumine, late of Auchry. Nature had endowed Mr Cumine with an active and vigorous mind. Cool, sagacious, penetrating, he connected a sound judgement and correct

sense, by the sale of cattle, and by his work, to furnish bread. During the infancy and childhood of their family, parents of these classes are generally poor, but gradually rise to easy circumstances, as their children become capable of relieving the hand, and assisting in the industry of the mother. By old age, or the contingencies of life, some are obliged to appeal to the gratitude of their children, or to the charity of the public. But it reflects honour on the genius of the people, that nothing but the hard hand of necessity can oblige them to adopt this last expedient.

correct taste, with unshaken resolution and unwearied application. Slow, but sure in planning, he was prompt and ardent in executing his designs. When he assumed the management of his estate, in 1739, it yielded L. 150 sterling of rent, of which he could only call L. 60 his own. The heath extended to the back of his house : in front, an exhausted moss and a morass, fed by the water of Auchry, offended the eye : and the whole of his farm, destitute of a garden, consisted of a few acres dignified with the title of Place Croft. He gradually banished the heath ;—reduced the river to a regular channel ;—converted the morass, when drained, into a neat garden and inclosures ;—and, at various times, took from the adjoining lands 200 acres, which he converted into an elegant farm, inclosed and subdivided ; where the useful and the pleasant, blended by the hand of a master, command the respect of the critic, and excite the delight of the traveller. He accompanied his other improvements by a superior breed of cattle, whercof, by judicious management, he greatly encreased the size and the value.

As his estate was extremely well accommodated with moss, he gradually subdivided large farms. He strictly prohibited the absurd practice of paring and burning the mossy soils : he made traacts, to improve by water these fields that could be commanded by it : he bound his tenants to drive annually from quarries, 7 Scotch miles distant, a prescribed quantity of limestone, which he taught them to break, burn, and apply : he obliged them to sow a certain proportion of their land with turnip, flax, and grass seeds : he encouraged them to rear their own cattle, instead of wasting their money in buying expensive sets : he frequently walked or rode through his estate, freely conversing with his tenants, rousing them to industry by motives suited to their respective tempers, and particularly distinguishing the sagacious and active : and, by the

the united energy of popular virtues and solid sense, he triumphed over every opposition from soil, climate, and prejudice, gradually introducing the principles of rational farming, and laying the foundation of progressive improvement.

Observing that his tenants were frequently at a loss for a market, he determined to establish a permanent one on his own estate. For this purpose, he planned a regular village, contiguous to the church, upon the moorish part of a farm, which in whole yielded only L. 11 a year. For a while, he felt in silence the sneers of his neighbours, who reprobated this scheme as wild and impracticable; but these temporary sneers soon gave way to lasting esteem. He prevailed on a few to take fees: he assisted the industrious with money;—obtained premiums for the manufacturer;—decided every difference by his arbitration,—and animated all to their utmost exertion by his countenance and counsel. Settlers annually flocked to Cuminstown, (the name assigned to the chief of the clan), and the village, built of freestone, soon assumed a flourishing appearance. In connection with some neighbouring gentlemen, he established in his village a linen manufacture; and though, for particular reasons, the scheme was dropt, yet, by introducing the spinning of linen yarn, and fixing the residence of some capable weavers, its consequences continue to operate for the public good. In short, a series of sensible management fixed upon Montquibitter 75 fees, occupied by a set of honest, industrious, and active feuars and their tenants, who, instead of L. 11 sterling, the original rent, produced him annually from L. 120 to L. 150 a year. Mr Cumine, during life, was an object of general esteem; and, at his death, had the pleasure of leaving to his heirs an annual revenue of more than L. 600.

*Rent, Produce, Agriculture, &c.*—In the year 1649, the  
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rent of Montquhitter parish is stated at 325 bolls of meal, and about L. 210 sterling of money: at present, every item included, it extends to L. 1400 a year. Infield lets from 8s. to 15s. light land from 2s. 6d. to 8s. and land by the side of rivulets from 4s. to 10s per acre. Large tracts, almost on every farm, are not valued. At an average, farmers pay from L. 10 to L. 30, and crofters from L. 2 to L. 10 *per annum*. Crofts are slowly diminishing, two or more being sometimes set to one tenant at a rising rent.—Most farmers fence, with dyke and ditch, a small spot contiguous to their houses: but neither the strength of their purses, nor the length of their leases, afford a sufficient temptation to rear a hedge, or to enclose with stones. Auchry's farm excepted, the rest of the parish is naked and open. Leases are seldom or ever extended beyond 19 years; in which period, no man can establish a plan of rational farming, and realize the profits. For the most part, therefore, an exhausted farm devolves on an exhausted tenant, whereby improvement of every kind is greatly retarded, and the interest of all concerned materially injured. A few proprietors now let their lands on a life-rent: flattered with the hope of life, the tenant exerts himself to reclaim and improve;—he dies, and his family lies at the mercy of a selfish master.

A number of services are exacted, but not rigorously, by the proprietors, who would gladly commute them if the farmer inclined; but the preceding article may fully inspire the belief, that a man, who is not sufficiently encouraged to improve, will be too much disposed to save a little money at the expence of service. Earl Fife has entirely emancipated his tenants; and Mr Gordon of Letterfourie pays, at the usual rates, for what services he requires from his people in Ailsed.

These political evils, united with a cold soil impregnated with mineral, are not sufficient, however, to counterbalance

the efforts of industry, and a variety of local advantages. Among the local advantages, a distinguished place must be given to abundance of moss and water; by the sensible application of which, the value of land has rapidly encreased,—population is doubled,—a thriving village has been established,—and the sphere of manufacture is daily enlarged.

Considering the scanty stocks which the farmers enjoy, agriculture has made, and is still making, rapid advances. Many fields display rich crops and grass. Potatoes, cabbage, and turnip, sufficient for the kitchens and the cattle, are raised; and almost every family sows a certain quantity of lint-seed, the produce of which is prepared for use at the rate of 2s. per stone, at a lint mill, erected by the late Auchry. Bear, oats, and pease, are the only kinds of grain which the farmer cultivates; and the harvests, which vary with the season, commonly conclude about the 16th of October. Though not 1 acre in 10 admits of tillage, yet, in favourable seasons, both meal and grain are exported. In indifferent seasons, the parish fully supplies itself; but in bad years, the wants of the inhabitants must be relieved by the produce of more early and fertile soils\*.

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During

\* Prior to the year 1775, corn long of ripening was liable to be frosted.—Since that period the parish has been more or less distressed by the effects of the mildew. About the beginning or middle of August, the oat plant (for the barley suffers not) assumes a fiery red colour; black spots then burst forth towards the root, and, according to the season, gradually or rapidly ascend, till they reach these fibres that support the ear. From that moment the circulation in the plant ceases; the grain ripens no more, and in proportion to the virulence of the disease, yields a smaller or greater quantity of meal, or becomes a heap of desperate sorrow. Various theories have been advanced to account for this phenomenon,—by the operation of insects,—by mineral exhalations, by the caustic quality of lime used in manure,—and by a situation too confined. Certain it is, that some inclosures, comprehending from 6 to 10 acres each,  
and



During the feuds that raged in the leading families, and particularly in that fatal contention that called forth the potent and

and surrounded with hedges and belts of wood, have suffered most severely.—In the year 1789, however, this vegetable disease occupied a larger sphere, and diffused its baneful influence on fields which enjoy every advantage that the sun and air of this climate can bestow.

In seasons of scarcity this parish has always suffered.—The tales told of the seven dear years, as they are emphatically termed, which concluded last century, are indeed tales of woe.—Some of these seasons were not entirely unfriendly to vegetation, if the farmer had been provided, which he was not, with healthy seed to bestow on his fields. The province of Murray, and some of the best land along the east coast of Buchan and Formartine abounded with seed and bread; but most of the inhabitants of this parish, reduced to misery, had neither money to purchase, nor horses to carry these essential articles. A few facts will illustrate their extreme distress. From the time that famine was felt, to the time that plenty returned, oatmeal sold for L. 16 Sc. per boll, and all the victual stipend, due for 7 years by the heritors, was paid for, with interest, at that rate. One Thompson, wadsetter of Hairmoss, driven from his home by want, was found dead, near the shore, with a piece of raw flesh in his mouth. Of 16 families that resided on the farm of Littertie, 13 were extinguished. On the estate of Greens, which presently accommodates 169 individuals, 3 families (the proprietor's included) only survived. The extensive farms of Touchar, Greeness, Overhill, and Burnside of Idoch, now containing more than 100 souls, together with some farms on the parish of Turriff, being entirely desolated, were converted into a sheep-walk by the Errol family, to whom they then belonged. The inhabitants of the parish in general were diminished by death to one half, or as some affirm, to one fourth of the preceding number. When the means of saving the living and of burying the dead began to fail, natural affection was in a great measure suspended. A fellow, George Allan, having carried his deceased father upon his back, half way from his home to the church-yard, threw down the corpse at the door of a farmer, with these words: "I can carry my father no farther. For God's sake bury his body: But if you chuse not to take that trouble, you may place it, if you please, on the dyke of your kail-yard, as a guard against the sheep!"

Until the year 1709, many farms were waste. About that time, the heritors enticed some substantial men, by the gift of a yoke of oxen, and by moderate

and hostile factions of Bruce and Cumine, trees were almost extirpated in Buchan. As this parish is comparatively level, and

moderate rents, to settle on their estates; or advanced, on what was called Steelbow, a cover on their farms to spirited and enterprising people, who, it was hoped, would gradually repay them. A ray of improvement burst from these gloomy seasons. One Morrison, driven from his home by famine, lived for some years in Ireland, but returned to his country with the good seasons, and brought along with him a few potatoes, which he taught the neighbouring gentlemen to cultivate.

Another season of scarcity, occasioned by deep and untimely snow, occurs in the year 1740. True, indeed, oat-meal rose not above 13s. 4d. per boll; but as there was no manufacture established in the country, and no work for the day-labourer, the utmost misery, though it fell short of death, was generally felt by the labouring poor. Many offered, but in vain, to serve for bread; and Mr Duff of Hatton, who was then building, found a number of stout men, who thankfully accepted two pence each per day in full for their work.

When the era of industry and improvement commenced, it was fondly hoped that the wants known to our fathers would never be known by us.—“Our fields and gardens, said we, produce a variety of provision, which will infallibly preserve us from starving, even though our corn should fail. Cattle and manufactures will furnish money, and commerce will readily exchange our money for bread. How little, therefore, have we to fear, let the seasons be as unfavourable as they may?” Thus the people reasoned: but to their reasoning the year 1782 gave the lie direct. The coldness and storminess of summer 1782 excited fears in the minds of the discerning; but none suspected the magnitude of the impending evil. On the 5th of October, when oats and barley were generally green, a frost, armed almost with the rigour of a Greenland climate, desolated in one night the hope of the husbandman. The grain, immediately contracting a hoary whiteness, ripened no more. The potatoe and turnip, dwarfish from the severity of the preceding season, were extremely damaged. The produce of the garden was destitute of its usual nourishment. The fields yielded not one-third of an ordinary crop. Oatmeal, dark in colour, was acid and disagreeable to the taste. No market appeared wherewith we could supply our urgent wants. Complete and hopeless ruin stared us in the face; and all ranks indulged the views of gloomy dependence. If, at this critical period, the American war had not ceased,—

if

and bounded on three sides by the sea, most situations admit not the culture of trees; and but few, extremely well sheltered, are found to bring them to maturity. Proprietors of land are doing a good deal in the planting line; and the Scotch fir, the pine, the larix, the ash, the elm, the plane, and the lime, hold the chief rank in their plantations. But though trees have long ceased to be a spontaneous production, and though they require the utmost attention in rearing, yet the moorlands abound with large logs of fir, and of venerable oak.

When improvement commenced, the number of sheep diminished. A taste for them, however, begins to revive, and there are now in the parish above 1300; of which 200 are annually

if the copious magazines, particularly of pease, provided for the navy, had not been brought to sale,—what a dire scene of desolation and horror would have been exhibited in this country!—From these magazines, the exertion of heritors and people derived regular supplies. Cattle sold extremely well. By the divine blessing, health in an eminent degree prevailed. The efforts of industry were redoubled. Many a precious hoard of gold and silver was unlocked; and temperance, stern, but friendly, established her reign on the solid base of necessity. Though oatmeal, therefore, sold from 18s. to 22s. per boll, and pease-meal from 16s. to 18s. yet the essentials of life, though sparingly, were provided, so that not one victim of famine fell in this parish. At this gloomy period, charity was awake: The minister of Montquhitter received, under cover from an unknown hand, L. 20 sterling for the benefit of the poor. The coat of arms on the seal was justly inscribed with this motto, "*Justi ut sidera fulgent.*"

It deserves notice, that the crops from 1783 were greatly blasted by bad seed: The seed, which was purchased from these early spots of inland country, where the oat was almost, if not altogether, ripened before the 5th of October 1782, generally failed; whereas the seed of this parish, which, on that fatal day, was scarce advanced beyond a watery or fluid milky substance, but which the necessities of some obliged them to adventure, laid the foundation of a tolerable crop. The reason seems to have been, that the germ of all the grain, nearly ripened, was materially injured, unless where the rigour of that memorable frost was softened by the vicinity of the sea.

nually fold. The number of black-cattle exceeds 1350; of which the drover annually purchases 300.—290 horses are employed in farming business, whereof not above one-half are reared in the parish, the market furnishing the rest. The farmers commonly employ 263 carts and 85 ploughs; and the ploughs are generally of the light Scotch, or common English kind.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—Peat is the fuel made use of in the parish, and of it there is great abundance, and of the best quality. It is to be regretted, however, that much time and labour are lost in providing this necessary of life. Genteel families begin to use coal in their rooms, a practice which would profitably prevail if the impolitic duty on coal was abolished.—The roads, tolerably good, were originally formed, and are still repaired by statute labour, which may be converted at the rate of 1s. 6d. *per annum*. The rivulets are passable at all seasons, by means of bridges, erected at the expence of the parish or district. As there is no post road, the expence of turnpikes would be useless and intolerable.—The names of all the farms, that have not been anglicised to suit with modern subdivisions, evidently originate from the Celtic:—*e. g.* *Montquibitter*, or, the Place for ensnaring the Deer; *Auchry*, the Red or the King's Haugh; *Balthangie*, Angustown, &c.

The wild heath seems to wave over the grave of many a long forgotten hero, on these fields where contending barons tried the keenness of their swords. Some of the Covenanters, cut off by the Ogilvies, have given a name (*e. g.* Findlay's Mire) to these spots where they fell. And some heads of spears, of a yellow colour, and of the form most approved when the Scottish spear was almost as tremendous a weapon

weapon as the English bow, were lately found in an exhausted moor, and are now in the possession of Mr Cumine of Auchry.—The only battle of consequence that distinguishes this parish, seems to have been fought at Lendrum. Tradition (in this instance pretty distinct) relates that Donald of the Isles, supposed to be Donald Bane, brother to Malcom Canmore, fought at Lendrum for three days against the forces of the North, commanded by the potent Thane of Buchan, whose principal inland residence was at Castletown, King Edward parish, about 4 miles distant from the bloody scene. The battle of first day was fought about a mile to the east of Lendrum, where a number of small tumuli mark the graves of the slain; and from whence, Donald was beat back to the camp, the situation of which, called Donald's fold, is still shown. The battle of the second day was fought hard by the camp of Donald; and there, more than an acre of land is crowded with large tumuli. The third, and decisive battle, was fought to the west of Lendrum, upon a field of more than 6 acres, which tradition covers with gore. The Thane of Buchan, at the head no doubt of the Canmore faction, prevailed; and the usurper Donald, after losing most of his forces, was obliged to fly.—In the beginning of the present century, a tenant found in some of these tumuli, some pieces of iron, which his greedy spirit converted to use. The present tenant broke up some of them, but found nothing that deserves notice.—Perhaps it may be amusing to trace the influence, which superstition still has on many minds, and to mark how much some prophecies tend to their own completion.—The corn growing on the bloody butts of Lendrum has never been reaped without blood or strife among the reapers. This circumstance, asserted by tradition, and confirmed by the living evidence of two respectable men, who  
have

have rented that farm for more than half a century past, may be easily accounted for by the trepidation, or the *furor*, which, according to the respective constitutions of the reapers, is inspired by this awful scene.

## NUMBER XIX.

## PARISH OF TYRIE,

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

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM FRASER.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**T**YRIE, the antient and modern name of this parish, signifies in the Celtic language, the King's House. This name, perhaps, is derived from a religious house, that (as tradition gives out) once stood upon the ground which the manse now occupies, and was well endowed by royal munificence.—It is about 7 computed miles long, and 3 broad, and formerly was much more extensive.—The form is not unlike a boot; but the leg is rather long, in proportion to the foot.—The surface is very agreeably diversified with hill and dale, heath, moss, meadows, corn and grass fields, running streams, and inclosures fenced with stone and turf walls.—Sir William Forbes of Pitligo, Bart. has several inclosures, planted with fir, ash, elms, &c. and Messrs. Forbes of Upper-Boyndlie, and Irvine of Boyndlie, have likewise some planting.—The trees are generally thriving well, and after some years, will

will beautify the country, be of great value to the proprietors, and afford wood for building and husbandry.

Fevers and rheumatism are the most prevalent distempers, and are most common after wet harvests, when the corns are not got in in good condition. The latter is much attributed to the disuse of wearing flannel next the skin, and to the too great use of potatoes.

There are several excellent mineral springs, which are of considerable service in weaknesses of the stomach, when not drunk in too large quantities; and the Mourning Well, in the den of Boyndlie, is such a copious spring, as perhaps cannot be equalled in all the county. The water of Tyrie runs along the north end of the parish, over which a good stone bridge is built.——The Goner, another considerable, and, in many places, a beautiful, smooth-flowing rivulet, runs almost through the middle of the parish; over which an excellent stone bridge has lately been built at Tillenamolt, at the expence of Sir William Forbes the proprietor.——Here also, there is one of the most considerable, and best furnished water-mills in Buchan: and a fine road lately made through a deep and extensive moss, shews what a public-spirited landlord can do, for promoting the industry, prosperity, and happiness of the country. Both these rivulets produce very delicious trouts; and some, in the latter, are 13 inches long.—Though their numbers be now greatly diminished by the use of lime as a manure, and the steeping of flax in the adjoining pools, yet anglers still fish with tolerable success.

The soil, when not in the vicinity of moss, is, for the most part, of a fertile reddish colour, pretty deep in the vallies, but shallower as the ground rises to an eminence; and many hundred acres of ground, very capable of improvement, are still in their natural uncultivated state.——The air is open, and wholesome; unless in places that are low and marshy, or near



large pools of stagnating water; and the smoke of kelp-kilns, though very disagreeable to those who live in places nearer the sea, is scarcely felt in this parish.

*Statistical Table.*

Number of souls in 1755, 596	Gardeners	-	3
in 1771, 612	Butchers	- -	3
in 1785, 715	Born in Ireland	-	1
in 1790, 864	in the Highlands	-	14
Heritors, resident,	in Murray	-	2
----- non-resident,	From Edinburgh	-	1
Schoolmasters	Of the established church		826
Students	Seceders	-	32
Farmers	Episcopalians	-	4
Smaller farmers	Papists	- -	2
Subtenants	Annual average of births		12
Manufacturers	of marriages		4
Shopkeepers	of deaths		18
Shoemakers	Houses inhabited	-	207
Innkeeper	uninhabited		7
Blacksmiths	Ploughs	-	72
Millers	Men servants	-	59
Carpenters	Women do.	-	46
Tailors	Cattle	- -	680
Weavers	Sheep	- -	545
Sheriff officers	Horses	-	120

The disproportion betwixt the births and the deaths is owing, in some measure, to the plenty of moss for fuel, which induces old people to come to, and reside in the parish.

*Villages and Manufactures.*—A village is begun at New Pitligo, which, if proper inducements be held out, may probably

bably in a few years, under the auspices of its patriotic and benevolent landlord, rival the most flourishing villages in Buchan. Above L. 1000 sterling has been expended upon a bleachfield, which is furnished with excellent machinery, and every necessary convenience. From 13,902 to 15,733 yards of cloth, and from 514 to 564 spindles of yarn, have been annually bleached here. The tacksman pays L. 30 *per ann.* for that field, is capable and attentive, but has no capital. A bleaching company, with a competent capital, might do great things. As new Pittligo is about 5 miles from the parochial school, a schoolmaster is stationed there, with a salary of L. 6 from the Society for propagating Christian knowledge, and L. 6 from Sir William Forbes. The weavers settled in this village acknowledge, that they can afford to weave a halfpenny per yard at least, cheaper than the weavers in any of the towns.

*Produce, Exports, Rent.*—The parish can supply itself with meal, malt, butter, cheese, beef, mutton, lamb, poultry, potatoes, and other common vegetables.—The principal exports are meal, cattle, sheep, hogs, butter, cheese, wool, potatoes, and fuel.—The land-rent, according to the most exact rental that can be obtained, amounts to L. 870 sterling. Were the people encouraged to improve the uncultivated grounds, the rent to the proprietors might arise to a much greater amount. But the tenants must first be put in easy circumstances, and have longer leases, before they can afford an adequate value for the lands they occupy\*.

*Stipend,*

\* The names of many places are said to be derived from the Celtic, as *Tillennamolt*, the weather's pan; *Balnamosan*, the town in the moss; *Cairycobing*, the cairn of memory; *Boyndlie*, the whey of the milk; *Tarmair*, *Skelmanar*, *Cowach*, *Knocky-darroch*, &c.

*Stipend, Church, Poor.*—The living, including the glebe, is about L. 78 sterling. Lord Saltoun is patron.—There is no date upon the church, nor has the age of it been found in any record. It is supposed to have been built about the year 1004, when the Thane of Buchan routed the Danish army upon the neighbouring hills; which, from a chieftain who was killed, still retain the name of Sinclair. It was built (as tradition says) for a chapel to the religious house which once stood in its vicinity, and had an aisle joined to it when it became a parish church. This church was formerly well known by the name of *The White Kirk of Buchan*; and a celebrated modern historian (Dr Henry) mentions, that a queen once proposed to visit this sacred edifice. The oldest date legible upon any of the ancient pews, is 1596. The old walls are built with run-lime, which, by reason of its age, is now liker ashes than lime. The west end was rebuilt in the year 1710, and the east end was repaired in 1773. A few aged trees, near the church, make an agreeable appearance\*.

The poor's funds are made up of the money collected on the Lord's days, and at the Sacrament, with sometimes a small fine for fornication. The money so collected, amounts annually to about L. 13 sterling, unless in the late years of scarcity; and the money distributed annually, amounts to about L. 12 sterling. In the years 1782, 1783, and 1784, the collections were L. 15 sterling less than the sums distributed. This deficiency, and a few bad debts, reduced the stock from  
L. 60

\* There are many tumuli in this parish and neighbourhood. Some have been opened, and found to contain coffins of gray flag-stones, set on their edges, sides, and ends, and covered above with the same sort of stones. In these coffins were human bones. The ground was a little raised, with a mixture of earth, and small stones. Upon what occasion people were buried there, in that manner, is not known.

L. 60 to less than L. 40 sterling. The number of poor on the roll in 1783, was from 28 to 34; the number presently on the roll is 15; of which 3 are natives, 5 have resided for some years, and 7 for a few years. The number has never been so small since 1781, and the stock, by saving in good years, has got up to about L. 50 sterling. Most of the above 15 have been reduced to poverty by old age and distempers. Three distributions are made in the year; and some paupers receive almost every week, according to their necessities.—Sir William Forbes causes meal to be given weekly from his granary, *gratis*, to every poor person in his estate, which enables the church-session to bestow more on those in the other estates; and there is only one common beggar in the parish, who, being of a wandering disposition, will not stay at his home. The superabundance of fine fuel induces old infirm people to take up their residence near the mosses. In a few years the poor's box must maintain them, and pay nurses to take care of them, and when they die must defray the expence of their interments. When a person is put upon the poor's roll, and exposed in the number of paupers, he often loses the sense of shame, becomes mean-spirited, greedy, and the companion of mendicants. A discretionary power should be given to some proper person in every parish, to bestow charity, in such a private manner, as never to be heard of \*.

#### *Improvements.*

\* The antient price of 1 lb. of beef was from 1d. to 1d. halfpenny; the present, from 2d. halfpenny to 4d. Veal, mutton, lamb, pork, are much about the same price. The price of a hen, about 40 years ago, was from 2d. halfpenny to 4d. the present, from 6d. to 8d. The price of 14 eggs was 1d. the present price is from 3d. to 4d. for 12 eggs. Butter was, about 40 years ago, from 2d. halfpenny to 3d. halfpenny per lb. of 20 ounces Dutch weight: it now gives from 6d. to 7d. Barley meal is from 5d. to 7d. per peck; oatmeal from 7d. to 10d. flour from 14d. to 18d. per peck.—A man-servant's wages,

*Improvements.*—About 40 years ago, a great part of the lands in this parish lay in their natural uncultivated state, and such of them as were in culture produced poor starved crops. The tenants were in poor circumstances, the rents low, the farm houses contemptible. The communication from place to place was along paths which were to be known by the footsteps of beasts that passed through them. No turnips, potatoes, or cabbages, unless a few of the latter in some gardens; and a great degree of poverty, indolence, and meanness of spirit, among the great body of the people. The appearance of the people, and their mode of thinking and acting, were but mean and indelicate; their peats were brought home in creels; the few things the farmer had to sell were carried to market upon the backs of horses; and their dunghills were hard by their doors. What has been done for promoting the industry, prosperity, and happiness of this parish and neighbourhood, must reflect great honour to the memory of the late Alexander Frazer of Strichen, one of the senators of the College of Justice. He first introduced improvements; gave lime to his tenants, *gratis*, and, in spite of their prejudices, prevailed with them to use it as a manure; brought skilful men from the south country, who taught them how to sow grass seeds, and raise turnips, cabbages, and potatoes in the fields. He gave them leases, during their lives, at a reasonable rate; and did not think his interest hurt when he saw his tenants enjoying the

wages, about 40 years ago, were about L. 2 or L. 2 : 5 sterling *per annum*, now from L. 5 : 10 to L. 6 sterling *per annum*. A woman servant's were then L. 1 or L. 1 : 1 sterling; now from L. 2 : 2 to L. 2 : 5 *per annum*. A day-labourer then got 6d. per day, now 9d. and when cutting corn or hay, from 1s. to 1s. 4d.—a woman in corn or hay harvest, or peat mire, 10d. a mason, from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per day; a carpenter, 1s. and a taylor, 8d. Handycraftsmen are all well employed; and day-labourers are in so great request, that turnip fields were sometimes in danger of being lost for want of hoeing in due season.

the comforts of life; nor did he treat them like cattle, as occasions offered. The good effects of these encouragements are, extensive fields regularly laid out, fine stone fences, good houses built with stone and lime, excellent crops of turnips, sown grafs, and almost all sorts of grain, stocks of cattle, full corn yards, and every where the appearance of plenty. Hay, formerly unknown, is now plenty. Commerce and manufactures begin to thrive; much money is brought into the parish for yarn and linen, made out of flax raised in it; and all ranks of people are more industrious and more healthy than formerly.—Providence hath raised up another friend to the people, and encourager of improvements, in Sir William Forbes. To see what improvements can do, look at his farm of Tillenamolt; there may be seen good crops of sown grafs, grain, and turnip, upon about 30 or 40 acres of moor, formerly not worth 2d. the acre. Is it not deplorable, that many hundred acres in this parish should produce nothing but heath, not from barrenness, but from indolence? that waste land of a good quality should abound in many places, which some skill and proper industry would fertilize?

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—Several young men, at different periods, have become sailors and soldiers. Some, encouraged by people about Glasgow, have migrated to North America, where they have settled, and sent home money to their aged parents. By comparing (in their letters) their present with their former condition in this country, they have done much to excite others to follow their example. Such examples, and some late publications, may do much hurt, unless seasonably prevented. America is represented to be a wholesome and pleasant country, where the people, enjoying the rights of freemen, have a vote in the election of their legislators, pastors, and magistrates: a country provided by divine

providence, to afford a comfortable habitation to those who are ill used at home ; where the land is good in its quality, cheap, and gratuitously bestowed ; and the passage to it unexpensive, and made in a few weeks. As migration is begun in this lowland country, something should be done to put a stop to its progress : something more effectual than giving premiums to pipers !

A great national fund may be raised for patriotic purposes, without making heritors one farthing poorer. Let the money be so applied that is thrown away upon cards, plays, race-horses, hounds, balls, and concerts ; and thousands yet unborn may have reason to bless them ; great fortunes may be provided for their posterity ; and, when talents are to be accounted for, they may be better enabled to give in their accounts with a good grace.

The subtenants are not contented with their situation and circumstances. A householder, who can be removed on six weeks warning, and does not know where to find another house, as frequently happens, is really in a disagreeable situation. The subtenants must work three days annually to the proprietor of the estate, who likewise exacts one hen from every householder. These days still retain the slavish name of *bondage days*. The husbands must serve their masters in mow and harvest time, while their own corns are cut down by their wives ; and they must at no time work to other people if their masters have any service for them. By this treatment, they are dispirited and deterred from improving their grounds ; and young men are discouraged from marrying.— Sir William Forbes has made the subtenants in his estate independent on their former masters ; and another heritor, for some years past, has not exacted their bondage work.—The condition of the people may be meliorated by the following means :—

1st, By increasing the number of farms. As opulent farmers

often exert themselves to get other farms annexed to their own, there is some cause to fear the misfortune which Pliny complained of, when he says, that large farms had ruined Italy, and now even the provinces. The ancients laid it down as a maxim, that the size of farms should be particularly attended to, seeing that it is most adviseable to sow little and plough well.—A barren spot, on which industry is excited by means within the reach of many, will soon be cultivated by the constant labours of the many. As on large farms few of the servants are in such easy circumstances as to be induced to marry, a want of hands must be soon felt; and this want is at the present time severely felt in this part of the country. Small farms being within the reach of many, are a temptation to many to settle, to encrease and multiply. If considerable owners of land could be induced to divide large farms among a number of industrious husbandmen, the waste lands would be improved, the rents greatly augmented, and the number of industrious people greatly increased. A division of large farms is very practicable in this parish, because it contains such large masses as never could be exhausted, great quantities of very improveable ground, and has plenty of good lime in its neighbourhood. 2d, By rearing up chearful villages, and giving advantageous fees to manufacturers.—A noble mind will find unspeakable pleasure to observe many hundreds of free industrious people thriving and happy, every one in his own house; and to act such a part on the stage of life, as that the two following lines of Virgil might, without much impropriety, be inscribed on his gravestone:

*Vixi, et quem dederat cursum fortuna peregi;*

*Urbem præclaram statui; mea mœnia vidi.*

Such a one would be happier in this than in having signed an entail of a vast estate, though absolutely assured of legitimate and undegenerate heirs.—This parish contains many spots



of ground that would be excellent sites of chearful villages. They have not only all the above mentioned conveniences, but also abundance of fine moorstones for building, and are not far distant from sea-ports. Upon the whole, however, the parish of Tyrie, upon account of its situation, extent, and natural advantages, may, in process of time, become one of the most populous and considerable parishes in Buchan.

## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF DULL.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. MR. ARCHIBALD MENZIES.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**D**ULL, or Dail, in the Celtic language, (which is uniformly spoken here), signifies a haugh or plain, and this name appears to have been assumed to the parish from the local situation of the haugh or plain of Appin, in which the church stands. The extent of the parish is very considerable, and its form is very irregular. Indeed there is this peculiarity in all the parishes in the braes of Perthshire, that they are interfectured with one another in such a manner that one cannot describe their exact form. The length of Dull, from S. to N. is 30 miles, and its breadth 12. It is divided into five districts.

1. The district of Appin, in which the parish church stands.
2. The district of Grandtully, where there is a chapel, in which the minister preaches occasionally, 6 miles from his church.
3. The district of Amulrie, 12 miles distant from Appin, in which is a missionary supported by the committee for managing the royal bounty.
4. The district of Fofs, 8 miles

miles from the church; here is a chapel in which the missionary of Rannoch preaches every third Sunday. And, 5. The district of Fincastle, 15 miles from Appin, to which the minister travels across very high hills three or four times a year.

There are various kinds of soil, as may be reasonably expected, in such an extensive tract of country. The division of Appin is flat: part of the soil is thick, but by much the greater part is thin and gravelly. It seems that the river Tay had occasionally altered its bed, and consequently carried away the earth, and left much sand and gravel. There is a great deal of hill, but the greater part of the parish is a corn country. In the higher tracts the arable ground is exceeding good, and yields great crops, although they are seldom fertile, being very late in ripening. In this district the grain is of an excellent quality; and, in general, harvest here is as early as it is in Mid Lothian.

*Lakes, Rivers, &c.*—There are no less than 15 lakes in the parish. In all of them are to be found pike, trout, and eel. Pike, which weighed upwards of 30 lbs, have frequently been caught in Loch-Tumble. There are several rivers, but none of them considerable, except the Tay and the Tumble. The salmon of the former is of an excellent quality; and the little of it which is sold in the county sells at 6d. per lb. during the spring season, and about 3d. in summer: little, however, is sold in the parish, as the salmon are chiefly sent to Perth, and from thence conveyed to the London Market.—The banks of the Tay have a great tendency to oak-wood. There are also very large birch trees in the parish.

*Horses, Cows, and Sheep.*—There are 1500 horses, 5000 cows, and 24,000 sheep in the parish. Little care has been hitherto taken to improve the wool, the particular attention of proprietors

proprietors and farmers having been directed to increase the size of the sheep. White wool sells at 7s. 6d. and wool laid with tar, at 5s. or 5s. 6d. per stone.

*Population and Distempers.*—It would seem that this parish was more populous about 50 years ago than it is at present. The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 4897 souls\*: the number of inhabitants, as appears from an exact list of them, recently taken, now amounts to 4676. The reasons for the decrease appear to be, that some of the proprietors have extended their own farms, and that it was considered more beneficial for the farmers, that there should be no farm less than a ploughgate. In this part of the country it was usual to halve, and even to quarter a small farm, so that, perhaps, three or four families lived where only one now lives. In the higher parts of the country, sheep farms have also been united.—The annual average of births, for 10 years back, amounts to 80; but as many of the children, in the more remote parts of the parish, are baptised by the itinerant ministers, there is reason to suspect that many names are never inserted in the parochial records. The average number of marriages is 40: number of burials cannot be ascertained, as there is a burial place in each district; no register of burials is kept.—There is 1 surgeon, and 1 family of Roman Catholics in the parish—Rheumatism and pleurifies are the most prevalent distempers: they seem to proceed from the dampness of their houses, which in general are very bad. Inoculation for the small-pox has been very common in this district, and its good effects are clearly seen.

*Rent, Produce, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4898 : 3 Scotch: the real rent is at least L. 4500 sterling.  
The

\* According to another report, the number in 1755 was 5748 souls.

The rent of lands, in the lower parts of the parish, is from 10s. to 15s. per acre: the hill grounds, in general, are given in addition. But, in the higher part of the country, where much attention is paid to sheep, a farm is rented by the lump. — There are 17 heritors in the parish, of which number only 6 constantly reside in it.

The principal crops are, oats, Chester-bear, pease, and potatoes. Much attention is paid to the raising of the latter: the inhabitants subsist on them about 9 months in the year; and not a little is employed in feeding cows, horses, and swine. To this valuable root, and to the raising of flax, this country is particularly indebted. In general, all the farmers here raise and spin what flax is sufficient to pay their money rents, besides all their other smaller accounts. There is probably 3000 stone of flax annually raised in the parish. Turnips succeed well here; and, within these few years, considerable progress has been made in using them. With a few exceptions, almost every farmer, in the Appin district of the parish, allots a small portion of his land to them: to this they are chiefly led by finding that grass seeds thrive better after them than by any other preparation of the ground. The common way is to sow them in drills, although it has also been found, that they answer very well, in the broad cast method, for feeding sheep. Some experiments have been made in this neighbourhood to pasture lambs upon them, during the months of October and November, as a preservative against the disease called the Braxy. It is uncertain whether the desired object is attained by turnips, but this much is certain, that great advantage is gained by it. Oats are sown from the 10th of April to the beginning of May; and bear from the 15th of May to the 9th of June.

The price of grain is various. The average conversion is about 15s. the boll, Linlithgow measure. What grain can be spared

spared has a ready market among the inhabitants of the hill country.

*Fuel.*—There is a great scarcity of fuel here. Peats are bad, scarce, and at a great distance. No trials for coal have yet been made in the parish. It is much to be wished, that some exertions were used to discover whether coals can be found in this part. If the experiments prove successful, it would be a rich treasure to the proprietors, and a vast advantage to the country at large \*.

*Ecclesiastical State, School, Poor.*—The money stipend is L. 30 : 5 : 4. The victual stipend, 67 bolls and 3 firlots, Linlithgow measure. Of this last, 32 bolls are payable half oatmeal, half barley; and the remainder is paid from the priory of St Andrews, 50 miles distant. The glebe consists of 11 acres. The king is patron.—It would be improper here, to pass over in silence, the praise which is due to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. In this parish, 4 of their schools are established; and here their labour has not been in vain. At these schools, about 400 children are taught to read, write, and understand the common rules of arithmetic. Much attention is paid to their religious instruction; and every violation of moral rectitude is punished with the utmost severity. By these means, good principles are instilled into the minds of the children in their infant years. To this laudable

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dable

\* The price of labour has risen much within these few years. Farm servants eat in the house. The wages allowed a man who can plow, sow, &c. is L. 6 sterling, together with shoes and clothes: he is allowed 4 pair of single shoes, commonly called *Brogues*, 2 pair of hose, 4 yards of tartan for a phellibeg, and a short coat and vest of some coarse kind of cloth. A woman receives L. 3 sterling for the year.

dable and pious institution, the rapid progress of improvement in the Highlands may in a great measure be attributed. There is also a school, supported by the heritors, at the village of Dull, at which about 100 children are taught. Such as chuse, may there receive the benefit of classical learning: hitherto it has been superintended by men who received a liberal education; but, as the salary is only L. 80 Scotch, and the perquisites and school fees very low, it is to be feared that young men of this description will not consider it as an object worth their attention.

The number of poor upon the roll, in the whole parish, is 40. What money is expended for their support is collected in the church on Sundays, which annually amounts to L. 24, or thereabouts. Particular attention is paid only to the case of such as are bed-ridden. All who are able to go about to ask charity, receive very little from the parochial funds. It must be confessed, that hitherto this part of our constitution has not been sufficiently attended to. If this, however, and the neighbouring parishes, were to support their own poor, there is good reason to think, that both parties would be gainers by it: the poor would be better provided for; and the country would not be infested by so many sturdy beggars as pour in upon it from the north, during the months of June, July, and August.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The roads, upon the whole, are in tolerable good order. Of late, a great deal has been done to improve them, and much still remains to perform. The king's road between Stirling and Inverness passes through this parish. There are no turnpikes. The country roads are made and kept in repair by the statute work, exacted in kind: but it is to be wished that this mode were altered, and that the occupiers of land were assessed in a moderate sum of money. By  
laying

laying out this money judiciously, the work would be better done, earlier in the season, and to a far greater extent \*.

The people are sober, regular, and industrious: they are lively, chearful, and given to hospitality. Crimes are daily becoming more rare. Gross offenders are held in great disgrace. A notorious drunkard is despised in the highest degree. The people enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and conveniencies of life; and, in general, appear happy and contented with their condition. Their condition, however, might be meliorated if proprietors would grant them leases of their farms. All of them are tenants that may be removed at the proprietors will. It has been said, that they would become indolent if leases were granted to them; but experience shews that this objection is ill-founded.

\* There are many Druidical temples in the parish. A very great number of old castles, many of them like watch towers. There is in one glen no less than the ruins of 15 of them. It is called Fincastric, or *Fonncbaistral*, the Land of Castles.

All the names of places are apparently Celtic. Kynnachan, this place is close by the old forest of Shichallin; here the gentlemen were in use to assemble for the chase, and to uncouple their hounds; hence, the etymology appears to be *Coinneamb nan con*, "the meeting of Dogs." *Sbiarglas*, "always running clear," from the rapidity of the river Garrie, which flows close by it. *Duntaulic*, "the castle of Tumble."



## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF HUMBIE.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. MR. HENRY SANGSTER.

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*Name and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish was formed, soon after the Reformation, by the junction of the parishes of Keith and Humbie. In the end of the last century, the parish of Keith was called Keith Symmons, and that of Humbie, Keith Hundelely. The origin of the name of Humbie, which they bear since their annexation, is unknown; and has probably arisen, as in other cases, from some frivolous circumstance.—It is nearly in the form of a square of 6 miles, but is intersected by the parish of Fala.

*Population.*—The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 570 souls; at present, there are 676 in this parish. From the register of births, taking at an average of 10 years, at any period, it appears that the population has not decreased during the last 60 years. In a district like this, where the sole occupation of the inhabitants has always been agriculture, the numbers must be

be nearly stationary. Indeed the improvement of 2 horses instead of 4 in a plough, which was introduced in the year 1768, evidently lessened the number of farm servants; but this effect of it seems to have been counteracted, by the additional work occasioned by the preferable modes of agriculture, and particularly that of raising turnips, which commenced exactly at the same period: for upon one large farm, on which about 100 acres of turnips are raised annually, the numbers are increased, and more still could find employment.

There are 7 heritors, 4 of whom reside: 10 farmers; 1 inn-keeper; 3 weavers; 5 smiths; 4 carpenters; 4 taylor; 1 baker; 1 shoemaker; 1 dyer. The other inhabitants are employed in the different operations of husbandry.

*Soil, Agriculture, &c.*—The high grounds, lying between Soutrahill and Lammerlaw, are adapted for the pasture of the common Scotch sheep. Attempts have been made to raise crops of corn upon some parts of them, where the soil is naturally good; but, though skill and industry have occasionally succeeded, the expence, exposure, and climate, point out the pasturing of them to be the most profitable system.—The soil of the parish, in general, is various: in some parts, a thin wet clay; in others, mossy. A great deal of it, however, is fit for raising turnips or grain; and, wherever it is favourable for these crops, it is cultivated generally with great attention and ability. The favourite rotation of crops is, turnips, barley or oats, clover, oats, which is certainly the best that is at present in practice; though, were the climate earlier, an improvement might be made upon it by introducing wheat after turnips. Several thousand bolls of oats, and some hundred bolls of wheat and barley, are sent annually to market. Great attention has been given to the rearing of sheep, and the success has been proportional. It is from this parish  
that

that the Edinburgh market has, of late years, been supplied with the first early lambs; one farmer having sent to it annually 100, at a guinea each. The ewes from which they are obtained are of the Cowley breed. They are kept till they are old, and are well fed through the year. By a similar management, lambs may be had as early as they are wanted, and, perhaps, from any breed of sheep; but it will be necessary, for that purpose, that the ewes and lambs be kept as warm as possible in a house or shed, the ewes being fed with turnips and with oats daily, at the rate of a peck to 20 of them. This method of obtaining early lambs is reckoned preferable to that which, it is said, is followed in the south of Scotland, of heating the ewes in a barn, or any inclosed place.

Only 3 farmers in this parish are subjected, by their leases, to pay kain-fowls. Thirlage carriages and kain were in use 16 years ago: but the present tenants, when offering for their farms, insisted for an exemption from them; and, as they allowed more in their proposals than an equivalent for it, the alteration has been attended with no loss to the proprietors, and allows the tenants to proceed in their operations without being exposed to the hurtful consequences arising from capricious or ill-timed interruptions.

So late as the year 1770, a farm of the rent of L. 70 was reckoned a large one; now, one at the rent of L. 100 is not deemed sufficient for a farmer to live upon. From L. 300 to L. 500 of rent, is reckoned a moderate size. Should this speculation be progressive, of which there is great appearance at present, the consequences are perhaps not uncertain. It cannot be hurtful to the condition of the lowest class of people, or, consequently, to population; and proprietors will receive a great increase of rent, while the farmers, who have skill and spirit for such increased undertakings, will be as amply rewarded. But, by this melioration of their estates, for such they

they seem to think it, by throwing corn farms into the size of £ 1000 a year, or upwards, proprietors will annihilate, in a great measure, the class of farmers; and may find it difficult, at no distant day, to get persons possessed of stock and abilities for such undertakings, as too great a reduction of the number of farmers must operate as powerfully, as the diminutive size of farms, against a spirit of emulation and improvement.

*Roads, Changes of Property, Woods, &c.*—Before the year 1770, the roads were so bad, that in many places they were impassable in winter; and, at no season of the year, could more than 5 bolls of grain be sent to market upon a two horse cart. But, in consequence of an Act of Parliament, for the county, levying 20s. from every ploughgate of land, they are now in so good repair, that 10 bolls are the common load. They were made more easily, however, that gravel was at no great distance, and the soil admitted of their being formed by the plough. For the purpose of keeping them in repair, the tenants, who have fields of sown grass in their neighbourhood, are allowed 2d. for each cart load of stones which they gather upon them, and are besides paid for the carriage.

Property has fluctuated much in this parish of late. This has been the case with none more than the barony of Keith; which, together with Inch-Keith and other lands, were given, along with the office of Hereditary Great Marischal of Scotland, by King Malcolm, to one Robert, as a reward for killing, with his own hand, Camus the king and champion of the Danes, at the battle of Barry, in the year 1010. From these lands Robert took the surname of Keith, and they remained in the possession of the family till they were sold for the purpose of affording aid to General Leslie.

Humbie wood consists of about 300 acres of oak and birch, and, being contiguous to Salton wood, presents a beautiful object

object to a traveller, when the Lothians open to his view, from Soutrahill. There are some wood-cocks and pheasants in it. It is infested with that distemper, so pernicious to cattle, called the Wood-ill, or Muir-ill; the effects of which may, however, be certainly prevented by castor oil, or any other laxative. The grass glebe is not free from this distemper, though the natural wood, with which it was covered, has been rooted out more than 60 years ago.

This district is well situated with regard to markets for corn, being at the distance of 8 miles from Haddington, and of 9 miles from Dalkieth, the only ready money markets, Edinburgh excepted, in Scotland. The advantages of such markets are numerous; and, proprietors would essentially promote the interests of agriculture, if they would co-operate with the farmers in establishing them wherever it can be done \*.

*Rent.*—The valued rent is L. 3991 : 3 : 4 Scotch: the real rent about L. 2700 sterling. The price of arable land is from 12s. to 30s. per acre. The practice of letting farms, by private

\* The wages of servants, of all denominations, have increased one-third during the last 20 years. Day-labourers receive 1s. Women, boys, and girls, when hoeing turnips, 6d. per day: a maid servant in the house, L. 3 yearly; a young man capable for managing horses, L. 6. The whole emoluments of a married farm servant amount to about L. 14; which, with the earnings of his wife, enable him to rear a family of 4 or 5 children; but, during this period, the whole family are very poorly fed indeed. The first relief he meets with is from the oldest of his children, who go as early as possible to service, and give him whatever they can spare for bringing up their younger brothers and sisters. In this way have numerous families been brought up, without the least aid from the public funds. When their filial exertions are no longer necessary, the young people turn their attention to dress. The higher class go along with the taste of times; and, to say their expences have been doubled within the last 20 years, is by no means to over-rate them.

vate offers, has been generally adopted in this parish; and, in some instances, needy and unskilful persons were preferred for a mere trifle, and soon became insolvent. This mode of letting farms to the person who offers most, provided he stocks his farm, and pays the first year's rent, is unfavourable to agriculture. The private interest of proprietors, and the good of the public, point out the amount of the rent to be an inferior consideration to the abilities of the tenant: for it is only in the hands of such persons, that the soil can be made productive; and from them alone, when in circumstances moderately easy, are improvements to be expected: nor can a more effectual check be given to industry and genius, than to put a farmer, who, by his attention and talents, has brought his farm to a high state of improvement, upon a level with an unknown adventurer, or to require from him, at the expiry of his lease, a rise of rent equal to the extent of his own melioration of the soil.

*Minerals, Rivers, &c.*—There seems to be abundance of iron-ore in many places; and there are appearances of coal.—There is a spring of martial acidulous water, which was much resorted to, 60 years ago, by people of fashion, for scorbutic disorders.

There are 3 brooks, Birns-water, Humbie-water, and Keith-water. In all of them there is plenty of trout, some of which are of a good flavour. There is a fall and a quantity of water upon them sufficient for machinery.

In the higher parts of the parish the air is sharp and cold; in the lower, it is more temperate. So heathful, upon the whole, is the climate, that epidemical distempers, when sometimes prevailing in neighbouring districts, seldom, and then but partially, affect the inhabitants of this. Rheumatism is the disorder with which the lowest class of people are distressed,

fed, and in a degree not less, it is believed, than in any other part of Scotland. It is occasioned partly by the damp of their houses, though no district is better provided in wood and coal for fuel; and partly, by their sleeping in the open air at mid-day, when their work is finished; and by sitting down to cool themselves when over-heated, instead of putting on their clothes, and keeping themselves in motion for a while\*.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—There are 3 Seceders, and 1 Episcopical family.—The stipend received an augmentation in 1771, and is now worth about L. 90. The glebe is a poor one.  
There

\* The vestiges of a Roman *Castellum Stationum* are still to be seen, upon the estate of Whiteburgh, in the S. W. part of the parish. It was of a circular form, and consisted of 3 walls, at the distance of 15 feet from each other, built with very large stones, and with cement only at the bottom. It occupied more than an acre of ground. No information can be got about the height of the walls; but the proprietor of the lands remembers that the parts of them which he has seen, were 16 feet thick. The whole work has been carried off at different times for building the present house and offices of Whiteburgh, and some farm houses upon the estate.—Near it were several tumuli, in which were urns full of bones or ashes. In the camp itself, were found a medal of Trajan, a fibula, a patera, and a horn of a moose deer.—In its near neighbourhood, but in other parishes, are 3 other encampments, situated in such a manner, as gives room to suppose, that the whole were intended to act in concert, and overlook the Lothians.—Perhaps the house of Keith, one of the seats of the Earl Marishal, though of no later date than 1590, may be mentioned on account of its hall, which surpassed any thing of the kind, and was suited to the splendor of a family at that time the most opulent and powerful in the kingdom. The house itself was of the form of a hollow square; and one entire side of it, 110 feet in extent, and 3 stories in height, was occupied as a hall. Succeeding proprietors have pulled it down. The timber with which the house was built, was a present from the King of Denmark, as an expression of the high opinion he conceived of the Earl, when employed to treat of the marriage of the Princess Anne of Denmark, with James VI.

There are 2 schools with the legal salary of 100 merks to each. The average number of scholars at both, is 60.

No person, having a residence in this parish, is permitted to beg in it, or to leave it for that purpose. The number of poor supported by the funds, seldom exceeds 15. The sum expended yearly for their support, and for casual charities in the parish, is about L. 40; and is mostly the interest of a capital, raised before the year 1750, by collections, when the whole heritors and their families regularly attended public worship. From 3s. to 4s. monthly is the allowance, at an average, to each pensioner\*.

The inhabitants are industrious, and satisfied with their condition.—It is not in the recollection of the oldest person among them, that an inhabitant of this parish has been punished for any crime. Dram-drinking, so prevalent in other parts of Scotland, is a vice utterly unknown, as might be expected from a people, among whom no manufacture has ever been established, and whose sole employment, that of a very few individuals excepted, is agriculture.

\* In this, and some of the neighbouring districts, many labourers, mechanics, and farm servants, who are in such circumstances that they could not, with much propriety, apply to their parish funds for a temporary relief, have formed themselves into societies, whose object it is to give aid to such of their members as may be accidentally in distress. Each member pays half a guinea at his admission, and 1s. quarterly. The effects of these benevolent institutions have already been extensive and beneficial. They soon would be generally established, if gentlemen of property would become members, and contribute a small sum annually; by which they would prevent applications, in many instances, to the public funds, and do a most acceptable office to numbers of persons who are so necessary to society; and are entitled, perhaps, to attention, on account of the disposition they discover to give, what they can but ill afford, for the amiable purpose of protecting one another from the distressing and humiliating situation, of holding out their hand to receive public charity.



## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF KINROSS.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE,  
COUNTY OF KINROSS.)

*By the Rev. MR. ARCHIBALD SMITH.*

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*Name*

**K**IN-ROSS, in the Celtic, signifies the head of the peninsula; and it is said that the whole tract of country, lying betwixt the Tay and the Forth, had antiently the name of Ross, or the Peninsula.

*Towns.*—The town of Kinross, pleasantly situated in an extensive plain at the west end of Lochleven, upon the great road between Perth and Queensferry, at the distance of 15 miles from each, is the capital of the small county of the same name, and the seat of the Sheriff, Justice of Peace, and Baron Bailie Courts.

This town, it would appear, formerly consisted of 47 steadings, or tofts, as they are commonly called, as is evident from an agreement mutually entered into in 1708, for the division of a common, called the muirs of Kinross, to which each of them had an equal right. The inhabitants then derived

rived their subsistence chiefly from the produce of the town acres, grazing their cattle on the several commons belong to the place, and from the fish of Lochleven.

The are 4 annual fairs in Kinross, resorted to by people from a considerable distance, especially dealers in black-cattle and horses.

Within the last 30 years, between 60 and 70 new houses have been added to the town, affording accommodation for above double the number of families. The rents of houses are from 30s. to L. 5 each, and that of the town acres, L. 3 per acre; each of these computed acres sell for between L. 80 and L. 100 sterling, though liable in payment of about 10s. yearly of feu duties, and of public burdens.—There are no houses of any note in the parish, excepting only that of Kinross, built by the celebrated architect Sir William Bruce, the proprietor, in 1685. It is a large elegant structure. The Hall is 54½ feet long, by 24 feet wide. The old house, for some generations the residence of the Earls of Morton, situated on the N. of the present garden, was taken down about the year 1723, but some vestiges of the foundation are still discernible.

*Extent and Surface.*—The extent of this parish is about 3½ miles in length, from N. to S. and nearly the same at its greatest breadth. It is bounded by Lochleven on the east. As this district lies in the middle of the plain of Kinross, the ground is mostly flat, and the soil various; a little of it is of strong clay, some of a mixed quality, but by far the greatest part is a thin light black earth, with a gravelly bottom; yet even this last appears capable of producing tolerably good crops, where improvements have been made.

*Rivers and Lochs.*—There are 3 small rivers in this parish, viz. Gairney on the S. boundary, the South Queich below

low the town, and North Quiech at the N. boundary. All these discharge themselves into Lochleven; and are stored with small trout, that afford fine amusement to anglers.

Lochleven, a magnificent and beautiful piece of water, bounded by the hills called the Lomonds on the E. and Benarty on the S. and by the plain of Kinross on the N. and W. is about 12 miles in circumference, setting aside the angular jutting, and 4 miles in length, from the W. end of the town to the E. at the Gulet bridge\*. Several islands are dispersed in this fine collection of water; the most remarkable is that distinguished by the captivity of Queen Mary Stewart. The fish of the loch have been so well described by Pennant and others, that it seems unnecessary to say much about them here. The following observations, however, may not be unworthy the attention of the curious. The high flavour and bright red colour of the trout, seem evidently to arise from the food which nature has provided for them, in the loch. A considerable part of the bottom is oozy and spongy, from which aquatic herbs spring up in abundance; and, so vigorous are they in many parts, as towards the beginning of autumn, to cover the surface with their flowers. The trout, especially of size, lie much in that sort of bottom. Gentlemen, accustomed to make observations when angling, know well, that even in clear running rivers, where their course takes a direction through a long tract of meadow, or of oozy ground, the trout that lie or feed in that ground, if of size, are generally less or more of a pink colour in the flesh; while those that feed in the stony or gravelly soil, above or below the swampy meadows, are all white, excepting the mixture that is sometimes made by floods. But what appears to contribute most to the redness and rich taste of the

\* These measurements were taken with a perambulator on the ice.

the Lochleven trout, is the vast quantity of a small shell-fish, red in its colour, which abounds all over the bottom of the loch, especially among the aquatic weeds. It is of shape quite globular, precisely of the appearance and size of a lintseed boll at a little distance, and the trouts when caught have often their stomachs full of them. These observations may account for a phenomenon of another kind. In Lochleven are all the different species of hill, or burn, or muir trout, that are to be met with in Scotland, evidently appearing from the diversity of manner in which they are spotted. Yet all these different kinds, after being two years in the loch, and arriving at  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1 lb. weight, are red in the flesh, as all the trout of every kind in the loch are, except perhaps those newly brought down by floods, or such as are sickly. The silver-grey trout, with about 4 or 5 spots on the middle of each side, is apparently the original native of the loch, and, in many respects, the finest fish of the whole. The fry of all kinds are white in the flesh till they come to the size of a herring, about the beginning of their third year. The gallytrough, or char, abounds in the loch. The description of this fish is generally well known. What is remarkable of them is the size to which they often grow, some of them weighing near 2 lb. and they are never known to rise to a fly, or to be caught with a hook, baited in any way whatever. Besides these, are vast numbers of eels, pikes, and perch, in the loch.—The fish of Lochleven, only a few years ago, sold here at 1d. each, great and small, for the trout, and the perch at 1d. the dozen, and, about 25 years ago, at half that price: the fishing was then let at 200 merks Scotch. The trout \* are now raised to 4d. per lb. the perch to 2d. per dozen;

\* Those called Bill trout are believed to be old ones. In spring 1791, a large one was caught that weighed 10 lb.—many of them weighed 8 lb.

dozen; and the pike \* to 2d. per lb. The present rent of the fishing is L. 80 sterling, and for next year it is fixed at L. 100. —The birds that breed on the isles are, herons, gulls, pewit gulls, and great terns, called here picarnes.

*Population Table.*

Persons above 7 years of age, in the town, in 1710 - - - 476	Stocking frames - - - 4
In the country, ditto 472	Flax dressers - - - 4
Total - - - 948	Dyers - - - 3
Number of souls in 1755 1310	Masons - - - 8
----- in 1791 1839	Tanners - - - 3
In the town and territory - - - 1437	Saddlers - - - 2
In the country - - - 402	Butchers - - - 5
Of the Established church 700	Bakers - - - 3
Annual average of births for 10 years past - 45	Physician - - - 1
----- of marriages - - - 11	Surgeons - - - 2
----- of deaths 38	Writers - - - 3
Watchmakers - - - 3	Messenger at arms 1
Blacksmiths - - - 5	Corn mills - - - 2
Carpenters and glaziers 13	Barley mill - - - 1
Tailors - - - 12	Lint mills - - - 2
Shoemakers - - - 16	Waulk mill - - - 1
Stocking makers / - 2	Inns - - - 2
	Inferior houses of entertainment - - - 17
	Post chaises for hire 7
	Saddle horses, ditto 7

*Manufactures.*—The principal manufacture is that called Silefia

\* In spring 1790, one was caught that weighed 31 lb. and 1-half

Silesia linens, woven from 27 to 30 inches in breadth, some coarse tweels, some harns and straikens.

*State of the Manufactures, as taken from the Stamp-master's Book in Kinross:*

From 1st Nov. 1780, to 1st Nov. 1781	-	107,996 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards.
1782	-	85,936
1783	-	79,084 $\frac{3}{4}$
1784	-	99,516
1785	-	130,439
1786	-	126,803
1787	-	181,927 $\frac{3}{4}$
1788	-	153,169
1789	-	77,779
1790	-	141,691 $\frac{1}{2}$
		1,184,341 $\frac{1}{2}$

Medium 118,434 yards:

which, at 9d. per yard, at an average, is L. 4,441 : 5 : 6 *per annum*. About five-sixths of the whole is manufactured in this parish, and the rest in other parts of the country: and, besides the above, a great deal of linen is woven for private use, as the people in general are very industrious, and make all their cloth for shirts, bed-linens, &c. of yarn spun in their own houses, mostly of flax raised in the country.—The number of weaving looms, in this parish, is about 200; of these, 18 are in the country part, and the rest in the town. Three or four are employed in weaving diaper work, for table linens, and about 50 at different branches of muslin manufacture for people in Glasgow.

Kinross enjoys several advantages in favour of the linen manufacture; such as, plenty of coals at 5 miles distance; a fine stream of soft water, running through the town, for boil-

ing and washing the yarn ; and two pretty extensive commons for bleaching, the one along the side of Lochleven, and the other west of the town, supplied with water from the above-mentioned stream, and also abounding with plenty of springs.

The cutlery business, for which this place has been famous for a century past, has of late been much on the decline, owing to the general use of Sheffield wares. About 40 years ago, this branch employed between 20 and 30 hands ; but the number is now reduced to 4 \*.

*Ecclesiastical*

\* About a mile west from Kinross, on the lands of Mawhill, is a small cairn, which, like many others in Scotland, is called the Leckar stones ; another near Carsgour, known by the name of the Toryknow, was last year razed to the ground, but nothing discovered to gratify curiosity. A tumulus or mound, composed mostly of earth, with some stones intermixed, on the east of Annofreuch, was opened a few years ago, and a coffin found therein formed of rough flat stones, set on edge at the sides and ends, and a large one above ; within which were some bones, and many pieces of burnt wood interspersed. In the memory of some old people, it was called the Elf-hillock, but it is now known by the name of the Fairyknow.

The most remarkable piece of antiquity is the castle of Lochleven, said to have been the ancient seat of Congal, son of Dongart, King of the Picts, who is said to have founded it. It stands towards the N. W. part of the lake, on an island about an acre and three-quarters in extent, and is encompassed with a rampart of stone, nearly of a quadrangular form. The principal tower, a kind of square building, stands upon the N. wall, very near the N. W. corner, and there is a lesser round one at the S. E. The other apartments were arranged along the N. wall, between the great tower and the N. E. corner. A kitchen, supposed to have been built later than the rest of the castle, stood on the W. wall, near the S. W. corner ; and another building, supposed to have been the chapel, between that and the great tower fronting the S. In the lower part of the square tower is a dungeon with a well in it. Above the dungeon is a vaulted room, which, from the appearance of the effects of smoke on the jambs of the chimney, seems to have been used as a kitchen. Over this had been three stories. No date or inscription appears on any part of the buildings, excepting only the letters R. D. and M. E. (probably the initials of Sir Robert Douglass and Margaret Erskine, his lady), on the face of

*Ecclesiastical State, School, and Poor.*—This parish has had its own share of divisions ever since the year 1732. The number of souls that belong to the Established Church are about 700: the rest belong to three different denominations of Seceſſion, viz. the Burghers in this town, the Antiburghers, and a ſmall meeting, who call themſelves of the Reformed Prefbytery, in the pariſh of Orwel.——The living conſiſts of L. 536 : 8 : 4 Scotch, including 50 merks for communion elements, 68 bolls oat-meal, and 15 bolls bear. George Graham, Eſq. of Kinroſs, is patron.

The ſchool is, at preſent, in a very flouriſhing ſtate. The number of ſcholars, during laſt winter, was about 140; and, at a medium for 18 years paſt, it has been above 100 yearly. Some of theſe come from other pariſhes, beſides a number of

Y 2

boarders

an ornamented ſtone, that a few years ago, when the walls were ſtanding, projected a little at the N. E. corner of the kitchen. The whole circuit of the rampart is 585 feet.—It is generally underſtood that the roof was taken off the caſtle about a century ago. Some part of it, particularly the roof of the round tower, is ſaid to have been repaired by Sir William Bruce. Some perſons remember to have heard an old man ſay, that, in his time, there were 52 beds, or perhaps only bed-ſteads, in the caſtle.

The iſland is ornamented with a number of trees, and affords paſture for 2 cows. In autumn 1775 or 1776, the area or court within the caſtle, was ſtorcd with well cultivated beds of onions, and the ground without, with turnips.

Alexander III. is ſaid to have lived ſome time at Kinroſs, undoubtedly in the caſtle of Lochleven, after returning from an interview with his father-in-law, Henry III. of England, at Werk caſtle.—In this caſtle Queen Mary Stuart was imprifoned, on the 16th June 1567; reſigned the crown with reluctance in favours of her ſon, James VI. on the 24th July, ſame year; and eſcaped from her confinement there, on the 2d of May 1568, by means of George Douglas, youngſt ſon of Sir Robert Douglas of Lochleven.—The Earl of Northumberland was imprifoned in Lochleven caſtle, from 1569 to about the end of 1572.



boarders in the master's house. The salary is L. 100 Scotch, with a good house and small garden, and about an acre and a half of land.

The number of indigent persons in this parish, who receive supply, cannot be exactly ascertained, as each of the different meetings dispose of their charity to the poor of their own communion; but as to the money arising from the parish funds, the most needy of every denomination are equally admitted to share. The management of them is under the direction of a committee of the heritors, who disburse about L. 14 annually. The collections at the church doors are disposed of by the kirk-session, to the poor under their immediate care, in proportion to their necessities: they also distribute to the poor of the secession in cases of distress, and particularly during the severity of winter. The money disbursed by them, last year, was about L. 20; so the whole sum annually distributed amounts to L. 34 sterling.—Besides the above, L. 100 Scotch is paid annually out of the estate of Kinross to 16 out-pensioners of an hospital, which, it seems, had been intended upon a particular spot of ground at Kinross, mortgaged, it is said, by Sir William Bruce.—There are few begging poor belonging to this parish; but, as Kinross is a thorough-fare, and the roads in every direction around the town exceeding good, it is constantly infested with numbers of beggars from all quarters.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The valued rent of this parish is L. 4006 : 6 : 8 Scotch. The real rent cannot be easily ascertained, as most of the farms are feus possessed by the proprietors themselves.—Improvements in agriculture have hitherto advanced but slowly in this district, owing in a great measure to the last mentioned circumstance, and also to the want of example. For as the feuars, in general, are in that happy mediocrity of station, in which, perhaps, the greatest contentment

tentment is to be enjoyed, and possess all the necessaries and many of the comforts of life, each, till of late, continued to pursue the course followed by their fathers and grandfathers; but now, that a different mode of living universally prevails, a spirit of industry and a taste for improvement are roused, and every one is endeavouring to make his farm turn to the best account; and, in order to excite emulation among the servants, a ploughing match was held in March last, at Turf-hills, a little to the west of this town, where prizes were adjudged to those who excelled, according to their merit; being the first of the kind in this parish.—The ploughs now used are for the most part of an improved construction.—The principal crops are oats and barley. Considerable attention has, of late, been paid to the cultivation of turnips; and potatoes are a general crop in every part of the parish. Much flax is raised both for the market and for private use; and great quantities of clover and rye-grass are sown, on account of the demand for hay from the public inns, stablers, horse-hirers, and carters. Little or no wheat was raised till of late, but it is now sown in different parts of the parish.

## N U M B E R XXIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF ARDCHATTAN  
AND MUCKAIRN.(PRESBYTERY OF LORN, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF  
ARGYLE.)*By the Rev. MR. LUDOVICK GRANT.**Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**T**HIS district consists of two united parishes, Ardchattan and Muckairn, antiently called *Balliebhodan* and *Kiele-spickarro*; the latter denoting the burying place of Bishop Cerylus or Cerullus, and the former signifying St Bede's town or place of residence. The walls of a small church, built by this saint, of excellent masonry, still remain entire, and have withstood the storms and tempests of several centuries.— The parish extends 24 computed miles in length, and is 20 in breadth at an average. The surface is for the most part hilly and uneven, intersected with streams of water, and diversified with heights and hollows. The air is salubrious; the people in general remarkably healthy, and strangers to the diseases which spring from idleness and luxury. The different periods of longevity, to which many have attained, is a strong presumption in favour of the climate. A man died some years a-

go at the advanced age of 105; three men on the verge of 100, and a fourth turned of 100, are now living; and within these few years several of both sexes, from 80 to 90 years of age, have died in the full possession of all their mental faculties. This district is frequently visited by heavy rains, but the moisture is quickly absorbed by the earth, which is naturally dry.

*Rivers, Hills, Woods, &c.*—In the parish are several rivers, abounding with excellent trout; the most considerable are the Aw, the Kinlofs, and the Etic. Near the mouth of the former is a valuable salmon fishing, which yields a considerable rent: the salmon are of an excellent quality, not inferior to any in Scotland.—The hills are mostly covered with grass: the most remarkable is *Cruachan Bean*, one of the highest mountains in Scotland, 13 or 14 computed miles in circumference, affording excellent pasturage for black-cattle and sheep. It is very steep towards the N. E. and slopes gently down on the S. but rises with an abrupt ascent towards the summit, which is divided into two points, each exactly resembling a sugar loaf. The N. point is reckoned the highest, and commands a very noble and most extensive prospect. The sea-pink grows upon it, and sea-shells have been found on the summit.—The parish abounds with natural wood; and there are a few plantations of pines and Scotch firs. Every cutting of the wood is supposed, at a moderate computation, to yield the proprietors no less than L. 15,000 or L. 16,000 sterling. They consist of ash, birch, hazel, and alder, but chiefly oak. They abound with roes; and, on one estate, fallow deer run wild in the woods, of a much superior size and flavour to any of their species that are confined in parks. There is a forest in Glenetie, pretty well stocked with red deer. Foxes, hares, wild-cats, pole-cats, martins,

martins, weazels, otters, badgers, black-cocks, moorfowl, ptarmigans, partridges, plovers, eagles, hawks, &c. are found here.

*Natural Productions.*—The soil is light and dry, except in a very few instances. The arable land, when properly cultivated, and allowed time to rest for some respite to recover itself, produces excellent crops of oats, barley, and potatoes, of a choice quality. But short leases, and the promiscuous mode of letting victual farms to several tenants, without assigning to each his due proportion of arable ground, throw a damp upon the efforts of industry, and prevent the improvements which would otherwise be introduced. Whereas, by adopting the contrary practice, a spirit of emulation would be excited, the lands cultivated to more advantage than they are at present, and a much greater number would be supported by the produce. But it must be acknowledged that a remarkable alteration for the better, as to agriculture, has taken place within these few years; and the parish of Ardchattan would produce sufficient, for the maintenance of its inhabitants, if the tenants reserved their barley for their own use, but they always sell it to brewers, as it fetches a high price. This is not the case with the parish of Muckairn. About 1753, a company from Lancashire erected a furnace for casting pig-iron, in its vicinity, and obtained a long lease of several farms for rearing wood and grazing their work-horses. These lie waste and uncultivated; and occasion the importation of a considerable quantity of meal into that district. The crops raised here are oats, barley, potatoes, and a small quantity of pease. Hemp and flax are cultivated only for private use. A few sow ryegrass and clover, which yield ample returns.—The manures used here are lime, shell-sand, sea-weeds, and dung.—The Scotch plough is generally used, being well adapted to the soil.—There are 53 ploughs and 100 carts in this district.

*Horses, Cattle, and Sheep.*—The number of horses, including breeding mares, at the lowest computation, amounts to 440 or 450. Though small, they are well shaped, hardy, and easily fed. Their price has advanced considerably within these few years; they now cost from 10 to L. 12.—In the parish are from 2600 to 2800 black-cattle: though not of a large size, they are in general handsome and well haired, and in great estimation with the English drovers. Numbers are sold annually at from L. 4 to L. 6 each. Two five year old stots, of the Highland breed, fed by Mr Campbell of Barcaldine, were raised to such a size as to sell for 40 guineas this year (1792).—There are between 28,000 and 30,000 sheep. The large breed, brought some years ago from the south country, produce a greater quantity of wool, but are much inferior in quality to the old Highland sheep. Thousands are sold yearly to the low country butchers. When a few are purchased by individuals, they sell for from 12s. to 14s. White wool sold last year at 7s. 6d. the stone; wool besmeared with tar at 5s. 6d.—8 fleeces, on an average, to the stone.—The deep rooted prejudice against swine's flesh is now removed: most of the farmers rear some of that species, which, not 30 years ago, they held in the utmost detestation.

*Rent.*—The valued rent is L. 587 : 7 : 4 Scotch. The real rent has increased considerably within these ten years, and is supposed to be between L. 4,000 and L. 5,000 sterling, exclusive of the cutting of the woods and the kelp-shores. It is difficult to ascertain the quantity of kelp made here, as the shores are so extensive that one of the heritors can go upon his own ground no less than 9 computed miles along the sea-coast: moreover the kelp is sold to strangers, who find their account in concealing the produce. Few farms are let below L. 60,

and some pay more than L. 200 of rent. There are 7 heritors, 2 of whom constantly reside\*.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster, the number of inhabitants in the united parishes amounted, in 1755, to 2195: now it has increased to between 2300 and 2400. But it appears that this district was better peopled a few years ago than it is at present. Within these two or three years 140 persons emigrated from hence to America; and this year more are preparing to follow, being much encouraged by the flattering accounts of the former emigrants. Several families have removed to the low country, where the wages are high. The principal cause of the decrease of population is the engrossing and uniting several farms, and turning them into sheep-walks. Farms that formerly supported 8 or 9 families are now occupied by only 2 or 3, and, in some places, solely by one shepherd. But, it must be acknowledged, that the present proprietors have given preference to the old possessors, and, in several instances, renewed their leases at a cheaper rate, and upon easier terms, than have been offered to them by strangers.—The yearly average of births is 46; of marriages, 19; and of deaths, 28.

*Stipend, Schools, and Poor.*—The stipend is 1400 merks  
Scotch,

\* All kinds of provisions are considerably increased in price. As there is no public market, every family must provide their own necessaries. A fat cow for slaughter, which 30 years ago could be bought at L. 2: 10, now costs L. 6. Wethers, butter, cheese, geese, and hens, in proportion. Meal, at an average, is 16s. barley at 21s. per boll, at least. The day wages of men labourers are 1s without victuals; of masons 1s. 6d. and of wrights 1s. 6d. Men-servants get from L. 6 to L. 8 *per annum*; and female ditto, from L. 3 to L. 3: 10.

Scotch, including L. 40 Scotch for communion elements, and 39½ bolls of meal, with a glebe of 4½ acres. There are 3 places of worship, Ardchattan, Muckairn, and Inverguesechan in Glenetic: at the last a missionary, employed by the committee for managing the royal bounty, preaches alternately with Glenco and Glencreran. Captain Duncan Campbell of Lochnell is patron.—There are 2 parochial schools, one in Ardchattan and the other in Muckairn, with a salary of L. 10 sterling to each, and the former also receives the interest of L. 1000 Scotch. A school is established in the lower part of Ardchattan parish by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, with a salary of L. 13 sterling; and the schoolmaster's wife has from the Society L. 3 sterling, for teaching young girls to spin, and knit stockings, which is of great benefit to the parish. There are, besides, 3 or 4 private schools in remote parts of this district, supported by the neighbouring tenants, whose children have not access to the public schools. The number of scholars at all these, at the lowest calculation, amounts to 200 in winter. —The number on the poor's roll is 45; and there is no fund for their support but the weekly collections and dues of mort-cloths, the yearly amount of which does not exceed L. 17 or L. 18;—a sum very inadequate to the wants of the poor\*.

Z 2

*Roads,*

\* A part of the walls of the old priory of Ardchattan, founded in the 13th century by John McDougal of that ilk, is still standing. The present proprietor's dwelling house was formerly a part of the monastery, and his offices occupy a great part of the ground upon which it stood. What now remains of the priory is converted into burying ground, in which are two monuments in niches in the walls; each has a stone coffin, and one of them is ornamented with a font, and inscription in the Runic character. On two gravestones are effigies of priests in their pontifical robes, with inscriptions in the same character. There is a tradition, that in a parliament held in this monastery by  
King



*Roads, Services, and Fuel.*—The public roads are in good repair, and have been greatly improved within these few years, which renders the access easy from all quarters; but the bye roads, especially such as lead to the glens, are rugged, slippery, and dangerous, lying in some parts along the brink of precipices, and so narrow that two men can hardly pass each other. The statute labour is converted into money.—Some personal services are still exacted, but they are not oppressive, requiring only

King Robert Bruce, immediately after his defeats at Methven and Dalree, the pleadings were in the Celtic language.

In this district stood the famous city of *Beregonium*: it was situated between two hills, one called *Dun Macsnichan*, “the hill of Snachan’s son,” and the other, much superior in height, is named *Dun bbail an rigb*, “the hill of the king’s town.” A street paved with common stones, running from the foot of the one hill to the other, is still called *Straid-mbaragaid*, “the market street;” and another place, at a little distance, goes by the name of *Straid namín*; “the meal street.” About 10 or 11 years ago a man, cutting peats in a moss between the two hills, found one of the wooden pipes that conveyed the water from the one hill to the other, at the depth of 5 feet below the surface. On *Dun Macsnichan* is a large heap of rubbish and pumice stones; but no distinct traces of any building or fortification can now be seen on either of the hills, the foundations having been dug up for the purpose of erecting houses in the neighbourhood.

There is a tradition, among the lower class of people, that *Beregonium* was destroyed by fire from heaven. In confirmation of this tradition, it may be mentioned, that a high rock, near the summit of *Dun bbail an rigb*, projecting and overhanging the road, has a volcanic appearance and a most hideous aspect. Huge fragments have tumbled down from it. Adjoining to this place, is a fine, open, spacious bay, with a sandy bottom, capable of containing the whole navy of Great Britain.

It would be endless to enumerate all the Druidical monuments in this district. Many cairns and heaps of stones are to be seen here: one, in particular, near the centre of a deep moss about 3 or 4 miles in circumference. In different places, are stones rising 12 feet above the surface of the earth, all of them one single stone; and, at a small distance, a number of large stones from 20 to 22 feet in length, of an oval figure.

only 8 days work in the year at different periods. It is the intention of the proprietors to abolish all personal servitude, which will tend to the mutual advantage of both master and tenant.——The only fuel used by the lower classes is peats, which lie in a very inconvenient situation for many of the inhabitants, and consume almost the whole summer in cutting, leading, and securing them. Till the tax on coals is repealed, any attempt to introduce improvements or establish manufactures in the Highlands, will be of no avail.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general are sober, industrious, and intelligent; much inclined to hospitality; humane and charitable; ready to relieve the distressed, from whatever quarter they may come. They are all of the Established church; and punctual in their attendance on divine worship. The farmers make a decent appearance; seem to enjoy the comforts and conveniencies of life suitable to their station; and acknowledge that they have less difficulty in paying their rents (though considerably increased) than they had 30 years ago. The people in general are middle sized, well proportioned, and can endure great fatigue.—The common language is the Celtic; the names of all the farms are derived from it, and are in general descriptive of their situations.——Loch-Etic, which divides Ardochattan from Muckairn and two other parishes, is a navigable inlet of the sea, 15 computed miles in length, but of unequal breadth. Near its mouth is a narrow channel, not much more than a musquet-shot over, at a place called Connel, signifying in the Celtic, rage or fury; which is very descriptive of this place, as a ridge of rugged and uneven rocks runs across two-thirds of the channel, and occasions, at certain periods of the ebbing or flowing tide, such a rapid current that no vessel with the freshest breeze can stem it. In the beginning of the flood, the tide runs up with a boisterous  
rapidity,

rapidity, and at ebb, it returns with a violence and noise unequalled by the loudest cataract. But there is sufficient depth of water, between the ridge of rocks and the land on the west side, for vessels of any size or burden to pass and repass with safety in the beginning of flood or ebb. There is a ferry here, and notwithstanding its alarming appearance, one of the safest in Scotland, as no accident has happened at it in the remembrance of any man living.

The sides of Loch-Etie are pleasant; indented into creeks and bays, affording safe anchorage in any wind whatever; delightfully variegated with hill and dale, meadows and corn-fields, wood and water. There are several salmon fisheries on its shores; and it abounds with small red cod and cuddies; and, in some seasons, a few herrings are caught in it. Seals are its constant inhabitants; and porpoises visit it in the latter end of April, and take leave of it about the close of July.

The tide flows six hours, and takes the same time to return: it runs from Connel in a S. E. direction to Bonawe, and, after running along the north side of Cruachan bean, bends its course N. E. till it terminates in Glenetic, i. e. the valley of Eta, famous for being the residence of Ufnath, father of Nathos, Althos, and Ardan; the first of whom ran away with Darthula, wife of Conquhan, King of Ulster in Ireland, which is the subject of a beautiful poem of Ossian. Many places in and about the loch and valley of Eta confirm, beyond a possibility of doubt, that such people were once resident there. In particular, a small island, with some vestiges of a house upon it, goes by the name of *Elain Ufnich*, or the island of Ufnath. There is also, in the farm of Dalnefs in Glenetic, a rock rising in the form of a cone, on the end of a high hill, commanding a romantic prospect, which to this day retains the name of *Griannan Dearduil*, the basking place of Darthula.

NUMBER

N U M B E R XXIV.

PARISH OF KILMUIR EASTER.

(PRESBYTERY OF TAIN, SYNOD OF ROSS.)

*By the Rev. Mr. JOHN MATHESON.*

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*Name, Extent, and Soil.*

**T**HE Celtic, and original name of this parish, is Cilmoir or Cilmary, *Cellamariae*, a chapel dedicated to the *Virginia Mary*; or so called in honour of some lady of that name, by whom it was built and endowed. It is called Kilmuir Easter to distinguish it from another parish within the bounds of the synod of Ross, which, in consequence of an annexation which lately took place, has lost its antient name of Kilmuir Wester, and is now known by the appellation of Knockbain.

The parish lies partly in the county of Ross, and partly in the county of Cromarty. This is the situation of all the parishes within the synod where George, the first Earl of Cromarty, had any property; that nobleman having obtained the privilege of constituting his whole landed property in Scotland into a separate county, called the county of Cromarty; and his property being of considerable extent, and in detached portions, it forms a part of many parishes in the synod. This parish is about 10 miles long, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  broad, on an average. It is

is bounded on the E. by the small river of Balnagown, and by the sands of Nigg, and bay of Cromarty on the S. The situation is truly delightful, having the best cultivated parts of six neighbouring parishes full in view. Beyond these, the eye extends over a prospect of 30 miles, from E. to W. along the Firth; and, towards the S. E. a passage opens between the two rocks called the Sutors or Saviours of Cromarty, through which a considerable part of the county of Murray is visible; and all the vessels, small and great, that enter into the bay, and anchor in this *Portus Salutis*, are seen from almost every house in the parish; the whole forming one of the richest and most beautifully variegated landscapes in Britain.

The soil of this parish is various: along the shore, which is flat, it is generally light and sandy, but in rainy seasons very fertile; and, even in the driest summer, it seldom fails of yielding a sure crop. About a mile from the shore, and almost parallel to it, a sloping bank runs from E. to W. through the whole parish: here both the soil and the climate begin to change, though the bank at its utmost altitude is not more than 30 feet above the level of the sea. In place of the light, warm, and fertile soil below, one meets with a wet, cold, and furlly clay, covered with 2 or 3 inches of black mossy earth; and in many places a black pan, hard as iron ore, runs in a stratum of 2 or 3 inches thick in the bosom of the clay, and about 8 or 9 inches below the surface, which in a rainy season keeps the water floating above, prevents early sowing, and sometime starves the seed in the ground. This bank, however, has for the most part been long in cultivation, and is all along covered with corn-fields, or sown grafs, which, with a dry spring, and moderate summer rains, produce heavy crops. Behind the bank, and towards the north, a plain of 4 miles long, and from 2 to 3 broad, opens to view; of which about a fourth part is in cultivation, a fourth part is moss yielding

peats to the inhabitants, and the other half a barren muir, of much the same soil with that of the above-mentioned bank. This plain is terminated on the N. by a range of low hills, cultivated in most places half way up to the top; and, behind these hills, a small part of the parish runs N. several miles, in a narrow vale, which yields some corn, and affords good pasture for sheep and black-cattle.

*Climate, Diseases, Fish, &c.*—Within a mile of the shore, which is sandy, the climate is often mild and temperate; while the bank, and the whole tract of ground behind it, is cold and covered with snow. This, however, is only at intervals, in the winter and spring seasons; for the difference of climate is scarcely perceptible during the rest of the year; and it does not appear that it makes any material odds as to the health of the inhabitants. The air, upon the whole, being very salubrious, the people in general enjoy good health; and there are many instances of longevity in the parish.

There are no rivers or fresh-water lakes in this parish, excepting the small river of Balnagown already-mentioned; in which, at certain times of the year, large burn and sea trout are found: but, in good fishing-seasons, the parish is plentifully supplied with haddocks, cod, skate, flounders, and cuddies, from the Murray-Firth, carried here in baskets by the fishers of Fearn and Nigg. There is a bed of small cockles within the bounds of the parish, which, in scarce years, has proved very useful to the poor people. In 1782, 40 horse loads have been taken out of it in one day. When herrings appear on the coast of Murray, they sometimes come in to the bay and firth of Cromarty, and are killed opposite to this parish by the inhabitants; though not in such quantities as to admit of exportation.

Little wheat is sown here for market. Gentlemen annually  
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ly sow no more than is sufficient to supply their own families, and the time of sowing it is from the middle of September to the end of November:—rye, oats, and pease, from the beginning of March to the middle of April; barley, flax, and potatoes, from the middle of April till the 20th of May; and turnips from the 15th to the 25th of June. The harvest generally begins about the 20th of August, and, in good weather, the crop is secured by the middle of October.

*Improvements.*—It is computed that 300 acres of muir ground in this parish have been brought into culture, within the last 25 years; partly by mealers, encouraged by the proprietors, and enticed to build huts on the muir, in the vicinity of peats and turf,—partly by the most substantial farmers who, as they proceed to inclose their farms, trench the barren ground within their lines; and partly by the proprietors, who have set the example before their tenants. The late Admiral Sir John Lockhart Ross added 45 acres of muir ground to the policy round the family seat; a great part of which now yields very good corn and grafs. At the expence of L. 10,000 sterling, laid out in trenching, building, fencing, &c. in the course of 25 years, he has greatly beautified the face of the country; and made Balnagown one of the most desirable seats in the north. Immense tracts of ground, at proper distances from the house, are covered with very thriving plantations of fir, or forest trees; most of which were planted by his immediate predecessor; and of which his family now begin to reap the benefit. Sir Charles Ross draws upwards of L. 200 annually from his fir wood in this parish.—Within a mile of the house of Balnagown, towards the S. and near the shore, lies New-Tarbat, the principal seat of the Earls of Cromarty: this place, once the pride of Ross, both for situation and policy, was, during the forfeiture of that family, not only neglected

glected, but dismantled of its principal ornaments: the largest forest trees ever seen in this country were cut down, and sold to a company at Leith; much of the ground within the policy was parcelled out in lots to disbanded soldiers and sailors; and the most elegant and best finished house in the three counties was allowed to fall into ruins. The place however promises, in a few years hence, to recover its antient beauty and grandeur.—The late Lord M'Leod, immediately upon the restoration of his estate, began to extend and inclose the policy; planted many thousand forest and fir trees, which are now in a thriving condition; and built a superb house upon a modern plan, which, in point of elegance and accommodation, is inferior to few seats in Scotland. What was left unfinished of his lordship's plans, are now carried on with attention and taste by Captain Kenneth M'Kenzie, his successor, and the representative of that honourable family.

*Farms and Rent.*—The disproportion of farms in this parish is very great; some renting 50, some 100, and some 150 acres, while others possess no more than from 3 to 12. By an union of farms that lately took place, many of the small tenants were obliged to retire to the waste grounds, a limited portion of which is assigned to each of them by the proprietors: here they plant potatoes; and, by industry and perseverance, bring two, three, or more acres to culture, in the course of 7 years; during which time, they sit rent-free, excepting a small acknowledgement in hens and eggs. There is no other encouragement given them, excepting an advance of 20s. to assist them in building a house, the value of which they must leave upon the ground when they remove; and, if they continue in possession after the 7 years are expired, they pay, some less and some more, for every acre in cultivation.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 2691 Scotch: the real



rent does not much exceed L. 1400 sterling. The land next the shore lets at 20s. per acre, and near the village of Milntown 30s. and upwards is paid for small lots; but more remote from the shore, the farmers, on an average, pay no more than 15s. per acre.—The proprietors begin to see the advantage of granting leases to their tenants, and to convert the half of the victual rent into money, at 14s. per boll, including customs and services.

*Number of Proprietors, &c.*—There are 6 proprietors; 3 either occasionally or constantly reside in the parish: 15 small feuars in the village of Milntown, most of whom have no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an acre each; 17 larger, and about 40 smaller tenants; and a great number of new settlers, paying from 5s. to 20s. rent each. There are 4 shop-keepers, 3 distillers, 12 masons, 4 cart-wrights, 1 cooper, 6 house-carpenters, 4 blacksmiths, 1 carpet-weaver, 2 stocking-weavers, 15 common weavers, 10 taylors, 10 shoe-makers, and 20 lime-makers. The parish is well situated for carrying on manufactures of different kinds; but no plan has been hitherto adopted that seems promising of success in that way. Mr John Montgomery, merchant in Milntown, has introduced the spinning of flax among the people, and has been pretty successful for 30 years in that branch; so that all the women, old and young, are become dexterous at the spinning-wheel, and have greatly increased their yearly income by it. A stocking manufactory was lately introduced to the parish, under the patronage of Sir John Lockart Ross, which did not meet with that encouragement which might be expected. It is now carried on solely by Mr Montgomery, who seems to think, that it will not prove a profitable trade in this country for some time.

*Population.*—It is certain that the number of inhabitants,  
in

in this parish, is triple what it was 50 years ago. This increase is ascribed to the great extent of improveable waste ground in the parish, the easy access to fuel, and the encouragement given by proprietors and tenants to day-labourers: these inducements led many emigrants from the Highland parishes to settle here. And, in the year 1763, the commissioners for managing the annexed states, settled 48 families of disbanded soldiers and sailors at once in the parish; allowing to each a house and three acres of arable land, expecting, that in process of time these families would prove a nursery for the army and navy; but, in the course of 10 years, there remained in the parish no more than 2 families of these strangers, all the rest having deserted their lots, which are now occupied by a more industrious set of people.

Population is daily on the increase. Fifty new houses have been built within the last four years; and there is not one uninhabited house in the parish.—By an accurate list taken in April last, there were then living in the parish, 1975 persons: of whom, there were,

Under 10 years of age	-	450
Between 10 and 50	- -	900
———— 50 and 70	- - -	581
———— 70 and 80	- -	35
———— 80 and 90	- - -	7
———— 90 and 100*	- - -	2
		1975

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1095 souls.

*Abstract*

\* A sea-faring man died last spring in the parish, who, though he did not know with certainty the year that gave him birth, yet, from remarkable wars and events remembered by him, it was easy to determine that he surpassed 100 years of age. He had a faint remembrance of the famine that prevailed

in

*Abstract of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, for 6 years preceding 15th October 1790.*

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	40	7	54
1785	46	10	28
1786	44	10	41
1787	42	8	25
1788	45	8	38
1789	53	9	32
	<hr/> 270	<hr/> 54	<hr/> 218
Average	45	9	36½

The great disproportion that appears in this abstract, arises chiefly from the many emigrant families that settle yearly in the parish. The great number of burials in 1784 was occasioned chiefly by the small pox; since that period, the people have been persuaded to practice inoculation, and they have experienced the happy effects of it.

*General Character of the People.*—The people are sober, regular, and industrious; though, it is to be lamented, that there are many among them whose morals are corrupted, by having too easy access to spirits, there being upwards of 30 tippling houses in the parish, and only one principal inn; an evil that, (in the opinion of many), might in a great measure be prevented, were the proprietors to make the retail of spirits an irritancy in all the leases they grant, as nothing would contribute

in Scotland in the close of the last century; and saw a common coffin with hinges upon it, made on purpose for burying the people that perished on the highways for want of food. He was 65 years an elder of this church.

tribute more to introduce sobriety among the people, than to have the number of whisky retailers circumscribed. Three retailing houses in the parish would be more than sufficient to answer all the necessary demands of the public. But it deserves to be remarked, that, notwithstanding the free use of spirits among the people, few feuds and quarrels are heard of in the parish.

*Church, Schools, and Poor.*—The church was built *anno* 1621.—The stipend has lately received an augmentation; and, with a glebe improved by the present incumbent at a great expence, is, *communibus annis*, equal to L. 100.—The family of Cromarty have been always acknowledged the undisputed patrons.—There are 2 schools in the parish; the one supported by the heritors, the other by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The parochial school has no more than 100 merks Scotch for salary; which, with all the school dues and emoluments, are not sufficient to provide the teacher with the common necessaries of life. The Society allow L. 13 sterling to the teacher employed by them. There are upwards of 120 children taught at these schools; and the happy effects, in the manners and morals of the people, appear every year more and more conspicuous.—The Celtic is the prevailing language; but there are very few under 30 years of age in the parish, who do not speak both that and English.—The average number of poor who now receive alms is 100. The sum distributed annually among them seldom exceeds L. 15 sterling. This sum arises partly from the weekly collections, and partly by a small sum established in plentiful years; and which lately received an addition of L. 24 sterling, the donation of the deceased Mrs Frazer of Pitcaizien. The greatest part of the money, under the management of the session, is appropriated to the relief of poor persons confined to  
the

the bed of sickness. The poor, who are able to travel from door to door for their subsistence, have no more allowed them than what will purchase a pair of shoes once in the year \*.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—There are 84 ploughs in the parish : most of them of the old Scotch construction, and well adapted for the stony ground. The proprietors, and first rate farmers, use the English plough, drawn by two horses; and, if the land be stiff, two oxen are commonly yoked after the horses.

\* The average price of barley, meal, and pease, for the last 15 years, may be rated, *communibus annis*, at 12s. 6d. per boll. During that period, victual was sold in this parish for 9s. and 10s.—in other years it was sold for 12s. and frequently for 15s. per boll of 9 stones: oats sold from 10s. to 12s. per boll; potatoes for 8s. and some years for 10s. per boll.—The average price of beef, mutton, pork, and veal, from the beginning of October to the first of January, is 3d. for those of the best, and 2d. halfpenny for those of inferior qualities. During the rest of the year, butcher meat, except mutton, gives higher prices.—Fresh butter sells for 8d. per lb. 16 ounces; salted butter in casks for 12s. per stone; common cheese 4s. and cheese of a superior quality 5s. and sometimes 6s. per stone: the price of a good hen is 6d.—a duck 8d.—a chicken 2d.—eggs 1d. per dozen.

The wages of labourers are in proportion to the strength and skill of the persons employed. Some men get 8d. while others receive no more than 6d. per day. The wages of women, especially in harvest, are of late years increased from 4d. to 6d. per day; out of which they furnish their own provisions. The day's pay of a mason, carpenter, and slater, is from 1s. 2d to 1s. 6d. per day. Shoe-makers, tailors, and weavers, make their own prices, there being no standard in the parish to regulate the value of this work.—Domestic and farm servants have, at an average, L. 3 *per annum*. Out-servants are allowed L. 3 wages, and 6 bolls meal for maintenance; together with so much arable land, rent-free, as is sufficient to provide 7 or 8 bolls of potatoes, a free house, garden, and peats: all which is computed to be worth L. 12 *per annum*;—a sufficiency in this country to enable a careful, sober man, with the assistance of a virtuous wife, to live more comfortably than many of the farmers, and to rear a family of children till they are of age to work for their bread.

ses.—If the season is favourable, most of the strongest land is ploughed in the months of October, November, and December.—The rotation commonly observed of late, by the principal farmers, is, to sow barley and grass seeds after the land has been prepared by green crops; and, after resting for two or three years, the same field is ploughed up again in the month of August, with a rich foggage, which in a great measure supplies the want of manure; and yields the first year a good crop of barley, the next a crop of oats, and the third year, a crop of pease, potatoes, or turnips, which prepares it for laying down again with barley and grass seeds. By this mode, the land is always kept clean, and in good condition. But it must be remarked, that though this be the most approved plan, few in the parish have hitherto followed it. The people in general, however, begin to see the advantage of sowing grass seeds, and of adhering to a regular rotation of crops; and it is very probable that the practice will prevail universally in the course of a few years. The sheep farming lately introduced into this country, will soon compel the people to sow considerable quantities of grass seeds.—Formerly, they got most of their cattle grazed on the neighbouring hills, at the rate of 18d. per head, for 4 or 5 months of the year: these hills are now covered with sheep; and the low country farmer must reduce his stock of black-cattle, in proportion to the grass he can raise annually upon his farm.

*Produce.*—The vegetable productions of the parish have already been specified. About two-thirds of the barley is distilled in this and the neighbouring parishes into whisky; and nearly the same proportion of oats and oat-meal is bought up by commission, and carried to market;—so that the produce of the parish is much more than sufficient for the consumpt of the inhabitants.—With respect to animal productions, it is com-

puted that there are about 800 black-cattle, 300 horses, and about 900 sheep in the parish. A third of the black cattle, are what is commonly called here, true Highlanders; the rest either have been introduced into the parish from Fife and Aberdeen, or are a cross breed between these and the Highland bull: these last are by far the best cattle in the parish, and by all appearance will prevail.—The breed of horses has been greatly improved of late years; but the small hardy Highland breed are still preferred by persons who have but small lots of land, because they are easily supported.—The sheep are all of the small country breed, except a few large ones kept by gentlemen within their policy.—The deer, in winter and spring, visit the heights of this parish. There are many foxes and hares; and some badgers and otters.—Most of the sea fowls known in Scotland frequent the shore in great numbers, particularly in stormy and severe winters. In the inland and Highland parts of the parish, there is a great variety of game: muir-fowl, black-cock, wood-cock, wood-pigeon, curlew, plover, &c. but, though all these are inhabitants of the parish, it is proper to observe, that there are not many of each kind\*.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* The only remains of antiquity that stood in this parish, were last year removed. In the place of Delny, once a principal seat of the Earls of Ross, stood the ruins of a Romish chapel on a pleasant bank, surrounded with graves. This spot has been deserted as a burying place for many years; and the present farmer (not adverting to the impropriety of such a measure) carried away all the stones to build his farm houses, and the rubbish to meliorate his land; and ploughed up the burying ground; with an intention to make it an addition to a corn field. The present incumbent, having heard of this species of sacrilege, visited the spot, and found it covered with the bones of the dead, turned up with the plough. The indelicacy of his conduct was represented to the farmer; and he was persuaded to collect the reliques, and to deposit them again in the earth; and he solemnly engaged to draw lines round the sacred spot, to erect

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 3 public roads in the parish, running parallel, and nearly at equal distances from

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one

erect a stone in the middle with a suitable inscription, to sow down the spot with grafs seeds, and never more to disturb the manes of his fathers.

In the vicinity of this chapel is an eminence, called *Cnoc an tagairt*, or Priesthill. Near this place stood the remains of a cross, at the extremity of a small village. Thither all the people belonging to the barony of Delny, which comprchended a great part of the county of Ross, resorted once in the year, to pay homage to their superior. Here also the barons held their criminal courts; and, if tradition can be credited, the punishment inflicted upon criminals was, to hang the men and drown the women. Corresponding to this tradition, there is a hill within a computed mile of Delny, called *Cnoc na croich*, or Gallows-hill; and on the summit of this hill is a circular pool of water, many fathoms deep, called *Peul a bbaidb*, or the Drowning-pool.

In the year 1751, as labourers were digging a bank of earth near the village of Milntown, they found 4 stones standing erect in the earth, and forming a circle. Here the men looked for a treasure: and, after having with much attention opened the earth, they found a human skeleton, sitting in an erect posture, on a seat seemingly made for that purpose. Many credible persons now living, authenticate this as a fact known to themselves. Tradition says, that several persons have been buried alive in this and the neighbouring parish, by the direction of a cruel and arbitrary landlord, who was proprietor of these lands in the beginning of last century.

Till of late years, little barrows or tumuli in the parish, were avoided by the people with particular caution. The tradition regarding them is, that the plague had once made great ravages in this country, and that all who died of this disease were buried under these tumuli. Such was the terror of the people for the plague, that they would not so much as tread upon one of them, or suffer their horses or carriages to touch them. So late as 1768, one of these tumuli, not much larger than a cart load of earth, was left an impediment on the middle of the road, at the principal entry of the village of Milntown; and no argument could prevail with the inhabitants to remove it. At length, a certain person, who wished to undeceive the people, and cure them of their prejudices, undertook to remove this little barrow; and, while he was thus displaying his courage, the whole inhabitants of the village surrounded him, dissuading him from the dangerous undertaking, and looking every moment for his falling down dead before them: he lives, however, to this day, after removing



one another. These have been hitherto kept in good repair by the statute-labour; but it is proposed to convert the statute-labour into money; and, if that plan is adopted, time will discover whether it will, or will not, prove advantageous to the inhabitants and to the public.—There are three bridges in the parish. Two of them are built over the water of Balnagown; the other over a river into which the sea flows at stream tides, and which, before this bridge was built in 1789, proved very inconvenient to travellers.

There is an extensive level bed of shells, of diverse kinds, in the sands of New-Tarbat and Nigg, chiefly the property of the family of Cromarty, and manufactured into lime by persons trained up to the business from their infancy. There are 20 men, with their wives and children, who are employed in this trade. At full sea, they go from the shore in boats, cast anchor over the bed of shells, and remain there till the sea ebbs; then all hands begin to dig up the shells and freight the boats; and they are ready by the time of flood to return to the shore: this is attempted only in the summer season. The lime manufactured from these shells is reckoned an excellent cement for building, and is peculiarly adapted for plaistering, and finished work. There are 8 boats in the parish; 5 of which are employed in the lime trade for 3 or 4 months: during the rest of the year, they either fish on the neighbouring coasts, or are employed in carrying corn and peats to the opposite shore.

removing this bug-bear, and reducing the ground to a level with the road. From that period, little regard is paid to these tumuli: some of them have been opened, but nothing found worthy of remark.

## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF KINNEFF.

(PRESBYTERY OF FORDON, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND  
MEARNS, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

*By the Rev. MR. PATRICK STEWART.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**T**HE parish has probably taken its name from a castle, the ruins of which are still to be seen upon the margin of the sea, not above 100 yards distant from the church, and to which the church had been a chapel. There are also the remains of a religious house, called St Arnty's kill, at the N. corner of the farm garden, in a straight line betwixt the church, which may be supposed to have furnished clergy to the chapel. There is a small head-land, about 200 yards N. E. of the castle, which might have given rise to the name. History does not mention by whom the castle was built, or the church endowed. There is a vulgar tradition, that the former was erected by one of our kings of the name of Kenneth, and was a royal residence.—The church is about 2 miles N. E. from the burgh of Bervie.—The parish extends along the sea-coast, from the mouth of the river Bervie northward, about the space of 5 miles.—There are in the parish many rising grounds or small hills,

hills, mostly covered with heath ; wherein is to be found a coarse stone with a rotten surface, at a small depth under ground. The soil, particularly along the coast, is a fine rich loam mixed with clay ; yielding plentiful crops of wheat, barley, beans, pease, and sown grafs, when improved in the modern manner, by fallow, draining and lime. The higher grounds at some distance from the coast, yield good crops of oats, bear, pease, turnip, and grafs : and the industrious farmer, by judicious management, here finds his labour well rewarded.— As the parish lies high, without lochs or swamps, the air is very healthy.

*Rivers, Sea-Coast, and Minerals.*—There are only 2 or 3 small rivulets in the parish ; which, by means of dams, make a shift to turn water mills, principally in the winter season.—The shore, which bounds the parish on the E. for about 5 miles, as mentioned above, is bold and rocky ; the tide reaches the foot of the rock, which rises abruptly from 20 to 60 yards in perpendicular height. The rock is for the most part of the pease-porridge or plum-pudding kind ; and is thought to have the appearance of lava. The soundings all along the coast, at 100 yards or less from the shore, are from 8 to 13 or 14 fathoms. There are no rocks which cannot be seen at low water.—The strata of the rocks dip to the S. W. from 30 to 40 degrees.—The bold shore, leaving only a small space of the rocky bottom uncovered at low water, but a small quantity of kelp, perhaps only 4 or 5 tons annually, is made in this parish ; and, for the same reason, the sea-ware is of little benefit.—The best creek in the parish is at Caterline, belonging to the Viscount Arbuthnot, which has two boats ; and, if some money were laid out in raising a small pier at this town, where there is a good situation for it, it would afford a convenient and safe harbour for coasters of 30 or 40 tons burden ;  
and

and a good situation for a village, for the accommodation of tradesmen and manufacturers, might be had in the neighbourhood. The great quantity of corn sold annually by the farmers would be of advantage to such a village.—The next place of residence for white-fishers is Gap-hill, about half a mile S. of Caterline. It formerly had two boats, now it has only one, and lies in a small bay, on the north side of the Tod-head, called Braddan-bay. This bay is about 100 yards in extent, with a rocky bottom, and gravelly beach, where small barks in summer unload lime, coals, &c.—There are no quarries except the sea-rocks above mentioned. They make a strong, durable, straight wall, but are rather too hard for hewing. These rocks have been used for mill-stones, and are in great repute for that purpose.

*Population.*—In 1755, the number of souls was 858. They have since increased; for, by a very accurate visitation-roll lately taken up, it contains about 1000 souls. There is neither town nor village, nor 6 families dwelling together, (the sea-towns of Gap-hill and Caterline excepted), in all the parish.

*The following Statement is taken from the Register of Baptisms and Marriages.*

		Baptisms.			Marriages
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
From 1750 to 1760	-	127	138	265	89
From 1760 to 1770	-	129	97	226	87
From 1770 to 1780	-	96	97	193	102
From 1780 to 1790	-	93	98	191	65
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		445	430	875	343

It is proper to observe, that according to the session clerk's account,

account, there may be 30 or 40 baptisms, through the carelessness of the parents and church officer, neglected to be registered in the above period.—The yearly average of burials for 6 years, preceding 1790, is  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .

There are 8 heritors in the parish. The number of farmers is about 35; whereof 12 possess pretty extensive farms, paying from L. 280 down to L. 70 of yearly rent; and the smaller farmers pay from L. 70 to L. 10.—There are also about 150 families, or houses where families live. The number of whitefishers, both old and young, in the sea-towns, is about 18. There are as many house-carpenters, joiners, taylors, and other artificers, as are needful for the ordinary supply of the parish. There are also about 20 weavers; who are principally employed in manufacturing sacking and ticking, which are the ordinary clothes made for sale in this parish.

All the inhabitants are of the Established church, except 2 men and 4 women Scotch Episcopal, and one man and his wife of the English church.

The number of families is thought to be considerably smaller than it was about 20 years ago. The reason given for this is, that since improvements in agriculture began, some of the farmers occupy more land than their predecessors; for they think a small farm will not defray the expence of management. For this land they pay a very considerably advanced rent, and are at a much more considerable expence in improving it. This farmer, therefore, cannot let a small parcel of land, and keep a cow, to a tradesman or mechanic, upon terms near so low as formerly. The tradesman grudges to pay what the farmer thinks his accommodation worth. The consequence is, the tradesman retires to a town or village, and the farmer tills his own fields, and this, perhaps, is for their mutual comfort and advantage: the farmer, however, will always give encouragement to ground-labourers, because they are necessary

cessary to him.—Every healthy person who is willing to work, and is a good economist, will earn food and clothing here.—The parish has had no emigrants, nor need any of the people remove for want of employment.

*Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.*—The parish rears a considerable number of black-cattle; many more now than formerly. The great advance of price induces the farmer to rear 4 times the number of calves which he raised 15 or 20 years ago: and his improved land enables him to feed them on sown grass and turnips, until they are from 2 to 3 years old. He then finds a ready market, and good prices, from his southern neighbours. Cattle dealers from England are also sometimes seen in the markets.

The horses have for some time past (since it became customary to perform all the labour with these animals) been brought from the south and west country, because the native breed were not of sufficient size. The farmers now begin to rear horses fit for their own work, and find their account in so doing: this also is a consequence of having improved their land. Some of the farmers perform part of their labour with large oxen, harnessed in the same manner as horses, and think they profit by this mode of working them. For bringing the practice of working oxen in this way to the highest perfection, the farmers are indebted to Lord Monboddo, who wishes to give countenance and encouragement to every useful improvement in agriculture. He was the first person we know of, who had a pair of oxen trained to go in the wheel-plough and cart in the same manner as horses; and he had the satisfaction to find that they performed their work equally well.

There are no sheep, notwithstanding of the waste heaths which were divided, about a dozen years ago, among the proprietors of land. Perhaps, when the lands are all improved, and be-

gin to be exhausted by crops of grain, the farmers may think of cultivating the breed of this very useful and profitable animal; and the moors will then become useful by supplying them with heath and whins.

*Contents, Cultivation, &c.*—From an accurate survey and exact map of the county, published in the year 1774 by Mr William Garden, it appears that the parish contains 5043 Scotch, or 6408 English acres. Perhaps about one-half, or rather nearly two thirds are arable.

It has been already observed, that the parish may be divided into coast-side and upper lands. The present post road nearly forms the line of this partition. These two divisions are not so different in soil as they are in situation and climate. The mode of cultivation may therefore be nearly the same, but the produce is different. It may also be proper to remark, that the situation, from being extended along the coast, affords easy access to lime brought by sea. The farmers find no difficulty in getting small barks to run a-shore on the beach, at two or three places where there is access for carts; and, by these means, get as much lime as is necessary at a short distance from their land. Of this manure they have at length learned to make the proper use. They fallow, clean, level, straighten, and drain their fields, and then put lime on them in proportion to the quality of the soil.—To strong land, they give from 40 to 70 bolls of lime shells to the Scotch acre, which boll contains 32 Scotch pints to the firloft; and, to land that is lighter, from 30 to 40 bolls per acre are allowed—To the strong land in the neighbourhood of the coast thus managed, the farmer adds from 40 to 50 cart loads of dung to the acre. He then lays it down with wheat: his second crop is hoed beans or turnips; and his third barley or bear, and grass seeds. The high lands

and light soils, after being dressed in a similar manner, carry good crops of turnips, barley or bear, oats, pease, and grafs.

*Produce.*—Crops of wheat yield from 40 to 50 Winchester bushels per acre; and the subsequent crops of beans, barley, or bear, on strong land, produce nearly the same quantity. On the higher grounds and light soils, the first crops of oats and bear, after thorough dressing, are nearly the same in quantity with those already mentioned.—It may farther be remarked, that the best and most experienced farmers are of opinion, that it is for their interest to have at least one-half of their arable land (or perhaps more) in fallow, grafs, and green crop.—All the farmers raise turnips for their cows and young cattle; and they in general are of opinion, that this is a more profitable way of using turnips than to feed cattle for the butcher. Cabbages in the field have been tried; but cattle always prefer turnips when they can get them. The only advantage of cabbage is, that in time of very deep snow, or hard frost, they may be got when turnips cannot be had.

From the account given of the number of inhabitants, the mode of cultivation, and the returns the land makes, it is evident the farmers raise much more grain, and many more black-cattle, than can be consumed in the parish. What grain and meal are sold from the middle and south part of the county, find in general a ready market at Bervie, Johnshaven, and Montrose; being sent from these places by the canal to the west country. The farmers have, for some years past, regretted the failure of the Firth distillers, as the great consumers of their bear and barley. The north part of the parish and county, send what grain they have to spare to Stonehaven and Aberdeen. The parish may annually export about 4500 bolls of grain, and about 300 black-cattle.—Several attempts have been



made to raise flax; but not with much success, as the people do not understand the management of it\*.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the whole parish amounts to L. 4309:19 Scotch money; and the real rent may be at present about L. 2000 sterling, including farm victual. The rent has been rising for these 20 years past. Of late it has risen astonishingly. For example, an estate in this parish was lately bought for L. 7000 that 25 years ago was offered to be sold for 2000 guineas: that estate, however, now pays nine times the rent it paid at that period. Another estate has been lately sold for L. 4300, which, not above 30 years ago, was bought for little more than L. 750: and several farms in this parish pay now three times as much rent as they paid 7 years ago. This rapid advance of the value of land may be chiefly owing to the easy access to lime, which is the first great mean of improvement; and also, to the superior skill the farmers have acquired in the management of their ground, which makes them more industrious and enterprising than they formerly were †.—

The

\* The average prices for some years past may be computed nearly as follows, viz.

Wheat, Winchester measure	-	-	-	L. 0	19	0	per boll.
Barley, Montrose measure, containing 32 Scotch pints to the firloot	-	-	-	0	15	6	
Chester-bear, Montrose measure	-	-	-	0	13	4	
Beans, 22 Scotch pints to the firloot	-	-	-	0	13	0	
Pease, same measure	-	-	-	0	12	0	
Oat-meal	-	-	-	0	1	8	per stone

† The farmers generally sell their two year old stots and queys for from L. 3 to L. 6, and the three year old from L. 5 to L. 10 sterling each.

† When writing on this subject, it is but doing justice to a very respectable character to say, that the farmers owe their superior skill and management to Mr Barclay of Ury:—A gentleman, whose acknowledged merit entitles him to have his name transmitted to posterity as the first, the most extensive, and judicious

The rent of land in the parish is from 20s. to 30s. the Scotch acre for the best, and from 10s. to 15s. for inferior grounds. The extent of the farms is from 30 to 300 acres\*.

*Ff/b*

icious systematic improver of land in the north of Scotland. The thinking part of the farmers have attended to Mr Barclay's operations for 20 years, and are now convinced of the propriety and advantage of his mode of improvement; and they do not want skill and inclination so much as they want stock to enable them to profit by his example and instructions. This want, he with his usual good sense and discernment, has, to his own tenants in a great measure supplied. For to them he has let his unimproved lands at a moderate rent; he has laid down a plan for the improvement and after management of their farms, which they are bound to abide by; and to such of them as need it, he has advanced the means of improvement for two or three years, interest free. By that time the produce of the dressed fields, upon which the money has been laid out, enables the possessor to repay the proprietor his advance. Mr Barclay has also built comfortable dwelling houses and convenient offices upon all his farms. Thus are all his tenants enabled to carry on their improvements much faster than if they had not these advantages. They live comfortably while they are doing so: when the greatest part of their ground is improved they begin to save money; and, by the time their present leases expire, they themselves will offer (if not double rent) a very great advance for the farms they occupy.

Were the landholders, especially in the north of Scotland, to follow the above or a similar plan, their tenants would be enabled sooner to improve their grounds, to live better than they do at present, and the proprietors in the end must be very considerable gainers by the bargain.

\* Best man-servants who live in the family, receive 6 guineas a year; second sort, 5; and, to those who are capable of overseeing and directing the operations of a farm, as well as working themselves, the farmers give L. 10 a year. The women-servants get from 50s. to 60s. a year. The wheel plough, the chain, the Lothian, and double moulded ploughs are used. A labouring servant, when married, commonly gets from his master a house and a small piece of garden ground: he also gets his fuel brought to his house; six pounds or 6 guineas *per annum*, of wages; and a stone of oat-meal per week for his maintenance. If his master keep a cow for him he pays him 40s. a year for doing so.—The wages of men-labourers are 6d. sterling per day and victuals, from Candlemas to Michaelmas; from that time until Candlemas again, 4d. and

*Fish and Fuel.*—A ling sells from 1s. to 2s.—a cod, from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s.—a skate from 3d. to 1s.—haddocks 1s. per dozen. The price of all kinds of fish is much higher than it was 7 years ago, because of the great scarcity of them upon this coast. Haddocks give now six times their former price; and, after all, our fishers are giving up their employment because they cannot live by it. They also complain of the hardships they suffer by press warrants being issued against them, when there is war, or rumour of war; because they must either then desert their families, who live in misery in their absence, or pay an exorbitant sum, much more than they can afford, to one who goes for them.

The only fuel used here is coals, either Scotch or English. The former cost 8s. 6d. per boll of 70 stones Amsterdam; and the

and victuals. At hay-cutting, a man gets 1s. per day, with victuals and drink. In harvest he gets the same. Women, when hired by the day to field work, get 4d. and victuals: in harvest 9d.—When farmers hire men for all the harvest, they generally give from a guinea to 25s.—and women hired in that way get from 16s. to 20s.—for this they become bound to assist in down-cutting, ingathering, and thatching all the crop.—The wages of a taylor are 8d.—a carpenter 8d.—and a mason 1s. 2d. with victuals. The wages of all these have been raised within these 7 years. If a labouring man luckily marry an industrious well managing woman, and is sober himself, they may live and bring up a family with some degree of comfort, especially if they have saved any money before marriage; which, we are sorry to say, is seldom the case:—for the women generally spend as much upon fine clothes, and the men upon fine clothes and drink before marriage, as would greatly assist them when they have more need of it to support themselves and children.

The present average price of beef, mutton, pork, lamb, and veal, we may reckon at 3d. per Amsterdam pound, at Bervie and Stonehaven, our market towns. In autumn it may be cheaper, and in spring dearer. The price of a hen is from 6d. to 8d.—a dozen eggs 3d.—a duck 6d.—chickens 2d.—butter 8d. per lb. of 22 ounces Amsterdam weight;—and cheese from 4s. 6d. to 5s. for 22 Amsterdam pounds to the stone.

the latter 3s. per boll of 24 stones. Twenty years ago, the farmers brought peat and turf from the hill mosses, at 12 miles distance, and were thus employed during the whole summer. It is no wonder, therefore, that rents were then low: but, as that season is now employed in the cultivation of their lands, they find themselves reduced to the necessity of burning coal fires; and few of them regret the change. They, however, complain of the heavy duty on Scotch coals as a hindrance to agriculture, and a grievous burden on manufactures, and poor people of all denominations. There are still some broom and whins on the dry waste grounds, which the poor people grub up for present use in summer.

*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—The value of the living, including the two glebes of Kinneff and Caterline, may be about L. 80 sterling, and there has been no augmentation since the year 1650\*.—The schoolmaster has a salary of 200 merks Scotch, by decret.—The church and manse were built in 1738, and both repaired in 1784.—The average number of poor upon the roll, who regularly receive alms, may be 15. The session, moreover, give occasional supplies to industrious house-holders

\* In the year 1709, the parish of Caterline was re-annexed to the parish of Kinneff, it having been formerly a part of that parish, by which the living was increased 300 merks Scotch. The parish of Bervie of old made a part of the parish of Kinneff:—For, by a decree of the Lords Commissioners for tiends, in 1608, the parish of Bervie is decerned to remain a part of the parish of Kinneff; and, because there was no bridge on the river of Bervie, the minister of Kinneff agreed to keep a suffragan minister at Bervie. In 1650, the heritors agreed to augment the minister of Bervie's stipend, and also the stipend of Kinneff; because the minister of the latter had given all that part of his stipend, which was paid out of the lands on the S. side of the river Bervie, and L. 47 Scotch more, to the suffragan of Bervie. This was the last augmentation of the stipend of Kinneff, and it left the living less than before.

house-holders with numerous families, who may stand in need of it. The annual sum collected for their relief, including the rents of some seats in the church, which belong to the poor, and also the interest of L. 150 sterling at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. may amount to L. 25 sterling. An annual collection, amounting to about L. 3 sterling is made for the infirmary of Aberdeen. There the sick and infirm parishioners are received, upon bringing a recommendation from the session; and they have the benefit of lodgings, board, and medicines, until they are either cured, or found to be incurable\*.

*Miscellaneous*

\* There are no remains of religious houses but St. Arnty's kiln; probably St. Arnold's cell, already mentioned as standing between the church and the castle; and the remains of a small chapel upon Kingorny, said to be erected upon the very spot where King David Bruce, landing from France in 1342, with his queen and retinue, had high mass performed for his return: and it is thought to have been a royal chapel for some time after. Near the castle of Kinneff, and beyond a small headland about 100 paces N. E. there are to be seen the remains of an old work, upon the top of a peninsular rock, called the castle of Cadden. It seems to have had a ditch and draw-bridge to protect it from an attack by land, where there remain some vestiges of masonry; the rest seems to have been an earthen mound thrown up about the top of the rock. About 200 paces farther N. E. is another peninsular rock, having the remains of a draw-bridge to the land side; upon the top of this rock are still extant the remains of a small house and other buildings, said to have been inhabited by a private gentleman, about 150 years ago; and is named the castle of Whistleberry. And, about 200 paces N. E. from this last mentioned castle, are the remains of a third strong hold, very much like the first in every respect, but much larger. It is called Adam's castle. With respect to the castle of Cadden and Adam's castle there are no traditionary accounts.

Perhaps it may not be improper here to mention, that in 1652, when the castle of Dunnottar was besieged by Major General Morgan, commander for the English parliament, the regalia of Scotland were brought from thence to Kinneff, where they were kept until the restoration by Mrs. Christian Fletcher, the wife of Mr. Granger, then minister of Kinneff. Of this circumstance tradition gives the following account, viz. Mrs. Granger, attended  
by

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The famous Dr John Arbuthnot, intimate friend of Pope and Swift, and physician to Queen Anne, lived for some time in this parish. His father, the minister of Arbuthnot, was, at the Revolution, turned out of his living by his chief and patron, Lord Arbuthnot, who was then a very keen partizan; upon which, he retired to his own property of Kingorny, where he lived for some time, having his son, the Doctor, a young man, along with him.

Since improvements in agriculture and manufactures have

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begun

by a maid-servant, having been at Stonehaven, on her return, asked leave of the general to visit Mrs Ogilvie, wife of Mr George Ogilvie, who then commanded the castle: this leave she obtained; and, on her return, brought the crown royal in her lap; the general himself set her on the horse, and the maid who attended her brought away the sword and sceptre on her back in a bag of flax. The regalia were kept sometimes in the church of Kinneff, concealed under the pulpit, and at other times in a double bottomed bed in the manse, till the Restoration in 1660, when they were delivered to Mr George Ogilvie, who restored them. For this good service Mr Ogilvie was made a baronet; and Sir John Keith, brother to the Earl Marischal, was created Earl of Kintore; but honest Mr Granger and his wife had neither honour nor reward.

Four or five years ago, in digging a grave for Lady Ogilvie of Barras, in the church of Kinneff, there was found, buried in an earthen pot, about a pound and a half of old silver coins. They were almost all of one size, about the breadth of sixpence; a few about half that size; and all bore either the impression of Edward of England, or of Alexander of Scotland. The impression and legend on the Scotch coins are much better executed than on the English. It is likely this treasure might have been laid where it was found, about the year 1336, when the English garrison occupied the castle of Kinneff.

There was a tumulus or cairn, upon St John's hill in this parish, opened about 20 years ago: in the bottom of which, a little under the surface of the ground, were found three long flat stones, one of them covering the other two, and having a shorter one at each end. In this was contained nearly a cart-load of rich black earth; having a mixture of half burnt bones, and bits of oak charcoal, without any kind of urn. There are other tumuli in the parish.

begun to stimulate industry, the mode of living among our people is very much changed. They are much better lodged, fed, and clothed, than they were 20 years ago. A joint of meat, and a kan of punch after it, will be seen on every farmer's table in the parish, when a friend comes to dine with him.

As this part of the coast lies at some distance from any station of excise or custom-house officers, it has been long famous, or rather infamous, for smuggling. By this the morals of the people are considerably hurt, as they often meet with temptations to drunkenness, theft, and perjury, in the course of that business. This illicit traffic has, however, considerably declined on this coast of late, owing to the successful vigilance of the cruizers appointed for that purpose.

The public and private roads in this parish are very indifferent. The post-road from Bervie to Stonehaven goes through it for more than four miles. But we are sorry to say that here, as in many other places, the statute-labour (as it is applied) has been found inadequate to produce the intended effect. The gentlemen of the county convinced of this, intend applying to Parliament, to authorize them to commute the statute-labour, or establish turnpikes. The general voice of the county is in favour of the first.

There are few inclosures, and those only of earth, which is found to answer the purpose only for a short time. No stones can be got but from quarries at an immense expence; and the parish being much exposed to the sea, thorns are prevented from growing. The farmers are so much convinced of the advantages of inclosing, that they would give from 5s. to 7s. an acre for effecting it.

In 1782, the crop in the parish was not sufficient to maintain its inhabitants, though grain is the staple of this district. The scarcity began to be felt severely about the end of May

1783;

1783; and, had not a considerable importation taken place the effects must have been dreadful. A benevolent society, under the patronage of Mr Barclay of Ury, was formed at Stonehaven, for purchasing meal and grain to be retailed at an under price in that town and the neighbourhood, of which this parish felt the good effects. There were some hundred pounds lost, (if money sunk on such an emergency can be called a loss), which Mr Barclay generously paid, partly out of his own pocket, and partly by donations from his friends in London, given for that purpose.—The well-meant supply gifted by Government came at least six weeks too late to give the intended relief. There were bear-meal and potatoes of crop 1783 before it came to hand. It, moreover, consisted of very bad meal, made of damaged pease and bear ground together. From the lateness of its coming, and the badness of its quality (as famine only could have compelled the people to eat it) some are induced to think that the merchants were the greatest, if not the only gainers. Had Government, instead of sending meal, ordered the sum they voted to be paid to the several kirk sessions in due proportions, the Scotch merchants would have supplied the parish with good grain or meal (when mostly needed) for the money.

There are no forests and very little planted wood of any kind; neither will wood thrive, owing to the eastern exposure, and the height of the land.



## NUMBER XXVI.

## PARISH OF LEOCHEL.

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

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE FORBES.

*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**L**EOCHEL, or *Leath-chuil*, is of Celtic extraction; and signifies the "half of Coull," which is the name of a contiguous parish, described in Vol. III. There is a tradition, that Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen, annexed his lands of Corse in the parish of Coull to the parish of Leochel *quoad sacra*, about the beginning of the 17th century. But the inhabitants of Corse pay the stipend affecting these lands to the minister of Coull; though, for time immemorial, they have been under the care of the minister of Leochel, and received church-benefits from him.

The parish of Leochel, including the estate of Corse, is an acute-angled triangle, with the acute angle to the east, about 5 English miles long, and 4 broad.

There are 3 rivulets in this parish, which join at the north side, and form what is commonly called the water of Leochel, which empties itself into the river Don, a little below

low the church of Alford, 27 miles west from Aberdeen. These abound in fine trout; and, in the water of Leochel, salmon are seen in the spawning season.

The general appearance of the parish is hilly; but none of the hills are high except the hill of Corse. All of them are covered with heather; and some abound in game of various kinds. Hares are very numerous.

*Climate, Soil, Produce, &c.*—The climate is healthy; and many of the natives live to a good old age, notwithstanding the dampness and wetness of the low grounds.—The principal distempers are those of the scroptulous kind, consumption, gravel, and rheumatism.—The soil where the ground is low is a strong clay, and uncommonly free of stones. The high arable land is a good mellow soil of a fine grey colour. When properly manured and laboured, both produce good crops. The dry ground answers well with liming and watering. The country in general is rather late, especially when a rainy spring retards the sowing. The sown grass answers well; but, where the ground is wet, the red clover soon wears out. The natural grass on the low grounds, by the sides of the rivulets, is exceedingly good. The farmers sow corn and bear, a few pease, and seldom any wheat. Some potatoes are also planted; and the people begin to sow small pieces of ground with grass and turnips, the advantages of which they are sensible of. In a few years, it is hoped, they will be more reconciled to that practice.—The inhabitants live upon meal, potatoes, turnips, and greens, seldom using any flesh. They have fowls, butter, and cheese in abundance.

*Agriculture and Rent.*—The people in general are not very industrious; and are far from the means of improving their ground. No marble of any kind has been found in the parish; and

and no Lime is to be had within 12 or 14 miles. Some of the most industrious and substantial tenants now begin to carry lime-shells from Aberdeen, which are brought thither from **Sunderland** and the **Firth of Forth**. The measure contains 32 Scotch pints to the firiot; 4 of which make a boll. The Scotch lime is sold from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. and the English from 2s. 8d. to 3s. per boll; 22 of which are sufficient for an acre of light ground; and clay ground will require from 20 to 26. Lime answers as well with the fell, and raises as good crops, as in any other part of the country.

Mr David Scot of Craigivar, the most opulent, intelligent, and industrious farmer in this parish, has expended L. 50 sterling yearly, for 5 years past, upon lime brought from Aberdeen; and, notwithstanding the long carriage, (28 miles) finds his interest greatly promoted by it. He farms the Mains of Craigivar, consisting of 166 acres of good arable land, which he has inclosed, improved, and properly subdivided with stone and earth fences, and planted some thorns which thrive very well, without gathering moss or fog. The bottom of these inclosures is washed by one of the rivulets, which turns 5 corn-mills, 1 barley-mill, and 2 fulling-mills.—If the tenants were industrious, many of them have great command of water for manure; which, when put upon dry out-field land and properly attended to in the spreading, and removal from place to place upon the ground, (which some are now beginning to do), raises as good crops, both of corn and sown grass, as lime can possibly produce.

There is a great deal of out-field in the parish, when compared with the in-town ground. The in-field is constantly in tillage. The out-field is manured with cattle and sheep kept in folds in the summer season; bears five crops of corn, and is as long rested; but carries little or no grass. The acre of in-field is commonly let at from 13s. 4d. to 20s. and the out-field

field from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per acre. The rents are paid at 4 terms in the years, partly in money and partly in meal; and the tenants are obliged to carry their farm-meal to Aberdeen, or the like distance. There are no discretionary services exacted. The tenants are in their tacks taken bound for a few services; one half of which are seldom required, and no money demanded for those that are not. The people are fond of the country, seldom leave it; and, when they do, with great reluctance, returning as soon as they can.

*Population Table.*

Number of souls in 1755	786	Annual average of marriages, ditto	3
In the parish (exclusive of the lands of Corfe) in		Seceders	36
1791	304	Roman Catholic	1
Males	163	Smiths	2
Females	141	Wrights	6
On the lands of Corfe	267	Shoemakers	4
Males	126	Weavers	4
Females	141	Wheel-wrights	1
Total in the two districts	571	Taylor	3
Males	289	Heritors	2
Females	282	Valued rent of the parish in Scotch money	L. 1598:13:4
Annual average of births from 1769 to 1781	20	Of the lands of Corfe,	
of marriages, ditto	5½	ditto	L. 432:4:6
of births from 1781 to 1792	15		

The decrease in the number of inhabitants seems to be owing to the scarcity that prevailed in 1782 and 1783, and to the

the flourishing state of manufactures at Aberdeen, which draw off many people from this and the neighbouring parishes.

*Manufactures.*—The knitting of worsted stockings is the principal manufacture of this parish. It is carried on by almost all the women, by many boys, and several old men.—Different manufacturers from Aberdeen bring out wool, and give the people from 1s. to 3s. for spinning the wool and knitting the stockings. It is generally believed that this employment is too sedentary, and, of consequence, considered as unhealthy:—but it is not so sedentary in this parish as it is in other places; for the people can, and do very frequently, walk 6 or 8 miles a-day without hindering the work; and thus sometimes associate with bad company of both sexes, which tends to corrupt their morals. As the women are constantly employed in this manufacture, scarce any of them can spin flax, and they are obliged to buy their linen cloth. This discourages the sowing of flax; the spinning of which would be more advantageous to the women, and keep them from idly, and often viciously, wandering about. The soil here is much adapted for raising that useful crop, which seldom or never fails to be a good one. The tenants now begin to sow a little of it, which answers well; but, as there is not a lint-mill in the country, they are obliged to carry the flax 8 or 9 miles to a mill, and pay 1s. 6d. for dressing 16 lb. besides drawing and preparing it for the roller.

*Farm-Houses, Ploughs, and Carts.*—The houses and offices of the tenants are indeed very poor; though the heritors bind themselves, at their removal, for the walls of their houses, if built of mason work, and also for the roof. They are generally built of dry stone, and covered with turf. If the tenants built better houses, and went neat and clean, they  
1
would

would become more industrious, and keep a better table.— There are in the parish and lands of Corse 44 ploughs; greatest part of them drawn by oxen, from 4 to 12 to a plough. The crofters yoke their cows and young cattle in the plough. There are now 53 carts in the whole district: in 1772, there were only 4, of which the minister had two.

*Black-Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.*—According to the best information, there seem to be in the parish and lands of Corse from 750 to 800 black-cattle, 1300 sheep, 140 horses of a small size, and about 30 or 40 swine. About 200 cattle are sold annually, either in the country to graziers, or to dealers in the southern counties. A great many horses, within these 8 years past, have been carried to the south; and sold there from L. 3 to L. 10 each. The oxen commonly give from L. 3 to L. 6;—sheep from 5s. to 10s.—and swine from 20s. to 40s. each\*.

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*Exports,*

\* The language spoken in this parish is English, or rather a particular dialect of the Scottish, called the Aberdeenshire dialect. No Gaelic is spoken here, or nearer than Tullich and Corgars, about 15 English miles distant; though it seems to have been formerly the language of this country, the names of several places being evidently derived from it; thus, Craigivar, or *Craig-a-Mbarr*, the “rock of Mar;” Tullicorn, or *Tullich-corna*, the “barley hill;” Cnockannach, or *Cnac-Cboinneach*, “Kenneth’s hillock, or know;” &c.—The inhabitants, since 1745, are much civilized, and little disposed to quarrelling. In general, they are peaceable and well-behaved; not addicted to drinking, which may account for there not being a public-house in the parish. The people have no military turn, and when any of them enlist in the army, they return as soon as they can get their discharge.—The men dress plainly in short clothes and breeches of home-spun cloth, with tartan or shepherds plaids.—The women appear at church as decently dressed as their circumstances will permit, in tartan plaids and duffle cloaks.

Wrights wages are from 10d. to 1s. per day, without victuals, and from 6d to 8d. a pay with victuals. Taylors, with victuals, from 4d. to 6d. per day. Servants are very scarce; and their fees double what they were 20 years ago.

Day-labourers

*Exports, Woods, Fuel, and Roads.*—The parish annually, at an average, sends to Aberdeen, or to the interior parts of the country, from 600 to 800 bolls of oat meal, and from 200 to 300 bolls of bear, except in bad seasons, when the crops are deficient.

Around the castle of Craighvar, there are plenty of good old ash and plane trees, about 200 acres of excellent thriving wood, consisting of oak, birch, Scotch pine, spruce and larix firs; but there are no other trees in the parish, except some hard wood in the tenants yards, some full grown ash and plane trees around the castle of Corfe, and, hard by it, a small plantation of birch and fir.

There is no peat in the parish, except the lands of Corfe, so that the inhabitants are but very poorly provided with fire. They are supplied with turf and heather from the muirs, and a sort of green fods, called *plouds*, which they cast in the exhausted mosses. Some bring black peat from a great distance for drying their grain. Were the coal-duty removed, it would be a great mean of redressing this grievance.

The public roads are made and repaired by the statute-labour. Every man, from 15 to 60 years of age, is obliged to work 3 days in summer, and 3 in autumn, or to pay 1s. 6d. for the whole yearly labour. The roads, as yet, are poorly made.

Day-labourers for husbandry get from 8d. to 10d. per day without victuals, and with victuals, from 4d. to 6d. Mens wages for the year are from L. 2:10 to L. 7: womens wages for the year from 40s. to 50s. Harvest wages for the men, from 26s. to 32s.—and to the women from 15s. to 20s. each.—Meal generally sells from 10s. to 16s.—bear from 13s. 4d. to 18s.—oats from 8s. to 15s.—pease from 10s. to 15s.—and wheat from 15s. to 20s. per boll:—cheese from 4s. to 6s. per stone, 26 lb. Amsterdam to the stone:—beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, from 2d. halfpenny to 4d. per lb.—geese from 2s. to 2s. 6d. each;—hens from 6d. to 9d. each;—chickens from 2d. to 2d. halfpenny each;—butter from 6d. to 9d. per lb. 26 oz. Amsterdam.

made. If every man would pay the composition-money, and men were hired with a proper overseer, the roads would be much more sufficiently done.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church is old, and in bad repair. Sir William Forbes of Craigivar is patron. The manse was repaired and enlarged in 1767, and is a commodious small house. The stipend is 32 bolls of meal, at 8 stones per boll; 16 bolls of bear; L. 31 : 2 : 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  sterling of money; besides 50 merks Scotch, and small services, valued at other 50 merks, paid by the tenants of Corfe, for serving that cure. The glebe, though not legal, is a piece of the best ground in the parish.

The Secession began here about 36 years ago, owing to the reformation of church-music in a neighbouring parish. There is a very good stated Seceder kirk in the end of this parish, and a manse near it. The minister's stipend is L. 40 sterling, made up from the seat-rents and collections. The congregation seems to be upon the decline. The minister is a sensible man, and his hearers quiet and inoffensive. Such of them as belong to this parish get aid from the poor's funds in the same manner as the poor of the Established church do.

There is a good school-house here, but no garden for the schoolmaster. His salary is only 100 merks Scotch; his perquisites, college-fees, and session-clerk's fee, scarcely amount to L. 6 sterling yearly.

The poor's funds amount to about L. 40 sterling; besides 1000 merks Scotch, mortified by Sir John Forbes of Craigivar's lady, and which, by the will of the mortifier, must remain in the hands of that family; but the interest of it is regularly paid to the kirk-session in meal, and divided among the poor in the lands of Craigivar and Corfe. The weekly collections, with what is got about a communion time, do not exceed L. 3 : 10 sterling *per annum*. The poor have no other funds, except penalties, and a very small rent for the poor's loft.



There are 12 poor families who occasionally get supply; and a common beggar is scarcely known in the parish. Rather than beg, the people would live in great misery at home: but the parish is much distressed with strolling importunate strangers.

In 1782 and 1783, the crops were fully as good as in many other parishes, though there certainly was a great deficiency. Besides the Government supply to the poor, the kirk-session, with the approbation of the heritors, bought a good deal of meal, gave of it *gratis* to the poor, and sold it at a reduced price to others. By this means, the poor's funds were greatly diminished; but, happily, none perished for want. The heritors were at pains to procure good seed for their tenants, who have not yet recovered the loss of those bad years\*.

*Eminent*

\* There are three castles in the parish. 1st, The castle of Corse, now in ruins; built in 1581 by William Forbes, father of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen. Tradition bears, and the common people still believe, that the Devil visited the Bishop in this castle; that they differed; and that the Devil, on his departure, carried away with him the broad side of the castle; on the stone-stairs whercof, they still pretend to point out his footsteps.——2d, The castle of Craigivar; which, as is imagined, was begun in the beginning of the 17th century by Roger Mortimer, then of Craigivar. He only built it half way up, which, it is said, hurt his circumstances; and he sold his estate to Mr William Forbes, brother to Bishop Forbes of Corse, who finished the castle in a very elegant manner, according to the fashion of the times, in the year 1626. It is seven stories; two of which are vaulted. Though not at present inhabited, Sir William Forbes keeps it in good repair.——3d, The castle of Lenturk, now in ruins, is supposed to be older than either of the other two. It appears to have been built early in the 16th century. It has a large deep broad foss around it; and, in those days, has been a place of strength. It has been probably built by — Strachan of Lenturk; who, in the reign of James V. very unjustly accused John, master of Forbes, of high treason, which, though not proven, made him lose his head. Tradition bears, that in July 1645, William Forbes of Skellater, having no good will to — Irvine, then laird of Lenturk, came down hither from Strathdon with his men; shut the laird up in the castle prison; lived at large in the castle, and on the estate, till the morning

*Eminent Men.*—None have made any respectable figure, either in learning or eminence, except the Forbes's of Corse. Patrick Forbes, 5th laird of Corse, was elected Bishop of Aberdeen in 1618, and died in 1635. His son, Dr John Forbes of Corse, a man of great learning and abilities, filled the chair of Divinity Professor at King's College, Aberdeen, till he was expelled by the Covenanters. Of three younger brothers of the Bishop, one having acquired a large fortune at Dantzic, purchased the lands of Craigivar and Fintray, and was ancestor of the present Sir William Forbes of Craigivar; another died minister of Delft in Holland, and was father of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen; and a third, having made a considerable fortune in Ireland, was progenitor of the Earls of Granard, in that kingdom.

## NUMBER

morning the battle of Alford, when he went and joined Montrose against the Covenanters, who got a total defeat.

In this parish there are nine large tumuli or cairns; without any broad flat stones on the top, but some of them are hinged round with large stones; and have the remains of Druidical temples hard by them. Some of these temples are composed of two and three circles of erect stones. There have been more cairns in the parish, which have been removed for building houses and fold-dykes. Where they stood, there still remain visible stone coffins, where urns have no doubt been dug up. A few years ago, human bones were found in one of the largest cairns upon the estate of Lenturk, a good way from the bottom, without any stone coffin enclosing them. The stones of all the cairns are in general very small.—On the brow of the hill of Corse, nearly opposite to the castle, there is in a rock a small natural cave, called the *Laird's hiding-hole*; and said to be the place where Dr Forbes of Corse frequently concealed himself during the troublesome times of the Covenanters.

On the top of the hill of Corse there are two or three long trenches, supposed to be the camp or fortification of Malcolm or Macbeth; and near this there are a great number of small tumuli, now overgrown with short heath, which may be the repositories of those killed in battle at that time. At a small distance from these, and on the same hill, it is said Macduff killed Macbeth; where there is a large cairn, still called *Macbeth's-cairn*; and in which, a great many years ago, some old arms were found.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF TARLAND.

(PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O' NIEL, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM MAITLAND.

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*Name and Stipend.*

TARLAND is, perhaps, one of the most disjoined and discontiguous charges in Scotland. It consists of two parishes united into one charge. It is evident, however, that in Popish times, they have been different charges, and the residence of different clergymen, as there is a farm adjacent to one of the churches, which is called *Pittentaggart*; a word, which in the Celtic, signifies the Priest's Croft; and a part of that farm is still occupied by the minister of the united charge, or his subtenant, as glebe. The names of the two parishes are Tarland and Migvy. The churches are distant from each other about 2 Scotch miles; and the minister preaches two Sundays at Tarland, and the third at Migvy, by regular rotation, both summer and winter. With regard to the origin or etymology of the names, Tarland is a corruption of a Celtic word, signifying the flat plain, which agrees perfectly well with its situation. — The minister's residence is at Tarland; where he has

a manse and glebe of about 4 acres, some of it very good, and some of it very poor and sandy, but no grafs nor any allowance for it. His other glebe, mentioned above as part of the Priest's Croft, adjacent to Migvy, is of about 3 acres; which, with a house and small yard, rents at L. 1 : 13 : 4 sterling yearly. The stipend of both parishes was modified, *anno* 1748, to 700 merks money; 35 bolls meal, at 8 stone per boll; and 13 bolls bear; with L. 40 Scotch for communion elements. The Crown is patron. The church and manse of Tarland are situated in a small village almost on the S. W. border of the district, having the whole of that part of the parish, which lies in Cromar, to the N. and N. E. of the church\*.

*Villages.*—The village of Tarland, consisting of upwards of 40 houses, and containing 150 souls, situated in the center of Cromar, is a burgh of barony; has a weekly market on Wednesday, and three larger, and three lesser yearly markets, to which there is a great resort from all the country for several miles round, and at which the most important commercial business of the country is transacted. In these markets, meal is sold by measure, though in all other bargains, relating to that article, it is sold by weight, at 9 stone to the boll. These markets are always attended by two or three notaries or messengers, who, by attention and good management, have within these 30 years past, cleared some thousand pounds from the country. In the village, there are 4 merchants, who keep open shops every day; an inn, with good accommodation for travellers, besides 3 or 4 licensed alehouses; 1 shoemaker; 1 butcher; 1 sadler; 1 dyer; 1 house-carpenter; 2 mantua-makers,

\* Cromar is a division of Mar, in Aberdeenshire, and comprehends in it the parish of Coul in the E. end, the parishes of Tarland and Migvy, of Coldstone and Logy, and part of the parish of Tullich, in the middle and W. end of it.

makers, who also teach white seam ; 1 gardener ; 1 black-smith and ferrier ; 1 wheel-wright ; and 2 or 3 carriers. Here the Earl of Aberdeen, the proprietor, has a granary for the reception of his victual rents ; of which he has 600 bolls meal payable yearly from his estates in this and the neighbouring parishes. In all these markets, besides wood and materials for all kinds of labouring utensils, all kinds of merchant goods, and things necessary for country consumpt, are exposed to sale. In the month of February, there is a market for horses ; in May, there is one for sheep ; the week after that, one for cows ; and in November, one for cattle, which continues two days.

*Extent and Form.*—To describe the extent and form of the parish of Tarland is very difficult. That part of it, which lies in Cromar, may be about 2 Scotch miles in length, from N. E. to S. W. and about 1 in breadth, from N. to S. and is pretty contiguous. Passing N. W. through the parish of Coldstone, through the parish of Migvy, through part of Towie, then through Migvy again, and through Strathdon, at the distance of 8 to 12 miles from the parish church. A part of the parish of Tarland lies along the N. side of the river Don, of between 3 and 4 miles in length ; and in one glen, called Glenernon, from the water Ernon which runs through it, about 2 miles in breadth. This part of the parish of Tarland is under the inspection of a missionary minister, whose salary is paid from the royal bounty, and who performs all the parts of the ministerial office among the inhabitants of it ; so that the minister of Tarland has little or no intercourse with them ; and can give no account of their numbers, births, deaths, or other particulars, which are the objects of enquiry under consideration. The missionary minister is the proper person to give information of that corner. It is said, that this distant part of the parish of  
Tarland

Tarland had been of old, (when the country was less populous, and less cultivated), shealing places, belonging to the proprietors of ground in Cromar; and that, as they came to be more cultivated, they had been sold off as property, which, after changing several masters, has fallen into the hands of the present 4 different heritors, each of whom has property also in the parish of Strathdon.

The parish of Migvy is also very discontiguous. Part of it lies in Cromar, disjoined from Tarland by a part of the parish of Coldstone, which surrounds it on the west, south, and east sides, and comes within  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an English mile to Tarland. On the N. it is bounded by a tract of hills, which divides it from Towie. There was a new church built at Migvy about 3 or 4 years ago, at the distance of about 1 Scotch mile from the central church of Logy Coldstone, which lies to the S. of it. This part of Migvy parish may be about 2 miles in length, from N. W. to S. E. and about 1 mile from N. to S. the church bordering upon the N. W. corner. Passing from this part of the parish, over a ridge of mountains, N. W. by W. through the parish of Coldstone, or N. W. by N. through the parish of Towie, into a glen, there is a part of the parish of Migvy on the N. side of the water of Deskry, which runs through that glen, of 2 Scotch miles in length, and perhaps about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in breadth, from N. to S. At the N. W. end of this glen, the parish of Migvy lies on both sides of the water, where it runs into Don. From this account of the form and extent of the parishes, it will appear that a new division of parishes might be attended with great advantage; and, it is believed, that many other parishes in Scotland will afford ample ground for the same remark.—That part of the parish of Tarland, which lies in Cromar, is divided from Cushny on the N. by a track of high and barren mountains: of which there is a tradition, that the freebooters, who in more lawless times frequented

these hills, when they came from the uncivilized parts of Lochaber, &c. for the sake of plundering cattle, declared them to be the coldest hills in Scotland; and the assertion appears to be not ill-founded.

*Surface, Soil, and Climate.*—The lands about the village of Tarland are mostly flat and level; a great part of them is liable to be overflowed with water. There is a level between Tarland and Coul 2 English miles in length, and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth, where it is said there is not six feet of descent from the one end to the other. In September 1768, the whole of this level was under water. The soil in this level is generally good and fertile: the other parts of the parish are more uneven, and the soil various; tho' the whole would be capable of great improvement, if proper means were within reach, but these are wanting. The tenants are not able to inclose; lime is not to be got, but at an expence which they cannot afford; there is no command of water in most places where it would be most useful. The same things may be said of the lands in that part of the parish of Migvy, which lies in Cromar: the soil on Deskry side is generally thin, and the crops often late, and liable to be hurt by frosts and mildews. The country is mountainous and cold. Over the whole of both parishes the air is dry and healthy; and, among the inhabitants, there are no distempers peculiar to the climate. Nervous and rheumatic complaints are more common than they were 30 or 40 years ago; owing in part, at least, to the different mode of living, which is more generous, and to the use of spirituous liquors among the males, and of tea among the females; both of which are drunk in much greater quantities now, than in the days of our fathers.

*Rivers and Hills.*—In the parish of Tarland, a rivulet runs  
 1 by

by the village, which takes its rise from the springs in the mountains to the N. and N. W. In summer, this stream is very small, and hardly affords water enough to work the mills that depend upon it; but in winter, it is full of water, and by heavy showers often overflows its banks, and lays a great part of the lands in the before-mentioned level under water, to the great hurt of the crops both of corn and grass. The same may be said of the water of Deskry, over which is a stone bridge of one arch built, at Rippachy, on the highway from Strathdon to Aberdeen, and by which travellers pass by another public road to Tarland, and through Cromar. Both these afford no other fish but trout, which, though small, is exceeding good. The river Don, which runs along that part of the parish of Tarland in Strathdon, being there near its source, is but small in summer. It abounds with fine trouts, and sometimes salmon are found in it, as far up as Strathdon. The mountains all over the country are generally covered with heath, and afford pretty good pasturage for sheep, and in some places for young cattle. They abound with moorfowl, plover, dottrel, foxes, hares, and other game: the common quadrupeds in the parish are horses, black-cattle, sheep, and some hogs.

*Population.*—With regard to the population of the parishes, no distinct account can be given, as no register of births, deaths, or marriages has ever been, or can be exactly kept in them, owing to the distance of several parts of the united charge to the place of the minister's residence. The people of Migvy or Deskry-side attend religious ordinances at the church of Towie, and get their children baptised there, as being nearer to them than Tarland. They never think of seeking to get a child's name entered into the parish register; those of Tarland parish, in Strathdon, are in the same predicament. As to



that part of Tarland and Migvy immediately under the minister's inspection, and on Deskry-side, where he catechises regularly every year, the number of souls can be ascertained very exactly. In the year 1768, in these bounds, the numbers were 826 above 7 years of age, and 101 below 7;—total 927. From that time to 1791, the numbers have been fluctuating, but upon the whole decreasing. In 1791, the numbers in the same bounds were, 688 above 7, and 118 below 7;—total 806. The occasion of this decrease may be, that many families, upon being reduced in their circumstances, remove to towns, where, from the improvements that are carrying on, in agriculture, manufactures, &c. they get work and wages in proportion to their strength and capacity; and, by these means, make a shift to live much better than they could have done by continuing in their former situation. Within these 14 or 16 years past, many numerous families have gone from Tarland to Aberdeen.—Some individuals have reached the age of 80, or it be may a little above that, but none have exceeded 90 since 1767. Of 806, the total number *anno* 1791, 400 are males, and 406 females. Of the whole, there may be under 10 years of age, about 180; from 10 to 20, about 170; from 20 to 50, about 310; from 50 to 70, about 130; and from 70 to 90, about 16, as nearly as can be guessed. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, from the whole united parishes, was 1300 souls.

*Farms, Agriculture, &c.*—In the parishes of Tarland and Migvy, exclusive of that part of Tarland in Strathdon, there may be about 50 or 54 farms; some of larger and some of lesser extent; some possessed by one, and others by two tenants, each of whom have from 2 to 3, and some 4 or 5 sub-tenants; and about a dozen of smaller possessions occupied only by one tenant. The number of horses and cattle upon these farms is various, according to the abilities of the farmer; some

some have 3, some 4 horses, with some 8, some 10, and some 12 oxen, for their ploughs; and some 2, some 3, and some 4 cows, with their calves of one and two years old. Some have 2, others 3, and some 4 or 5 score of sheep upon a farm. The subtenants keep a horse and a cow. The general value of the ordinary horses are from L. 5 to L. 12, and some few to L. 14 or L. 15 sterling. The common sizes of cattle are worth, from 3 years old and upwards, L. 3; L. 4, L. 6, and sometimes L. 7 sterling; cows from L. 2 : 10 to L. 6 : sheep are generally worth, widders from 10s. to 15s. ewes and lambs of the country breed from 4s. to 8s. and lambs from 2s. 6d. to 4s. — The farmers in this country, in general, are obliged to send their labouring cattle away, about the end of May, for summer grazing, to glens at the distance of 30 or 40 miles, from whence they do not return till about the end of August; and many of them must send their sheep, at least their widders, to distant pastures for the summer season too. This is a great draw-back upon the improvement of their farms, as besides the expence of paying for graze, which within these dozen of years has risen from 2s. to 8s. a head for cattle, they lose the benefit of their dung for 3 months. Another great inconvenience they have to struggle with in summer, is the difficulty of getting servants, which is owing to the following practice that has prevailed for some years back:—a great number of able-bodied winter servants engage to go out of the country in summer, for building dykes and enclosures to those gentlemen who are carrying on improvements in the south country; and by these means they make double, sometimes triple, the wages in the summer half year that they could get or expect by engaging with a farmer at home. The Dyker, as he is called, gets from L. 2 to L. 3 sterling, and sometimes more, for 3 months in summer; then he returns home, and gets 25s. or 30s. perhaps 35s. for harvest work, and from harvest, if it is early, to Martinmas, some will make

make from 8s. to 12s. By this practice, the farmer in Cromar has much ado to get servants in summer, sufficient for preparing and leading home his year's provision of fuel for fire, which consists of peats and turf : to lay in a proper quantity of these takes up most of the time from Whitfunday to harvest. —Some of the farmers are beginning to raise turnips and potatoes, and to lay down sown grass; but for want of inclosures and winter herding, which is abhorred by the generality in this corner, it is impossible that any progress can be made in these improvements.

*Manufactures.*—The only branches of manufacture in this country are the spinning linen yarn, and knitting hose. The dealers in these manufactures have a number of stations in the village of Tarland, and over the whole neighbouring country, where lint and wool are given out, and yarn and stockings taken in, the yarn, at from 10d. to 15d. per spindle, and stockings at from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for spinning and knitting the pair, in proportion to the different qualities of the respective articles. These bring a great deal of money into the country; by which the greatest part of the poorer families are supported, and enabled to pay the rents of their houses and small crofts of land. But the females, who sit from their childhood at the stocking or little wheel, are generally valetudinary, and commonly can do nothing at any other labour; and, when these works bring tolerable prices, it is difficult for those that need them to get female servants.

*Productions and Rent.*—The parishes of Tarland and Migvy produce a great deal more grain and victual than is necessary for their own consumpt; and considerable quantities of meal and bear are annually carried to Aberdeen, or disposed of to supply the neighbouring Highland districts, where the  
meal

meal is needed for the support of the inhabitants, and the bear made into bear and whisky. The times of sowing and reaping are variable, as the season answers. The harvest in Cromar, and particularly about Tarland, is generally as early as in any corner of the county of Aberdeen.—Some of the farmers in the parish pay from L. 40 to L. 50 ster. of rent; others from L. 30 to L. 40; and some not above L. 20 or L. 25, including money, farm meal and bear, cess, and other public burdens; and, when calculated, the single acre may be worth, out-field from 3s. to 5s. and in-town from 16s. to 20s. and some of it 25s. according to the nature of the soil.—In the whole united parishes of Tarland and Migvy, there are 13 heritors; of whom, 6 have property in the parish of Tarland, and 7 in the parish of Migvy: of all these, only 2 in Strathdon reside within the parish. The valued rent of Tarland is L. 1806:3:6, and of Migvy L. 1265:6:8 Scotch\*.

#### Miscellaneous

\* The prices of provisions are various. Beef, mutton, and pork, from 2d. to 4d. per lb. geese from 2s. to 2s 6d each; ducks from 6d. to 10d. each; hens the same; chickens from 1d. to 2d. each. Butter, fresh, from 5d. to 8d. per lb. of 28 oz.—when salted, from 8d. to 11d. Cheese from 4s. to 6s. per stone, 16 lb. to the stone, and 28 oz. to the lb. Eggs from 2d. to 3d. per dozen. Oats from 12s to 20s. and bear from 12s to 24s per boll, with a peck to each boll; and when grain of any kind is sold with the straw, by the uniform practice of the country, the purchaser has the proof, which is the twentieth part of the stock, and a peck to each boll; these are called the Charities. And here it may be observed, that as there are very different qualities of grain, the selling it by the measure is not at all a fair medium of commerce; because the same price is exacted for grain that weighs no more than 18 or 19 stone per boll, as for other grain that will weigh 20 or 22 stone.—It might be of advantage to the public in general, if a certain weight was established for the boll, then the purchaser would always have nearly the same value for his money.—The wages of servants are, men, from L. 1:10 to L. 3.—A woman, from 20s to 25s. the half year.—Day labourers, from 6d. to 8d. and in harvest, 10d. a day, besides victuals.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The number of poor who receive support from the parish funds may be from 16 to 20. There are no funds or mortifications for their support, but the daily collections in the churches, which may, at an average, amount to 20d. or 2s. every sabbath, exclusive of the collections on a communion occasion, which commonly amount to about L. 3 sterling. —There is nothing remarkable in the characters or dispositions of the people. They are generally of the ordinary size; and not at all deficient in hospitality.—Carts are pretty generally used both in husbandry and by carriers.—Tarland, it is believed, would be a very proper place for a linen manufacture, as there is good accommodation for a bleachfield, the water being very soft, and fit for bleaching; and now that there is a lint-mill erected by the Earl of Aboyne in the neighbouring parish of Coul, there is a sort of spirit for raising lint beginning to appear among the inhabitants of Cromar; and, if this was encouraged, it might be of great advantage to the country. It might also be of service, to have a public distillery erected at or near Tarland, as the country yields a great deal of good bear, weighing from 18 to 22 stone per boll. But as there are no residing heritors in the country, little attention is paid to the benefit or improvement of it.—By the statute-labour, which is exacted in kind, the roads in the parish are put and kept in pretty good repair.

## N U M B E R XXVIII.

## P A R I S H O F K I N N A I R D .

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

*By the Rev. MR. DAVID SPENCE.*

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*Name and Extent.*

**T**HE name of the parish is compounded of two Celtic words, which signify *high end* or *head*. It may have got this name (as most Celtic names of places are descriptive) from the raised situation of the village, or castle of Kinnaird, which stands higher than the village, a little on the north side of it; and commands an extensive and beautiful prospect to the S. of the Carle of Gowrie, bounded by the river Tay, and the north hills of Fife.—The barony lands of Kinnaird belonged originally to the noble family of that name, by a grant from one of the kings of Scotland; and from them they derived their name and title, though no part is now in their possession.—The castle bears the marks of considerable antiquity; and is said by the country people to be between 500 and 600 years old. Great part of it appears to be entirely demolished; but so much remains as shews that it has been designed for defence; and was formerly a place of very considerable strength,

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like many others in Scotland, during the prevalence of the feudal institutions, when the chieftains, supported by their dependants, lived in a state of almost constant hostility with each other.

The parish is situated in what is called the Carse braes, about midway between Perth and Dundee; extends about 2 miles E. and W. and 3 S. and N. comprehending the waste and uninhabited hilly lands,

*Soil and Climate.*—The smallest, but richest part of the parish, lies in the Carse of Gowrie; well known for the strength and fertility of its soil. On the south side of the Carse braes, the soil is a mixture, in different proportions, of black earth, and what is called mortar, perhaps from its cementing quality, which makes it fit to be used in building. It is not so rich and strong as the Carse clay or black earth, but produces crops of all the different grain sown in the Carse; though not so luxuriant, yet of such good quality, that the farmers can dispose of them at nearly the same price. The north side of the braes, not only the climate, but the soil, light and shallow, render less fit for cultivation. It is mostly bent and heath, intermixed, however, with fields of good natural pasture; which, divided at a small rent, among tenants who have farms on the south side, enables them to rear a greater number of cattle than they could otherwise have done, the yearly sale of which assists them to pay the higher rents at which they have their corn farms.

The air of the Carse and Carse hills is rather moist; from which, it might be thought, unhealthy, and that rheumatisms, agues, and consumptions, would be the prevailing distempers. They are, however, by no means so prevalent as formerly; owing no doubt, in a great measure, to the progress of improvement by draining, which continues to be carried

on

on with spirit; and by which, besides promoting health, rich corn fields are got from marshy ground that yielded nothing before but grafs of the coarsest quality. Now, the people in general are healthy and long lived. In this small parish, within 6 or 7 years past, several who had always resided in it died between 70 and 90 years old; and there are now living in it a man and a woman at the advanced age of between 90 and 100.

*Population.*—The population of the parish has been gradually decreasing for many years past; owing in a great measure to the monopolizing of farms; 10 or 12 small farms, which supported as many families, having been at different times added to larger ones, in the cultivation of which the farmers employ not cottagers, but young unmarried men. The return to Dr Webster in 1755, however, was only 290 souls. The present state is as follows :

Number of inhabitants	Inhabited houses	90
31st December 1790 404*	Heritors (non-resident)	2
Males - - - 206	Annual average of births,	
Females - - - 198	for 6 years preceding	
Under 10 - - - 83	1742 - - -	19
From 10 to 20 - - - 87	_____ preceding	
— 20 to 50 - - - 157	1758 - - -	16
— 50 to 70 - - - 63	_____ preceding	
— 70 to 90 - - - 12	1773 - - -	11
— 90 to 100 - - - 2	_____ preceding	
Married - - - 152	1789 - - -	10½
Widowers and widows 24	Annual average of deaths	
Farmers servants - 88	from 1780 to 1790	7
Weavers - - - 44		
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\* Only one family in the parish, and an individual of another, are Seceders.



The number of farms in the parish has been reduced, within these 50 or 60 years past, nearly one-half. There are in it at present about 14 farmers; but 4 or 5 of these have very small farms, on which a family can hardly subsist without some other occupation. The largest farms do not exceed 130 acres of good arable land: besides these, there are between 50 and 60 acres of good ground parcelled out among the trades people in the different villages, to enable them to keep cows for the use of their families, and one horse each, for labouring jointly their farms, and carrying the commodities they have for sale to the neighbouring market towns. The number of household and labouring servants, chiefly the latter, employed by the farmers, exclusive of their children, is 88; that of artificers, 57, of whom 44 are weavers, who not only work for the inhabitants of the parish, and others who may employ them, but also manufacture for sale, a great deal chiefly of what they call Harn, and coarse packing cloth, for which they find a ready market in the town of Dundee.

*Natural Productions, &c.*—The productions, mode of cultivation, times of sowing and reaping, and price of grain, are the same in this as in the neighbouring parishes, particularly that of Kilspindy, accounts of which have been already published. The method of dividing farms into 6 parts is generally practised. The best crops of wheat, both for quantity and quality, are from land well prepared by summer fallowing and liming, which always compensate the farmer for his trouble, expence, and the loss of one crop. After fallow, wheat, pease, and beans are sown; and for the most part ploughed down as early in spring as the weather will permit; after this, barley with clover grass seed is sown; and good grass seldom fails to be succeeded by a luxuriant crop of oats. The small quantities of flax, potatoes, and turnip, raised in the parish, come in under

der different divisions of farms, according to the particular state of the lands. There are more than 1000 acres of good land fit for raising, in proper succession, the crops above-mentioned; besides moor and hill pasture, and grounds on the south side of the hill, which, though of good soil, are inaccessible to the plough. These the proprietor is now very properly employed in planting with trees, particularly firs of different kinds, which will probably, in a few years, cover the only barren prospect of the parish from the Carse, and be an ornament to the whole country.

*Situation of Farmers.*—The farmers in general are intelligent and industrious in their business, and therefore prosperous and contented. The rapid progress of improvement in this place, for upwards of 30 years past, has amazingly raised the value of land; and enabled the proprietor, in every new lease since that period, considerably to raise his rent, not only without prejudice to the tenant, but often for his interest, by compelling him to vigorous exertion in improving his farm. Raising rents will always have this effect, if it is done with discretion, but when otherwise, it will have a quite contrary consequence; for when the tenant finds that, by his utmost exertion, he cannot pay the rent and live with tolerable comfort, he will sit down in sullen despair and do nothing. From the sudden and great rise in the value of land, proprietors are apt to entertain extravagant notions of its value, and to demand a price for it, not according to what it is known to have produced, even when laboured upon the best plan of improvement yet discovered, but according to their own chimerical prospect of what it may come to be worth, in consequence of farther improvement. Experience proves, that there is no demand, how extravagant soever, but the ignorance or vanity of some will come up to; and the consequence often is, that the tenant

nant is ruined in a few years, and the landlord's great rental turns out to be nominal. Proprietors here, however, are attentive to the characters of tenants, as well as to the quality of their lands, of which they are in general very good judges; and accordingly let farms, at reasonable rents, to such as will labour them with skill and industry. The best land in this parish is let at, and some of it considerably below, L. 2 per acre; one excellent farm at little more than 30s. and a good brae farm at 25s. per acre. Many farms in the Carse are let higher, and some of them perhaps too high; but in general, they seem to be in a proper enough medium for encouraging industry and frugality, and stimulating the powers of ingenuity and invention; and tenants, who are intelligent in their business, and attentive to it, still expect to pay the rent, and live comfortably, notwithstanding the extravagant price of working horses, and the high wages of labouring servants. Let not proprietors think, however, that they may still go on swelling their rental at the granting of every new lease, they will not do that if they consult their own interest, which must ever, in a great measure, depend on the virtue and prosperity of the tenantry.

The condition of the tenants in this, as well as in other parishes on the north of the Carse, will be greatly meliorated by making good roads to the different shipping places along the banks of Tay. This great improvement Mr Allan of Errol has begun; and the several gentlemen in the neighbourhood are heartily disposed to carry on a work, conducing so much to the benefit and comfort of the whole country; facilitating at all times a most useful communication which was before quite impracticable, at least for loaded carts, during the greatest part of the winter season.—Farmers might also meliorate their own condition by attending, more than they generally do, to the breeding of horses.—Every farmer of nearly 100 acres, rears annually

nually 10 or 12 black-cattle, in which he finds his advantage; but few make the rearing of horses an object of equal attention, though, it is certain, they could breed them much more hardy and durable for work than foreign horses are found to be, and at a third of expence at which they purchase these horses\*.

*Situation of Tradesmen.*—The tradesmen in the parish are in general industrious and well employed; and it adds much to the comfort and health of the weavers especially, that along with their houses, they have so much good land divided among them, as enables them to keep cows and small horses, and gives enough of wholesome exercise, without taking too much time and attention from their principal business. Their condition would be meliorated if the proprietors would divide the lands more equally among them, and prevent the possibility of engrossing:—by this, envy and animosity would be prevented, and the peace and prosperity of them all would be much promoted.

*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—The church was built in 1674, and the manse in 1786. It was so superficially executed, as already to need repair, as well as the church. The stipend is 6 bolls of wheat; 30 bolls, 1 firiot, and 2 pecks of barley;

28

\* Labouring servants here have great encouragement. Their common wages are from L. 8 to L. 10; besides a sufficient allowance of milk and meal for their maintenance. Those who distinguish themselves for fidelity and diligence in service often get more. With such wages they may not only live comfortably, but if they are virtuous and frugal, while young and in health, may provide for their support in a time of distress, or when the infirmities of declining life unfit them for labour. Servants, who are faithful, attentive, and sober, are very much valued; and, besides their high wages, have so many advantages from the voluntary attention of their masters, that they are often able, after 10 or 12 years service, to stock small farms for themselves.

28 bolls of meal; and L. 37 : 10 sterling, in money; with a glebe of between 8 and 9 acres.

One of the poorest, though not surely the least useful man in the parish, is the schoolmaster:—to maintain a young rising family, the amount of all he can make, as schoolmaster and session-clerk, is between L. 11 and L. 12 sterling yearly. Many of his brethren in the country are in the same miserable situation; and cannot better their circumstances, but by following some business, inconsistent with proper attention to their schools\*.

Seldom above 3 or 4 are on the poor's roll. The permanent fund for their support is but L. 50 sterling. The interest of that sum, however, with the weekly collections, has been found hitherto sufficient for the stated distributions, and also for occasional charities, sometimes well bestowed on honest industrious persons, who have been reduced by distress or unavoidable misfortunes, to enable them to proceed on their usual occupations.

*General Character.*—The different orders of people in this place are in general sober, honest, and industrious; and as their external circumstances, so their natural genius and temper, are favourable to tranquillity and contentment of mind.  
They

\* If the prosperity of the state depends much on the piety and virtue of the commonality, and this again on early education, public spirited men should surely exert themselves to meliorate the condition of parochial schoolmasters, to enable them to give their whole attention to the education of youth. Many who know and feel for their extreme poverty, so pernicious to the general interest of education in the country, were sorry to hear of councils and deliberations solemnly held by gentlemen of landed property, in different parts of Scotland, as upon business of the last importance, only to baffle the petition of the poor schoolmasters for such an addition of their salaries as might enable them to live, without having recourse to any business foreign to their profession.

They are little susceptible either of the pleasures or pains which result from a lively imagination and delicate sensibility of temper ; but though not remarkable for vivacity, they are judicious and discerning, especially in farming ; and a new practice, that is generally adopted in the Carse, may be depended upon as a solid improvement. Their religion may be often tinged with superstition, but is seldom heated with enthusiasm. If, where it is in truth, it is accompanied with little fervour, it however operates as a calm, rational, steady principle of wise and virtuous conduct.



## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF KINTAIL.

(PRESBYTERY OF LOCHCARRON, SYNOD OF GLEN-  
ELG, COUNTY OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. MR. RODERICK MORISON.

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

THE parish of Kintail derives its origin from *Cbean-dha-baal*, the "head of two salt water bays." An arm of the sea at Coalacin extends eastwardly till it meets the first point of land in Kintail: the arm in this place divides itself in such a manner that two-thirds takes a S. E. direction; and, after extending 3 miles, it terminates, and forms what is called Lochduich. The other division of the aforesaid arm, called Lochlong, has the same extent, and incloses the parish almost on the N. It also separates this district from Lochalsh. These two arms, environing the parish of Kintail, forms the habitable parts thereof into the figure of a deer's horn.

The extent of this parish is 13 miles long, from S. to N. including the grazings and hilly ground; and in general 6 computed miles broad. The parish is divided into 3 districts;—the fide of Croe,—Glenelchaig,—and Glasletter. The last division, belonging to the Laird of Chisholm, consists chiefly of  
hill

hill pasture, which is reduced to ten separate grazings. Some of its possessors are connected with other parishes; and, as they retreat to their winter dwellings after harvest, their number cannot be minutely ascertained. The other divisions of the parish, belonging to Francis Humberstone M'Kenzie, Esq. of Seaforth, contain 840 souls.—The natives of the parish are all Mac Raes, except two or three families\*.

*Rivers, Hills, and Roads.*—There are two rivers in this parish, the Loigh and the Croe, which arise in small rivulets in the mountains; the former runs into Lochlong, and the latter into Lochduich. Both these rivers were once famous for salmon; and the fishings were common to the inhabitants, till they were laid under strict prohibition, soon after 1745. Stills

H h 2

were

\* The first man of the clan had, it is said, in his younger days, many difficulties to encounter, from which he with great dexterity extricated himself. His father, upon hearing the happy events attending his son, exclaimed, *Bbair mbac rayb aigh*, "He is the son of good fortune."—It is generally allowed that the Mac Rae's emigrated from the braes of Aird, on the Lovat estate, to this place, though what induced them to prefer the mountains to the plains, is not universally agreed upon, yet certain it is, that long after their residence in Kintail, they maintained a firm alliance with the Frasers of Aird. The tradition which prevails, that an inscription was set up nigh the entrance to Lovat house, bearing, "That no Mac Rae must lodge without, when a Fraser resides within," is not wholly without foundation. When the Mac Raes first entered Kintail, there were several clans inhabiting it, particularly the Mac Aulays, of whom no vestige now remains. The Mac Lennans, a small tribe in the parish of Glensheal, were the only people that would not yield. These Mac Lennans, at the battle of Auldearn, were intrusted with Seaforth's colours; the novelty of the preferment roused them to action and stubborn resistance, which proved fatal to the clan, for many were slain; and their widows, 18 in number, were afterwards married to Mac Raes.—The boundaries, which divide the Mac Raes from the Mac Lennans, are marked by a river which runs into Lochduich; but common observation may easily trace a line of distinction from the difference in their language and accent.



were then established; a novelty which the people did not relish; and some of them testified their disapprobation of this abridgement of their privileges, by dragging the nets a-shore, and reprimanding the fishermen. They acted under the idea, that hunting and fishing were privileges handed down to them by their ancestors; and that these immunities ought never to be monopolized nor wrested from mankind.

Kintail is on every quarter surrounded with high hills; the most eminent is *Tulloch-ard*, which commands a view of many of the Hebride islands. This mountain claims particular attention, on account of the veneration it was held in antient times. Like the temple of Janus, it indicated peace or war: the voice of hostility was sure to roar on its summit; for, when war commenced, a burning barrel of tar, on the highest ridge, was the signal; and all the vassals and tenants of Seaforth appeared next morning, armed *pro aris et focis*, at the castle of Donan, the usual place of rendezvous\*.—*Maam Tuirc*, or Boar Hill, is another high mountain to the east of Tulloch-ard. It divides Glenelchaig from the side of Croe.

There are no statute or military roads within the parish. Some remains of a road are to be seen along the shore of Lettercoil. This useful road was intended to be carried on along the north side of Lochduich; but the tenants, after much labour and trouble, deserted it, probably for want of a proper fund to go forward. Till of late, the people of Kintail, as well as other Highlanders had a strong aversion to roads. The more inaccessible, the more secure, was their maxim.—But of all the roads leading to this place, none calls more for public attention than that of Afric or Belloch. This road is 13 computed

\* This burning mount the family of Seaforth bears for their crest. And those who relish the music of the bagpipe, shew no little regard to the tune of Tulloch-ard, or Seaforth's gathering.

puted miles from Kilduich in Kintail, to Knochn in Strathglafs. It is allowed to be the nearest communication between the E. and W. seas; and, though daily frequented by people from Sky and other places, to Inverness and Dingwall, with heavy loads, there is no inn to accommodate travellers, except the booths of shepherds, which in stormy weather they frequently burn for feul.—Within 3 miles of Kintail, at a place called Belloch, is a high ridge of hills which environs this district on the E. and would render it inaccessible from that quarter, if nature had not left a small gap in the mountain, as if it had been fawn down to the middle, which leaves room for 3 passengers to go a-breast. The ascent on the E. to the Belloch is about 100 yards in a zig-zag direction. The western aspect is truly steep and vexatious: the intermediate space on the top is a quarter of a mile long, and 5 feet broad. The traveller finds himself, in passing through this gut, inclosed with hills of rueful aspects, inspiring awe, and often quickening his pace\*.

#### *Character*

\* After the battle of Culloden, Lord George Sackville, entered Kintail by this road, driving cattle and plunder before him. Mr John M'Lean, the minister of this parish, appeared before his Lordship, to protect the Kintail men, (being at that time loyal subjects), from unmerited insult; but, from the simplicity of Mr M'Lean's dress, his Lordship inferred imposition; and, seizing a loaded pistol, gave orders for his appearing instantly before him with his library, that his opinion concerning his sacred character might no longer remain in suspense; otherwise he would suffer for daring to insult him. This uncommon salutation, added to the natural trepidation of the venerable old man,—he made all possible haste to bring back a volume of Pool's Annotations, which convinced his Lordship, that the want of pontifical robes in the Highlands was no obstacle to veracity. This volume of Pool's Annotations is still within the precincts of the place; carefully laid up in the library of the minister of Glensheal, and preserved like the old Palladium of Troy.—Of all the travellers attempting the Afric road, none ever left such memorable traces behind him as Mr Ross of Easter Fern, who after the battle

*Character of the People.*—Within the mountains already described, one will naturally expect to find untoward aspects, with asperity of temper: this conclusion 40 years ago was truly incontestible, but the greatest change has taken place of late years. The natives or Kintail are tall, robust, and well-limbed; able to endure much cold and fatigue; generous and hospitable; and if they are sometimes peevish to strangers, it is by reason of encroachments on their grazings and hill pasture. This peculiarly arises from their being wholly devoted to the pastoral life, without intermeddling with any other branch of manufacture or trade. In the last century, or rather later, the inhabitants of Kintail wore nothing but the woollen manufactures of the place; but at present, every individual purchases linen, and affects as much neatness in dress as any of their neighbours. It is easy to remark, that their attachment to

Seaforth

battle of Glensheal, 1719, received a commission from government to repair to Kintail with a select body of men, to collect the rents of that place, in name of his majesty. His intentions, however, were announced to the Kintail men, who assembled with great precipitation, and meeting Mr Ross at a place called Lochan cloigh, 2 miles from Knochn, a musket was fired from the summit of a grove, hanging over a pond of water, the ball grazing slightly the back of Mr Ross's neck, he dismounted instantly, and replaced his son on his horse. After this accident, he pursued his journey for 4 miles, till coming to a place which divides the hill road, called Doir no mearlach, a party at the foot of a spreading fir-tree, on the opposite bank of the river, fired and wounded Mr Ross's son. This second alarm so intimidated the troops, that Mr Ross was easily persuaded to offer terms of capitulation to the Kintail men, at that time commanded by a Colonel Murcheson; a gentleman, whose natural parts qualified him for a higher station.—Mr Ross's son, young Walter, died of his wounds, on his way home, his body was carried on a litter to the priory of Beaulieu, and there interred.—After this fruitless expedition, another was attempted next year by the Lochcarron road, by a captain M<sup>r</sup> Neal, whose fate was little better. He received a wound, and returned immediately.

Seaforth borders on extravagance; and those who know them, allow that their temperance and frugality merit imitation. It deserves to be remarked among the peculiarities of this parish, that no male or female comes under the contemptible appellation of a drunkard; and also, that there is not a M<sup>r</sup>Kenzie resident, or possessor, in the place, though it has been the property of that name for many generations.

*Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—The chief production is black-cattle; on which account it has got the name of *Kintail no Bogh*, or, “Kintail of cows.” It is not size, but shape and figure, that gives the Kintail cattle the claim to preference, in the opinion of drovers, who always expect to meet with three good properties, a choice pile, weight, and short legs, in the true breed of cattle on the soil. Yet it may with truth be remarked, that few Highlanders are less attentive to the choice of bulls, their stews being laid entirely on the rearing and feeding of calves. The number of black-cattle in the parish amounts to about 1200. The price of a milch cow in May is generally L. 5, and at Martinmas, L. 4.

Every farmer rears a few sheep and goats, but their number is very inconsiderable; and they are chiefly intended to reach at that pasture which, by its steepness, is inaccessible to black-cattle. The sheep are of the low and common kind; their wool, however is reckoned fine; though of late, by the introduction of large tups, it is thought the quality is affected, and that the intermixed progeny infects the whole flock with braxies, and other unknown distempers. The price of a goat is 6s.—and of a wedder, 8s.

There are about 300 horses in the parish. Ploughing and every sort of labour is carried on by them; but they are never allowed to pasture with milch-cows in summer: for them, the best grass of the mountains are reserved. The plough with which

which these horses labour the ground is of a singular construction: The two handles are almost perpendicular; the ploughman therefore stands in an erect position. Four horses all in a breast pull against the beam in thongs of leather cords, generally made of the skins of deers. Behind the ploughman, a man follows with a spade to compress the strong furrows which resisted the side boards. The driver confronts the ploughman, holding the reins of the horses collected in a cross stick 3 feet long: in this awkward position, the driver moves backward; and neither example nor precept can convince the people of a better mode of culture.—Horses for the plough are sold at L. 6 or L. 7 sterling.

*Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—Sowing commences about the beginning of April, and continues to the end of May: This period is occupied in sowing oats, barley, and particularly potatoes; the greatest attention is bestowed on this root, as it makes up more than one-half year's subsistence, with the fish and herring Lochduich furnishes in the months of August and September.—Every tenant who farms L. 20 rent, generally has 20 milch-cows, and sows 4 bolls of oats, and half a boll of barley. Indeed, as is already observed, the great aim is to have a plentiful crop of potatoes; for the other crops have a variety of weathers to encounter, and cannot therefore be depended upon. The most competent judges of the soil and climate, suggest the plan of raising potatoes and green crops as the best Highland farming scheme.—It is customary to cut down a great quantity of natural grass in the month of August; which, after receiving proper seasoning, is made into ropes of two fathoms in length, and then twisted two-fold: being thus compressed, it requires less room in barns, where all their crops are laid up. This process has another advantage; for, in this mode, it is carried with the greater facility, into distant glens,  
for

for the relief of weak cattle in stormy weather.—The land is divided into oxen-gates, pennies, and farthings. In the first, there is room for 6 bolls sowing. The arable land within the parish is indeed very inconsiderable, for 162 pennies, or 54 oxen-gates, comprehend the whole. It is found, that every penny of land, with its proportion of hill grass, ought to maintain 8 milch cows, with their followers of yield cattle, that is, 3 heads, including the calf, after every milch-cow.

*Inconveniencies.*—The want of roads, fuel, and wood, are hardships with which the people struggle. The scarcity of fuel arises from the incessant rains, the great expence of ferrying heavy mossy peats over arms of the sea, and of leading them from the summit of high hills. To all these may be added, the want of salt:—this was never more severely felt than on the 29th of July, 1791; when the take of herring in Lochduich was so immense, that a single boat killed 4 lasts in a night; but when this source of wealth was at the door, the parishioners could find no supply, and some were necessitated to commit the herrings to their original bed.—The farms which are bases to high mountains, as in Kintail, suffer great losses from what is called *Scriddan*, or “mountain torrent.” After heavy rains, the summit of the hills are so impregnated, that the mountains may be said to be in labour, till an aperture is made by chance somewhere on their sides; the explosion which then succeeds is loud and alarming. Gravel and massy stones roll together, and desolate the fields beneath. The farm of Auchvinn, in Glenelchaig, once a populous town, was, in 1745, rendered uninhabitable, and is since converted to a grazing, by an awful *Scriddan*. The traces of these eruptions have, to the eye of a traveller, all the appearance of a military road, in the face of the steep ascent of the mountain.

A justice of the peace would be an useful member of society

in Kintail: this defect, however, is nearly remedied by a baron baillie, who visits the place quarterly to settle all differences. Very great discouragements are given to law-suits of every description: the baillie in general is the sole arbiter. The recovery of small debts, encroachments on marshes, and trespassing the laws of penfolding, are the usual subjects of discussion.

*Schools, Ecclesiastical State, and Poor.*—There is a parochial school at Croe-side, with a salary of 200 merks; and another school at Glenelchaig, supported by subscription from the tenants, many of whom are Roman Catholics.

The heritors of the parish are only two, Francis Humberstone M'Kenzie of Seaforth, and Alexander Chisholm of Chisholm; neither of whom reside. The king is patron. The rent is L. 800 sterling. The stipend amounts to L. 55 : 11 : 1 $\frac{7}{8}$  sterling; with L. 3 : 6 : 8 for communion elements, besides a glebe. There has been no augmentation of stipend within the present century. — A catechist was established at Glenelchaig, with a salary of L. 15, which is now reduced to L. 5. The priest lives in the town of Dornie, where he has built a dwelling; but he has no meeting-house. — The church is called Kiel-Duich. There are no traditional accounts of the original building. In 1719, it was burnt by the same ship of war which demolished the castle of Donan; but it is at present in excellent repair. All the people from the parish of Glensheal bury in this church yard; though it is evident, from the names of several towns in that parish, they had once burial places among them.

The poor's roll contains 15 persons: and such of these as are disabled by age or sickness are supported by the inhabitants, who send them supplies by the hands of some of their friends. The Sunday collections must be very inconsiderable, as only  
one-third

one-third of the parishioners can meet at the usual places of worship, which are three, Kiel duich, Glenelchaig, and Dornie. From 1st June to 12th August, the people follow their flocks to hill grazings. The annual distribution to the poor, therefore, does not exceed 50s. or 60s.—There is no other public fund in the parish except 50,000 merks Scotch, mortgaged by the late Mr Alexander M'Rae, of Dornie; and left under the management of the King's College of Aberdeen, for educating the children of the nearest descendants from Alexander M'Rae, son of Mr Farquhar M'Rae, the first Protestant minister in the parish of Kintail; of whom is descended the present Mr M'Rae of Innerinate, the only gentleman residing within the parish.

*Population Table.*

Number of souls in 1755	693	Maid-servants	•	63
————— in 1792	840	Married persons	-	135
Protestants	- - 654	Children under 6 years		140
Roman Catholics *	186	Widows	- -	26
Males	- - - 395	Marriages in a twelvemonth		13
Females	- - 445	Births do.	- -	54
Men-servants	- - 26	Burials do.	- -	32

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*Miscellaneous*

\* *Reasons for the growth of Popery.* 1st, The Presbytery of Lochcarron in 1778 entered into a resolution, and passed an act obliging every member thereof to keep regular registers of baptism. And that, instead of the usual due, one shilling should in future be exacted, to enable the schoolmasters to keep up and preserve the registers.—Many of the most ignorant in Glenelchaig hearing of the new act, considered it as a heavy grievance; and, to avoid its consequence, applied to Roman Catholic priests for baptism, and in the heat of passion dragged whole families after them.—2d, Popery has increased by intermarriages. When a Protestant man marries a Roman Catholic woman he has very little domestic peace or happiness till he professes that religion, in which, he is often told by the wife, salvation can only be expected.

This



*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The imports are meal, whisky, linen, tanned leather, fir-planks, and shelly sand for manure. The exports are, black-cattle, horses, furs, kelp, tallow, butter, and cheese.—There are 20 tons of kelp manufactured every second year; exclusive of the privilege given to the tenants, to use such quantities of sea-weed as are sufficient to lay down their barley and potatoes.

The dearth and scarcity of 1782, was not perceptible by the inhabitants. Since 1740, famine did not shew its face so much as in summer 1791, when 440 bolls of meal were imported, and sold in the parish at 18s. 6d. per boll. The wound, however, was soon healed by the uncommon take of herring in Lochduich, the ensuing season.

Men-servants generally receive from 30s. to 40s. The dairy maid gets 5 merks; besides one-half of the skins of all the calves that are killed as a perquisite. Many, however, depart from this mode, from conviction that the spirit of it is fatal to the young store.

The

This is a web which catches many a filly fly.—3d, It is to be regretted that the people are subject to low and melancholy fits, which (as is conjectured) arises from too much hazy and damp weather; on these occasions a priest, with whom the art of exorcism is supposed to be found, attends for relief to the distressed. If it happens that a kind providence thereafter removes the malady, the glory of the cure redounds to human frailty, and the pretended miracle becomes the ground and ostensible reason of conversion.—Lastly, The people in the district of Glenelchaig, where Popery prevails most, are extremely ignorant, and easily become the dupes of trafficking priests.—In the last century, there were no established schools in the place; as yet few, if any at all, of the tenants in this glen, read or understand the holy scriptures. There are however grounds to believe, that the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge will soon appoint a school, whereby the blessings of knowledge may be more liberally diffused through this valley, which is in the near neighbourhood of a Popish district.

The cascade of Glommach lies in the heights of Glenechaig; far from public view. The fall of water is very considerable; and rendered awful by the darkness of the surrounding hills and woods. The light which predominates at this place seldom exceeds twilight brightness\*.

From

\* *Remains of Antiquities*—The castle of Donan was built in the reign of Alexander III. of Scotland, to resist the depredations of the Danes. It commanded a very extensive prospect; and is situated in the western extremity of the parish. It had the full command of Lochduich and Lochlong, so as to secure the parish from annoyances by water.—Colin Fitz Gerald, from whom is descended the present family of Seaforth, was made constable of this castle, for the valour he displayed at the battle of Largs in 1263.—Previous to Sheriff-muir this castle was taken from the King's troops by stratagem. A neighbouring tenant having applied to the governor for some hands to cut down his corn, as he said he understood from the face of the skies, and the croaking of ravens, that a heavy storm was impending, and that nothing but a sudden separation of his crop from the ground could save his family from starvation, the governor readily yielded to these pressing solicitations. But the soldiers, on their return, discovered the deception too late; for the Kintail men by this time were reaping the spoils, and keeping possession of the castle.—At full sea, Donan is inclosed by water, and formed into an island; but at ebb, is connected with the main land. This castle was demolished in the year 1719, after the battle of Glensheal, by a ship of war. Some of the bullets are still found in mossy ground at the distance of a mile above it; and are used by some of the oldest inhabitants as weights to sell butter and cheese.—It appears that when the castle was entire, it consisted of a tower and rampart; the fragments of the former, which was built long before the rampart, measure 4 feet broad. The only entire and remaining part is the fountain, which is still inclosed by a wall of 15 feet high in an octagonal figure. This draw-well was once drained at great expence, with the prospect of finding treasure, which was found to consist only of some silver spoons and small fire arms: the water is still sweet and of good quality.—The roof of the castle was lead. The oldest inhabitant of the parish remembers to have seen the Kintail men under arms, dancing on the leaden roof, just as they were setting out for the battle of Sheriff-muir, where this resolute band was cut to pieces.

In

From the beginning of August to the end of September, there are 30, and sometimes 50, vessels in quest of herring in Lochduich; many of these come from the borders of England to buy with ready money. Salmon, by reason of the long duration of snow on the mountains, and the coldness of the water, seldom appear in this loch before the month of June, and continue there to the middle of August. Ling, skate, cuddies, lythe, and mackrel, are also found in Lochduich; though not in such abundance as in the neighbouring lakes.

In a rivulet before the manse, are found garnet stones; and at Innerinate lime-stone and asbestos.

There have been several bards in Kintail; John Mac Rae, *alias* Mac Curchi, the last of them, emigrated to America; not from necessity, for he lived in affluence. In America, he met with several misfortunes; which occasioned his composing a tale of woe, pointing out his own infatuation in leaving his native soil wantonly. But what chiefly exalts his reputation as a poet, was a song he made after a great loss of cattle, little short of any thing in Gaelic composition.

## NUMBER

In 1719, 300 Spaniards were poured into this country, to assist those who wished for a restoration of the Stewart race.—They kept their magazine of powder and ball behind the manse; but, after the battle of Glenfiscal, they set fire to it immediately, lest it should fall into the hands of the King's troops. These balls are still gathered up by sportsmen; and are found in great abundance upon the glebe.

*Downan Diarmod*, or Fort of Diarmod is before the manse. It is of a circular figure, 20 feet high and of the same breadth. There is no other spot on the same plain which commands so great a prospect. There is a well on the out- and the best harbour for shipping in all Lochduich.—Diarmod's tomb is on the N. E. of the fort. The rough stones of which it is composed are regularly placed by the hand of art, and measure 15 feet by 3. The Campbells who resort to the place, often visit and measure the tomb of that Fingalian hero.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF NORTH KNAPDALE.

(PRESBYTERY OF INVERARY, SYNOD AND COUNTY  
OF ARGYLE.)

By the Rev. MR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL.

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*Name and Antiquities.*

**K**NAP-DALE signifies, in the Celtic language, *hill and dale*. Previous in the year 1734, the two Knap-dales, North and South, formed only one parish, called *Kilwick Ocharmaig*. This *Mac Ocharmaig* was an Irish saint, who took up his residence upon a small island, in the vicinity of the parish: he occasionally made excursions upon shore; and founded different chapels, in the neighbourhood.—After the Scottish kings got some footing in this territory, upon the defeat of the Danes by Alexander III. at the battle of the Largs, this parish was granted to the family of Eglinton, and that family probably gave its teinds and patronage to the abbey of Kilwinning in Ayrshire; at the Reformation, this abbey enjoyed all these rights.—In former ages, the whole of this west coast of Argyleshire was perpetually exposed to the descents and depredations of strangers. The Irish, from the south, and the Danes from the north, formed many small colonies,

lonies, at a convenient distance from the sea; but the original inhabitants never allowed them to penetrate further.—There are many monuments, of the remotest antiquity, which not only prove the martial spirit of our ancestors, but also, that they conducted operations with a method scarcely to be expected in these rude ages. For a tract of 150 miles, watch towers were erected in sight of each other. If an enemy landed, or if he was seen hovering in sight, in the course of two hours, the whole country was alarmed; and the inhabitants repaired to the shore, completely armed. The signal was to kindle a fire in each of these towers; and, as quick as lightning, all were illuminated, and all the country in motion.—When any chief or hero distinguished himself in battle and fell, a monument was erected to his memory. This monument consisted of a stone set up perpendicularly upon the spot; and the length of it determined the estimation in which the hero was held by his countrymen.—The heroes, celebrated by Ossian, were a militia established in Argyleshire, for the purpose of defending the country upon any sudden emergency. They also were the dernier resort in battle, because they were the best men that could be picked from the whole district. Their fame was so great, that the Irish were obliged to have recourse frequently to their assistance, to defend them from the northern nations.—When we behold such evident marks of genius among a rude people, we naturally regret that it is not in our power to delineate the civil polity by which these times were regulated.

*Progress of Civilization.*—Philosophers, and men of speculative genius, often amuse themselves with melancholy descriptions of what they suppose must have happened in these barbarous ages, without the least allowance for the happiness and independance which in some degree is peculiar to this state.

Of old, the chieftain was not so much considered the master as the father of his numerous clan. Every individual of these followers loved him with a degree of enthusiasm, which made them cheerfully undergo any fatigue or danger. Upon the other hand, it was his interest, it was his pride, and his chief glory, to requite such animated friendship to the utmost of his power. The rent paid him was chiefly consumed in feasts given at the habitations of his tenants. What he was to spend, and the time of his residence at each village, was known, and provided for accordingly. The men who provided these entertainments partook of them; they all lived friends together; and the departures of the chief and his retinue never failed to occasion regret.—In more polished times, the cattle and corn consumed, at these feasts of hospitality, were ordered up to the landlord's habitation: what was friendship at the first became very oppressive in modern times. Till very lately, in this neighbourhood, Campbell of Auchinbreck had a right to carry off the best cow he could find upon several properties, at each Martinmas, by way of mart. The island of Ilay paid 500 such cows yearly, and so did Kintyre, to the M'Donalds: the Crown now has converted these cows at 20s. a head, and taken away this badge of slavery.

The inconveniences, attending this state, arose from the petty quarrels between neighbouring clans: these took their rise from a spirit of plunder and depredation, and from points of fantastical honour; and they seldom endured long at a time; the weakest party giving way, and keeping quiet until times and circumstances made him a match for his antagonist. It is remarkable, that no considerable family was ever annihilated by these intestine broils; a proof, that they were not so destructive as, at this distance of time, we are apt to believe.

At the period now under review, the Scottish kings had no authority whatever in this part of the country; on the con-

trary, the M'Donalds of the Isles assumed regal powers, and actually held parliaments, or meetings of a similar nature, where they enacted laws.—The dispute between Baliol and Bruce changed this scene. The Bruces travelled through Argyleshire in the course of their peregrinations. After they were established upon the throne, this part of their dominions became an object. They brought the M'Donalds and other clans to some kind of subordination. At last, they built fortresses; and gave the command of them to military captains. From this time, in their different wars with the English, they had recourse to the assistance of the Highlanders. It became necessary for the chieftains to lead their followers to the low country; and of course to contract debts.

From this æra, the condition of the middling ranks became worse; for the chiefs found it necessary to lay on an addition to their yearly revenue, in order to defray the expence incurred in attending the sovereign. This innovation, in some measure, slackened the ancient friendship; and, in order to enforce obedience, it was necessary to have recourse to penal laws. The king accordingly gratified his feudal barons in this respect; indeed he could not act otherwise, for these barons were always formidable to his throne.

The first dawn of kingly government produced gibbets upon almost every feudal estate. Without trial or jury, the proprietor hanged without mercy or remorse.—The evil became at last so flagrant, that a jury and bailliff or sheriff was introduced: but it did not cure the mischief; for this law-officer was frequently gratified for the blood he spared; and, if a culprit was poor, he was thought a very proper subject for the gallows.—In short, this despotic system was not effectually reformed until the year 1748, when these abominable jurisdictions were totally abolished.—The effect of this reformation was astonishing. No sooner were men emancipated from their  
feters

fetters than they began to improve their properties. Within these 30 years, the face and condition of this country has undergone the happiest change, as appears by a variety of useful improvements.

*Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.*—The extent of this parish is about 12 miles in length, and 3 in breadth, An arm of the sea intersects it nearly into two equal parts. It is bounded on the west by the Atlantic ocean. The soil, for pasture and tillage is excellent; and of arable ground there is a very great proportion. The climate is rainy, as is the case all along the west coast; but the rain is very favourable for the pastures.—The inhabitants are healthy; but, owing to their stile of living, they are sometimes visited with putrid fevers, which are often fatal, for want of ability to procure medical assistance. In summer, they live much upon fish and milk; and, it is supposed, that this mixture contaminates the blood.—The practice of inoculation has been a fortunate discovery. In this district, great numbers of children used to die of the small-pox, when it made its attack by contagion.

Among the hills of this parish there are many small lakes abounding in the finest trout. Salmon is got in many places along the coast; and the herring pay an annual visit to many arms of the sea, though not in great numbers.

The hill called Cruach-Lussa is the highest in the parish. From the top of this eminence a stranger, fond of the sublime, might entertain his imagination with one of the grandest objects in North Britain. From it may be seen, towards the west, as much of the Atlantic as the eye can command, diversified with a considerable number of the Hebrides, Ilay, Jura, Scarba, Mull, Seil, and many smaller islands, fertile in corn, and abounding in the finest pasture. The



north of Ireland, in a clear day, may be also distinguished, and especially the island of Rathlin.

Between the islands and the main land, the tide runs with a velocity incredible to a stranger. Between Jura and Scarba, the space is about one mile over, in this narrow strait. Three currents, formed by the islands and mainland, meet a fourth, which sets in from the ocean; the conflux is dreadful, and spurns all description: even the genius of Milton could not paint the horror of the scene. At the distance of 12 miles, a most dreadful noise, as if all the infernal powers had been let loose, is heard. By the conflict of these inanimate heroes, who will not yield, though fighting twice a-day since the foundation of the world, an eddy is formed, which would swallow up the largest ship of the line: but at full tide these combatants take a little rest; and, when they are asleep, the smallest bark may pass with impunity. This gulf is called Cory-vreckan.

From this scene, turning to the N. one beholds the hill of Cruachan, the highest in Argyleshire, and among the highest in Scotland. This mountain looks like the sovereign of all the rest. Even in the month of June, he does not put off his snowy night-cap. The other hills, to the number of several hundreds, in comparison look like mole-hills. Upon the face of this landscape, a great many lakes spangle to the sun beams, and form a prospect truly romantic. The largest is Lochow, about 20 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. This lake abounds with plenty of the finest salmon; and what is uncommon, the seal comes up from the ocean, through a very rapid river, in quest of this fish; and retires to the sea at the approach of winter.

*Natural Productions, Cattle, and Sheep.*—The district of this county, properly called Argyle, especially that part situated near the coast, is more fertile in grain than strangers are apt to imagine;

imagine; and the pastures produce the best cattle that appear in the English markets from the Highlands. The mode of management is extremely faulty. That part of the land, which is still in the hands of the farmers, is ploughed up every year: it is out of heart, and produces no adequate returns. The land, though of excellent soil, is poor; of course the tenant is poor also. The pasture grounds are always overstocked with cattle. No argument or intreaty will induce the tenants to restrict the pasture to the numbers which would thrive properly. At the most moderate calculation, one-third of the cattle should be reduced.—In the next place, no attention is paid to the kind of bulls; provided there be a bull, the kind is little minded. This is a capital error; for the most luxuriant pasture will not produce good cattle without attending to the breed. It is not hereby meant that a strange breed should be introduced; this would by no means answer as to any species of cattle whatever: the idea is, to take the best that can be found in the country\*.

The principal cause of bad management, as to farming, seems to be the following:—the generality of farms are possessed by

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\* Much industry and expence has been incurred in introducing a breed of larger sheep to this part of the country. There cannot be a more capital mistake; the natives of the soil, of whatever species, answer best.—The true highland sheep, if the experiment was fairly tried, would produce finer wool, and more delicate flesh; the native wool now sells at 2s. a stone more than the Galloway wool, but it is contended, that the country breed does not arrive at such a size, or to such a weight of flesh. The fact is admitted; but let one pasture native sheep in place of the foreign breed, and balance the account of profit and loss, as follows: Native sheep are not so liable to braxy and other maladies as the foreign; the wool is of superior quality; the flesh, is of superior delicacy; and upon the same pasture that 8 foreign sheep require, 19 of the native breed may be fed: the argument here is unanswerable.—Besides no experiment has yet been tried to what size the native sheep could be brought.

4 tenants: all of them should be restricted to 2 occupiers. The reason is, that 4 tenants, with their families, are too great an expence upon the land, which is not able to support them properly, and pay the rent. Reduce the tenement to 2 families, and both have a comfortable subsistence; they have a greater interest in the object; the little contentions which always distract 4 are reduced to 2, and therefore a greater unanimity subsists: the 4 also, by having too much time upon their hands, are perpetually turning up the ground not in heart, and that ought to lie fallow; their labour in fact is not worth 3d. per day; whereas, at real day labour under a master, they might earn 1s.

*State of the People, Productions, &c.*—The population of this country cannot properly be said to be upon the decline, except as to one particular, and that is, the monopoly of a number of grass farms in the hands of single individuals. The high price of cattle, for some years back, is the cause of this check upon population. There are single men who occupy some 8 and some 10 tenements, upon each of which there is only one herd. This misfortune would not be so very much to be lamented if these monopolizers had actually enriched their country in the same proportion that they have been the means of reducing the number of its inhabitants. If the men must take their departure, the least apology should be, that a greater number of cattle are raised: this is by no means the case; for, if 1 or 2 tenements out of 8 or 10 are excepted, these ingrossers of land breed no cattle: their chief employment is to purchase cattle, and to prepare them for the Scotch and English markets.

There are very few real good cattle bred in the country, tho' so very well calculated for the purpose. The proprietors of land, such as reside upon the spot, for the accommodation of  
 their

their families, keep a few good milch-cows near them; and a very few substantial tacksmen raise all the good cows which are now sent to market. The great proportion of cattle that appear in market are stunted in growth, by the bad management of the farmer. These scraggy impoverished beasts are picked up by the monopolizers already mentioned; they are turned for a season upon the desolate land; and, in process of time, become somewhat better; when they are turned off to make way for a new fleece. Cattle, properly pastured, bring at an average L.5 a head at market; but these impoverished and stunted cows never exceed the price of L.3:10.—Were the monopolizers restricted to one, or two farms at most, it would in a great measure cure this evil, and would, at any rate, be the cause of rearing better cattle, and in greater numbers.

The people employed in cultivating the ground are generally in indigent circumstances; but farmers and day-labourers never enjoyed better times. The most of the young men go to the bufs-fishing for one half of the year, and return with good wages: such as stay at home at day-labour receive between 1s. and 14d. per day.

The produce of the parish consists of oats, bear, and potatoes, black-cattle, sheep, and horses. The rent is above L.3000 sterling. In the year 1765, it did not amount to much more than one-half of this sum.

The number of tenements are 61;—of black-cattle 1200;—of sheep 1400;—and of horses 200. The quantity of grain raised annually is considerable.—The heritors are 12 in number.

*Stipend, Poor, and Population.*—The tiends of the parish amount to 262 bolls of victual, and L. 18 sterling of money: out of which the incumbent receives 72 bolls of victual,

L. 32 sterling of money, and L. 3 : 6 : 8 for communion elements; a stipend by far too small for the present times.

There are few poor, though a number of mendicants travel about; most of whom might very well earn a subsistence. The funds distributed arise from voluntary collections.

The number of examinable persons is 754, of various ages 255;—in all 1009. The return to the Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 1369 souls. The annual average of births is 70, and of marriages 14.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The Highlanders are naturally of a quick and clear understanding, with lively passions; resembling the ancient Gauls more than their neighbours of the low country; being averse to a sedentary life, but fond of those scenes where honour can be acquired by personal activity and courage, and regardless of toil and of danger. Though fond of money, they are averse to those habits of cool and slow application by which it is most successfully acquired. By this part of their character they become, upon critical occasions, most useful for the defence of the state.—The late Sir Archibald Campbell was an heritor of this parish. The rise of this distinguished man may be fairly imputed to his intrinsic worth and superior abilities.—To the morals of the lower ranks much praise cannot be given. This defect may be, in a great measure, imputed to the want of education. A parochial school cannot extend its benefit to any considerable proportion of an extensive parish. Even parochial schools are but poorly endowed: the practice of private teaching in families has rendered the better sort too indifferent as to this public object. The public, at large, do not encourage schoolmasters according to their utility and importance in society. There cannot be a more fundamental mistake. Much of the peace and prosperity of the community being closely connected with the good principles

ples of the great mass of the people. Punishments, in place of correcting, will only exasperate untutored minds in ordinary cases. Upon any dangerous convulsion, or public commotion, these minds are easily misled by men of factious spirits; the consequence of which is often anarchy and confusion, and the total subversion of peace and good order. Such evil consequences can never be prevented without knowledge and education; and for this reason men, in power and authority, should pay particular attention to the subject.

## NUMBER XXXI.

UNITED PARISHES OF KILCHRENAN  
AND DALAVICH.(PRESBYTERY OF LORN, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF  
ARGYLE.)*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.**Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**K**ILCHRENAN signifies, in the Celtic, *the burying place of Chrenan*, the tutelary saint of the parish. Dalavich is so called from its contiguity to the water of Avich; upon which it has a meal and wauk mill.

The figure of the parish is nearly an oblong square, cut into two in the direction of its length by Lochow. The land rises, by a gradual ascent on the E. side, 4 miles to the summit of a range of hills, called the Muir of Leckan; and on the W. side by a similar ascent, 4 miles to the summit of another range, called the Mid-Muir. The muir of Leckan is 24 computed miles in length, and lies in the division of Argyle. The Mid-Muir, also 24 miles long, lies in the division of Lorn.—The length of the parish is 12 miles, and the medium breadth 8.—As this is the only parish in Argyleshire which has no sea-coast, the odious and unproductive tax on coals, with the ex-

penfive land carriage, makes this necessary article extremely dear, particularly in those rainy seasons in which peats cannot be faved.

As there has been no actual survey of this parish, the number of acres can only be computed by the length and breadth. The length, 12 miles, multiplied by 8, the breadth, is equal to 96 square miles, or 61440 Scotch acres. —The surface is much diversified with heights and hollows, intersected by numerous streams descending from the hills. Heath is the prevailing appearance, excepting where the land has been in tillage. Near the shore of the lake, there is good natural pasture, much valuable wood, and some improveable mofs.

*Lakes, Islands, and Castles.*—Lochow, with its numerous creeks and islands covered with wood to the water edge, with many copious streams descending from the hills, forming numberless beautiful cascades, presents to the view objects well worth attention. Twelve of these islands belong to this parish. —Surrounded by a cluster of other islands, lies the beautiful one of Inish-channel, with its castle. This castle, a majestic ruin of great antiquity, now covered over with ivy, was for several centuries the chief residence of the family of Argyle; and appears, from the nature, strength, and size of the building, to have been occupied by a powerful chieftain, whose sway and extent of territory we learn, from record and tradition, to have been immense. —Near Inish-Channel lies Inish-Eraith, mentioned by Dr. Smith of Campbeltown, in his authenticity of Ossian's poems, as the place to which the traitor Erath beguiled Duara, as recounted in one of the songs of Selma. In this isle are burying grounds, and the ruins of a chapel. Near this, is *Elain 'n tagart*, or "Priest's isle," with some traces the priest's house still discernible. Lochow abounds with trout and salmon. —Lochavich, antiently called Loch-



luina, is a beautiful sheet of water, of a regular triangular form, about 8 miles in circumference, full of trout; having one castle and several islands, the resort of gulls, cranes, water-eagles, and wild-ducks.—Near this lake lay the scene of an antient Celtic poem, translated by Dr. Smith, called *Cotb-luina*, or “the conflict of Luina:” and in the lake is an island, the scene of another poem, called *Laoi Fraoich*, or “the death of Fraoich.”—Many places in this neighbourhood are still denominated from Ossian’s heroes. This lake discharges itself into Lochow by the stream or water of Avich, buried in wood; having six fine falls, with large circular ponds at the foot of each, and possessing the peculiarity of never freezing; even in the year 1740, not a particle of ice was observed on it, though the lake, from whence it issues, was entirely frozen over.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—The out-field lands are commonly in 6 divisions. After a tathing, by allowing the cattle to lie upon the field at night, and after milking at noon, two or 3 crops of oats are taken. The land then lies ley for 3 years. The returns are commonly from 3 to 4 bolls gray or mixed oats, per acre. The infield lands are in 4 divisions: from one, potatoes are taken, which are commonly very good; from another division, bear, likewise good; oats succeed the bear, upon a third division of the in-field or winter town land, but are not good; and the fourth division is ley. The most industrious, who begin to know the use of lime, which they have in plenty, sow white instead of gray oats; and have upon their infield land pretty good crops. Would they be persuaded to pay particular attention to the raising of potatoes and other green crops from their in fields, with as much bear, hay, and oats, as they can properly dress and manure, and allow their distant out-fields to lie entirely in pasture, they would certainly find it their interest. The expence

pence of raising those crops often exceed their value.—Prevailing rains through great part of the year, with a precarious seed-time and harvest, render the climate of this country unfriendly to the growth of corn; therefore the chief attention should be directed to the improvement of our grafs and cattle.—The inhabitants are beginning to keep fewer cattle, and of course, better grafs than formerly. The gentlemen are particularly attentive in this respect.

Mr Campbell of Sonachan incloses, dresses, and limes extensively for grafs-seeds. The farm upon which he resides, besides excellent pasture, gives him more hay than a numerous stock of black-cattle and horses can consume. Sheep he pays particular attention to; and has more than once gained the premium given to this country for the best tups.—Mr Campbell of Kilmartin, who has resided only for a few years in this parish, has neatly inclosed and subdivided the farm he lives on for breeding a stock of black-cattle: few in the county understand cattle better, or keeps so nice a stock as he does.—The incumbent possesses a well inclosed and subdivided farm. From the arable land, he takes a rotation of oats, green crops, bear, and grafs-seeds, with lime or compost. After one crop of hay, he pastures for several years;—uses Small's plough, with two horses, without a driver;—keeps 400 breeding ewes of the short or Linton kind, which he intends crossing this year with Cheviot-hill tups.

*Woods, Inns, and Roads.*—Inclosing, cutting, barking or peeling, and coaling the extensive woods in this parish, employ many hands. The woods are purchased by the Lorn and Argyll furnace companies. The wages of the people employed are, men from 1s. to 1s. 6d. women from 6d. to 9d. per day.

There are 2 inns in the parish; one of them a very good  
house,

house, with stables and boats at the ferry of Portsonachan, upon the shortest road to Bunaw and Oban. This road runs along the water of Naint through the romantic forest of Muckairn.—The roads of this district are very bad, the statute labour having been suffered to be expended on lines of road thought more immediately necessary, out of the parish, for many years.—At the south end of the parish, Mr Campbell of Kilmartin and Mr Campbell of Inverliver, have advanced considerably in carrying on the line of road along the west side of Lochow, as Mr Campbell of Sonachan has done on the east side.

*Ecclesiastical State, Poor, and Schools.*—The present incumbent, William Campbell, was ordained minister in 1744.—The Duke of Argyle is patron and superior. The living consists of 4 chalders of meal, and L. 400 Scotch, besides L. 60 Scotch for furnishing communion elements. There are neither glebe nor manse \*.—There are 2 new churches, in the parish, at 7 miles distance from each other.

In 1764, the number upon the poor's list was 19; and the only fund for their support, arising from the ordinary collections at the churches, amounted to L. 3 : 18 : 8½ sterling. The capital stock is now L. 64 : 11 : 5. The interest of this sum, with the ordinary church collections, amounted in 1791 to L. 15 : 14 : 10, which was distributed amongst 29 persons, the number now upon the list.

From

\* As no church lands could be found in the parish, the presbytery designed a legal glebe, out of the nearest and most contiguous lands to the church as law directs; which, after being infested in, (in the year 1747), and obtaining a horning upon the decret of presbytery, the incumbent has been most unaccountably kept out of possession of to this day; so that, if his noble patron had not provided him with a commodious farm, his situation must have been most uncomfortable.

From the length of the parish, and its situation on both sides by Lochow, it is necessary to divide the school funds, which makes the salary to schoolmasters so small, that there is much difficulty in procuring persons properly qualified.

1	Charity school,	50	scholars.	Salary, L.	12	0	0	
1	Ambulatory, do.	12	do.	do.	6	0	0	
1	Parochial,	do.	25	do.	do.	5	0	0
1	do.	do.	33	do.	do.	5	0	0
<hr/>								
4	Schools		120	scholars.	L.	28	0	0

There has been, besides, L. 74 mortified by a lady of the family of Campbell of Achanabreak, for supporting the school of Kilcbrenan.

*Population Table.*

Number of souls in 1755	1030	Tacksmen, possessing	4
_____ in 1792	1124	farms each	- - 2
Under 10	- 255	_____ possessing	2
Between 10 and 20	220	farms	- - 2
_____ 20 and 30	198	_____ possessing	1
_____ 30 and 40	126	farm	- - 5
_____ 40 and 50	118	Small tenants	- - 90
_____ 50 and 60	76	Minister	- - - 1
_____ 60 and 70	64	Schoolmaster	- - - 1
_____ 70 and 80	45	Shopkeeper	- - - 1
_____ 80 and 90	20	Innkeepers	- - - 2
_____ 90 and 100	2	Dram-sellers	- - - 5
Males	- - 530	Smiths	- - - 2
Females	- 594	House-carpenters	- - 2
Families	- - 280	Weavers	- - - 22
Residing proprietors, pos-		Shoemakers	- - 6
sessing 1 farm each	- 6	Tailors	- - 6
			Millers

Millers	-	-	4	Whereof under 6 months	
Packmen	-	-	3	old of inflammation of	
Carrier	-	-	1	the bowels	7
Wauk millers and dysters			2	Ditto, of locked jaws	5
Widows	-	-	40	Ditto, of the small pox	2
Wood-cutters and dyke-builders	-	-	40	Of the small-pox, between 3 and 4 years of age	
Ferry-man at Portfonachan	-	-	1	Of a fever, between 20 and 30	1
———— at Inisherath			1	Of ditto, between 30 and 40	2
Coupers	-	-	2	Of consumptions, between 70 and 80	2
Married herds	-	-	18	Of ditto, between 80 and 90	1
Married workmen	-	-	16	Suddenly, between 80 and 90	2
Total of the above			280	Population in 1768, according to a list taken by the minister	1500
Their children and families	-	-	844	Decrease since 1768	376
Students of divinity			2		
Schoolmasters, not householders,	-	-	3		
Average of births			30		
———— of marriages			10		
Deaths in one year			23		

The decrease since 1768 must, in a great measure, have taken place from the conversion of some very indifferent corn farms, upon which a number of people made shift to live, to very good sheep and black cattle grazings, to which, in this climate, such lands are best adapted. Though this has had the effect of reducing the number of inhabitants in particular districts, it is supposed that, except when emigrations to foreign parts take place, it has neither tended to diminish the population of the kingdom, to affect the prosperity of this country, or to render the condition of the lower ranks much worse. Indeed,

feed, excepting upon the estates of the Duke of Argyle, the Earl of Breadalbane, and a few others, small tenants in this country are very well satisfied when they can subsist their families, and pay their rents, without the addition of one shilling to their little stock. Two families only have emigrated to North America from this parish, for half a century.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The inhabitants are all of the Established church; and, to very few, have all been born in the parish, and baptised by the present incumbent, who is near 80 years of age, and the oldest member of the synod of Argyle.—They are a sober, regular, industrious set of people; generous, humane, high spirited, and loyal, when called to the exertion of those qualities. In the year 1745, 80 able young volunteers offered their services to their country; and, headed by the minister, appeared at the cross of Inverary in less than 24 hours after he had received intimation, from the Duke of Argyle, of his Grace's desire that he should repair thither, without loss of time, with as many of his parishioners as could conveniently be spared.—If occasion still required, the inhabitants of this parish would, with equal alacrity, turn out to defend their gracious sovereign, and that happy constitution, under which they enjoy such invaluable blessings.

## N U M B E R    X X X I I .

## P A R I S H   O F   C R A W F O R D - J O H N .

(C O U N T Y   A N D   P R E S B Y T E R Y   O F   L A N A R K ,   S Y N O D   O F  
G L A S G O W   A N D   A I R . )

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM MILLER.*

*Name, Extent, and Rivers.*

**T**HE appellation of the parish is supposed to have been taken from some person of the name of Crawford having had interest in it; and the addition of John has been affixed by way of distinguishing it from a contiguous parish, called simply Crawford, or sometimes Crawford-Douglas, or Lindsay. It lies in a direction from W. to E.—then turns northward, being of an oblong kind of figure, extending to about 15 miles in length, and generally to about 6 in breadth. A small river, called Duneaton-water, which has its rise near Carn-table at the head of the parish, runs the whole length of this district; and is well stored with trout, as are also several other brooks and rivulets in the parish, particularly Blackburn, which is famous for a very excellent species, reddish in the flesh, and resembling that of salmon.

*Agriculture and Sheep.*—Little can be said as to the state of improvements

improvements in agriculture, the land in general being more proper for sheep-pasture than for tillage. When the seasons are favourable, and the harvest early, the crops of grain are very good; but it sometimes happens, in unfavourable seasons, that damage is done to the grain by frosts. In this case, the people are obliged to purchase seed for the ensuing year from other places at a great expence. This renders them averse to cultivate the quantity of land they otherwise might; there being only 20 ploughs kept in the parish, which, on an average, do not labour above 30 acres each. The rise that has happened in the price of sheep, tends also to produce an indifference about tillage. Besides, the cultivation of land for grain requires much laborious work, while the management of a store or sheep farm is attended with ease and leisure. There are about 20 larger and smaller farms in the parish, each of which have ground proper for both tillage and pasture. The sheep reared on these farms are of good quality; particularly on Gilkerscleugh mains, from which ground tups and wool have been produced that obtained public premiums. The number of sheep in the parish is said to be above 12,000, though it cannot easily be ascertained. The number of black cattle is likewise considerable.

*Natural Productions and Seats.*—The natural productions are, oats, of which each farmer sows from 10 to 50 bolls; bear, of which only from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 bolls are sown on each farm; a little pease; small quantities of flax; and some potatoes. There is not much sown grafs here, the ground being generally open, and not fenced from the sheep; but meadow, or bog hay, is cut on almost every farm.—There are 2 gentlemen's seats in the parish, Gilkerscleugh and Glespine. At the former, a stranger is agreeably surpris'd to find, in so high a situation, inclosures laid out with much taste and propriety.



Here may be seen some fine old timber, with a considerable tract of thriving plantations of different ages; and several very judicious improvements are carrying on by the present proprietor.

*Minerals.*—Glendorch, in this parish, belonging to the Earl of Hopetoun, has afforded a very rich produce of lead to his Lordship for some time past. This valuable mineral was also found on the lands of Glendouran; but the working thereof is now discontinued, on account of the irruption of water. On Gilkerscleugh estate, lead was found. There is likewise, on the same property, a good limestone quarry, with abundance of white free-stone; and a good appearance of coal. Upon the lands of Abington are still to be seen vestiges of a work, which, report says, was in search of gold, and that quantities of that precious metal were found here by Bullmore. These lands also produce free-stone of a reddish colour \*

*Population Table.*

Number of souls in 1755, 765	Number of souls in 1788, 620
————— in 1761, 550	————— in 1790, 590
	Annual

\* On the top of Netherton-hill, opposite to the house of Gilkerscleugh, is an old encampment, consisting of two circular ridges of stones one within the other. The distance betwixt the inner and outer circle is upwards of 30 feet; and the diameter of the former is 135 feet. East from this, are the ruins of a building, called Fairholm, consisting of several apartments; supposed to have been the storehouse for this encampment. Near Crawford-John, stood a castle; some of the vaults of which are not entirely demolished. Near this, is a moat in the form of a semicircle, 148 feet diameter, which appears to have been easily filled with water from a spring on the spot. The vestiges of another old castle, two vaults of which are still habitable, are to be seen standing on a peninsulated rock at Snar.

Annual average of births	Innkeepers	-	6
for 6 years preceding	Wrights	- -	2
1786 - -	Smiths	- -	3
23	Masons	- - -	2
— preceding 1792	Weavers	- -	4
22	Taylor	- - -	1
Annual average of deaths	Shoemaker	- -	1
for 6 years preceding	Cooper	- -	1
1786 - -	Valued rent, Scotch	L. 2360	
15	Real rent, sterling	L. 2500	
— preceding 1792			
16			
Schoolmaster	-	1	
Shopkeepers	- -	4	

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A number of the inhabitants are tacksmen of farms ; and there are several cottagers in the parish. Some of these work in the mines of Leadhills and Wanlockhead : others possess a piece of ground under the tacksmen, and follow any kind of work that occurs, with a horse or horses, whereby they are enabled to pay their rent.—The people are generally intelligent, sober, and regular ; but of late, seem to have more fondness for showiness of dress, and convivial meetings, than could have been expected in so remote a situation.—Curling is a favourite diversion among the commonality ; and even the gentlemen sometimes join in it.—George Colebrooke, Esq. is patron of the parish.—Part of the great road from Glasgow to Carlisle passes through the parish, where it meets another great road from Edinburgh to Leadhills, There are, besides, several internal roads in the parish ; to which great attention is paid ; and the statute-work is performed upon them annually.

## N U M B E R XXXIII.

## PARISH OF EDDERACHYLIS.

(PRESBYTERY OF TONGUE, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND  
AND CAITHNESS, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.)

*By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER FALCONER.*

*Date of Erection, Name, and Extent.*

**T**HE parish of Edderachylis was erected, together with the parishes of Diurness and Tongue, by the General Assembly 1724, in consequence of a petition, in the name of the inhabitants of the parish of Diurness, presented to the General Assembly 1721, which was seconded by the then Lord Reay, sole proprietor of it; representing the great need there was for its being subdivided into two or more parishes, on account of its vast extent.

The name of the parish, as of all other places in this country, is Celtic, being descriptive of its situation, and signifying literally, "betwixt two kyles, or arms, of the sea;" because of its lying being between *Coalis-cuin*, which divides it on the S. from Allint, and *Caolis-Luiffard*, or *Laxford*, which, on the N. separates it from Ashir. *Coalis-cuin* signifies "the narrow kyle;" and is so called, because of a narrow part about the middle of it, near Island-rannoch, where there is a ferry, which

which is not above 60 yards broad, though it widens greatly above, and branches out into two considerable kyles, or lochs, much frequented by herrings : it is also broad below this place, and incloses a green island, called Stirks-island ; near which is good anchoring ground for shipping. This kyle runs up into the land 5 or 6 miles.—*Caolis-Luiffard*, or, as it is pronounced in the anglicised way, *Laxford*, is a name compounded of two Celtic words, *Lua* and *ard* ; epithets given it, and to the river which runs into the head of it from Lochstack, from the rapid and high course of that stream.—But, though these two kyles comprehend the country called Edderachylis, the parish extends a great way farther north, and includes also the Davoch of Ashir, which is a country of itself, intersected by a considerable kyle, called *Caolis-Inchard*, 2 miles long, often visited by shoals of herrings ; and it separates that very rugged piece of ground, called *Kerru-garbh*, or “ rugged quarter,” from the north parts of Ashir, which are the best portions of it. *Inchard* is a contraction of two Celtic words, *Innis* and *aird*, signifying “ high meadow,” because of the high and rich pasture grounds, lying on each side of the kyle, and of the river, which runs into the head of it, and which go both by the same name.—As for the name of this part of the parish, which the natives turn in English, Alshires, and sometimes more improperly Oldshoars, in Celtic, it is Ashir, or, which is its real meaning, *Tir-fas* ; a designation relative to that more fruitful and cultivated place, of which it was once a part, called Diurnefs, for it was the *Fair-bir* of old, or “ waste pasture grounds,” belonging to the antient inhabitants of Diurnefs.

The parish is bounded on the W. by the Atlantic ocean, and on the N. by the North Sea, to Cape Wrath, that terror to mariners, which stands at the head of the line separating the parish of Diurnefs from this ; so that it is situated

in the angle formed by the Atlantic and North seas. The length, from N. to S. is 20 computed miles, and the breadth 10; Edderachylis being 12 in length, and 10 in breadth, and Ashir 8 in length, and 7 in breadth.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Besides the parish church, there is a place appointed for public worship, and at the distance of six miles from it, on the N. side of the kyle of Inchard in Ashir, where it is the incumbent's duty to officiate once in six weeks; but as the parish church is situated as commodiously as it possibly could be, and pretty centrally upon the coast, the attendance of the parishioners there, especially in good weather, is rendered quite convenient, as boats can convey them easily from almost the most distant parts of the parish.—The church has undergone two several reparations within the last 20 years; has a slated roof; is well-seated; and every way fit for the accommodation of the parishioners. The manse has also been twice repaired within the above time: it and some of the offices have also slated roofs, as all the houses in the country ought to have, for nothing else can stand the violence of the weather.—Upon the first establishment of the parish, the minister had 800 merks for his stipend, together with 40 merks for communion elements: but a reduction of it afterwards took place on occasion of a contract, entered into by the church of Scotland with consent of the then incumbent, with Lord Reay; in whose hand they settled the whole money collected\*, as a fund for paying part of the stipends of the parishes of Tongue, Diurness, and Edderachylis, at the rate of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The portion of that collection assigned to this parish was 11400 merks Scotch; the interest of which sum being L. 28 : 10, together with L. 15 yearly out of Lord Reay's  
rent

\* L. 1500 sterling. See Vol. III. page 582.

rent, constitutes the whole stipend\* of Edderachylis at this time, or L. 43 : 10 in all, communion elements included ; being not only below the minimum of the law, but one of the smallest in the church.—And what precludes the prospect of any augmentation of the stipend, out of Lord Reay's estate, is a special provision he made in his contract with the church, that his estate should, in all future time, remain unaffected by any further augmentation of the stipends, though a great part of that estate consists of church lands. But he and his successors have given the several ministers of this parish a small farm, adjoining to the glebe, at the old rent, which is of considerable benefit for grazing.—The glebe, which lies upon the coast, and near the church, is of some extent ; and has been valued at L. 40 Scotch\*.

*Population and Character of the People.*—Upon a late survey of this parish, the number of souls contained in it were found to be 1024 ; but, about 12 years ago, they exceeded this number considerably. One of the causes of this decrease has been the rise that has happened in the price of black-cattle, which

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\* Upon the shore of the glebe, which extends about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile, grows a profusion of sea-weed, of the sort fittest for kelp : to this the present incumbent thought he had a right ; and that he might convert this sea-weed to his own benefit, as a small addition to his small stipend ; but in this he unexpectedly found himself opposed by the family of Reay, who thought fit to dispose of this very sea-weed, as well as the rest on their estate by lease to a Peterhead company ; and upon his giving interruption to them, he was obliged to defend himself in a process for damages before the Court of Session, who, after considerable expence and trouble to the incumbent, thought fit to decide the affair against him. He is thus deprived of the benefit of the whole sea weed growing on his glebe, which was useful to him for other purposes, as manure to his land, and pasture to his cattle in the cold season of the year.

gave occasion to some gentlemen, not residing in the parish, to take leases of extensive grazings in it, which they manage by a few servants. Other people of substance living in the parish have, on the same account, also taken leases of additional grazings, removing the old possessors. Several families besides, not satisfied with their circumstances, as well as several single persons of both sexes, have migrated to the S. country, and to cotton mills. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, however, was only 869 souls.

The number of baptisms in the year, as appears from the register, is at an average 35 : but there is no record of burials kept ; because the people, experiencing great inconvenience in carrying their dead to one or two burial places, as in former times, on account of the great distance, and the ruggedness of the roads, have made choice of other places, the fittest they could find, near their respective dwellings, for that purpose ; so that, in this parish at present, there are no less than 8 different burying grounds, though some of the old ones are presently in disuse.

The inhabitants, or natives, (who are all, except a very few, of three names, M'Clays, Morrifons, and M'Cleods), are all Presbyterians, and have been so, for so long a time back, that the present generation have no remembrance of seeing in the country any residenter of another persuasion. Notwithstanding their detached and distant habitations, they are remarkable for their attendance upon divine ordinances and public worship, for the sobriety and regularity of their manners and lives, without being addicted to any particular vice in any remarkable degree. Their character for peaceableness, and their harmony among themselves, is uncommon. For the last 20 years and more, scarce one instance has happened of any quarrel or fight among them, or so much as of any of them receiving any bodily hurt from another. From their practice  
of

of fishing, and early and constant acquaintance with the sea, they are excellent boatmen, as well as ingenious, and ready to learn any mechanical business; so that scarcely any artificers in the parish but are self-taught. And yet there are among them pretty good carpenters and boat-wrights, dry-stone masons, coopers, and net-makers; and, as for shoe-makers, there is scarce a man in the parish but can make his own shoes. They love also to appear as decent and clean as possible; so that the fishers, who frequent this place, have declared they make the most decent and cleanly appearance of any Highlanders on the whole coast. The Muses too are partial to the natives of this place, as if the air of the Edderachylis mountains had inspiration in it; for there have been, of late years, several poets in this parish, whose compositions, mostly of the lyric kind, have been admired by good judges, and have shewn them to be possessed of uncommon parts and genius.

*Black-Cattle, Sheep, Goats, and Horses.*—The principal dependence of the inhabitants for their living is upon their black-cattle; and, by a late enumeration, they are found to have 2573 heads of the cow kind. The quality and size of their cattle are equal to those of any other place in the Highlands. The price of an ordinary cow for driving, is 50s.—of a good one, L. 3;—and of the best, L. 4. An ordinary milch-cow sells at L. 3;—a good one at L. 4;—and the best at L. 5. There are drovers, in the country, who buy up such cattle as are sent to market; and, after driving them to the south of Scotland, and sometimes to England, dispose of them commonly to English drovers. But, though the inhabitants deal principally in black-cattle, yet, in the opinion of the most knowing people, the nature of the country seems more adapted to the rearing of sheep; and it is thought, that it is owing to the inattention and carelessness of the farmers, about that most useful of all animals,



nimals, that they do not thrive better with them. Foxes, indeed, are numerous, and very destructive, and not easily destroyed, because of the rocks and numberless lurking places which the ruggedness of the country affords them; eagles, and other ravenous birds, destroy many lambs; but by diligent exertions persisted in, this country might be, in time, cleared of all those noxious creatures. Nay, it is more than probable, were Lord Reay to parcel out his lands in proper sheep walks, annexing fit parts of his deer forest to the nearest and most proper dwellings upon the shore, that none in Scotland would equal those upon his estate, and that he might treble his rent by it. The only inconvenience would be, that he would, by this plan, greatly depopulate his country.

The whole number of sheep, presently in this parish, is found to be 2629. The greatest part of them are of the Galloway breed, having black or brocked faces, and their wool is coarse. A sheep, with a lamb, is supposed to be worth 7s. and a good wedder, 9s. But there is also a mixture of an English breed with the common Galloway, which are polled, with white faces; these have rather finer wool, and longer bodies, than the Galloway kind. Sometimes butchers from Inverness, and other places, travel through the country, and buy what widders are to be sold in those parts; and seamen have also a great demand for mutton, often greater than can be answered here.

Of all parts of the Highlands, this would seem to be one of the fittest and best for goats; yet it is the observation of the oldest and most judicious people, that they have not for some years answered here as formerly; whether owing to something unfavourable in the weather, to the increase of beasts and birds of prey, or both. The present number in all this parish, is 1307. The only market for them is selling them  
to

to sea-faring men, when they fall low in provisions : they commonly give 7s. or 8s. for an *be*, and less for a *ſbe*, goat.

As for horses, the principal use of them here, is the rearing of them for sale, there being but little occasion for these animals in riding or husbandry. The kind bred here is the Garrons, which are never housed, feed themselves in the mountains in summer and harvest, and pasture near the houses in winter and spring. They are of a good size ; and not inferior in quality to any in the the Highlands. Some of the best are supposed to be worth 7 or 8 guineas. Here they are bought by dealers, in the country, at a year old, who carry them to the Orkney islands, and there dispose of them at good prices : of late, purchasers from the south have found their way into the country, who buy all sorts at good prices. The number presently in the parish is 351.

*Rent, Fishings, &c.*—The present rent of the parish is L.230 sterling ; but the tack-duty, paid out of most of the different possessions, has been of late greatly augmented ; that of some of them to double, or more, of what they paid 20 years ago : yet it is reported, that when Lord Reay became proprietor of Edderachylis, properly so called, the whole of it was held by a gentleman in wadset for the interest of 6000 merks.—There are only two rivers in this parish where salmon are caught. One of them is at Inchard, which never paid any separate rent to the proprietor ; but the tacksmen of the neighbouring grounds has the profits of it, which amount only from 3 to 6 barrels in the year. The other is Laxford, where there is a considerable quantity of fish killed, and of an excellent quality ; but the fishing does not commence sooner than the middle of April, either there or on all this coast. The fishing of this river, and of others within Lord Reay's estate, is rented by a company of merchants in Peterhead, who cure and export the

the fish to foreign markets, without selling any of it in the country : they have an agent, in the country, for managing their affairs, upon a farm of Lord Reay's estate in Diurness. This company have a lease also of the kelp-shores of his estate ; which, if properly managed, would prove an object of great importance, as these shores are very extensive, and covered almost every where with vast quantities of the best sea-weed ; but the small tenants, occupying the lands next the shore, are the only manufacturers, who for their labour have but 30s. per ton, paid upon delivery of the kelp. As they work only when they can afford time from their other necessary affairs, the quantity of manufactured kelp falls far short of what it might, and would be, were a sufficient number of hands employed, and better encouragement given.

The rivers of this country abound also in trout, which are excellent in their season, as do also the less considerable streams, of which there are several. The most valuable of these is the kind called white trout, somewhat like salmon. Another kind, found also in plenty in these rivers, is the darker sort, with red and black spots. Some of these, as well as of the white trout, are found equal in size to grilse or young salmon.

The lakes are stored with variety of trout of all sizes. Of these Lochmoir, at the distance of 7 or 8 miles from the sea, is 3 miles long by half a mile broad, and never freezes in the severest season. Lochstalk is 2 miles in length, and half a mile in breadth. Both these lochs are connected by a small stream ; and out of the last mentioned runs the considerable river of Laxford. All these lakes and rivers form a pretty straight line, which divide Edderachylis from the lands of Ashir, and was formerly the march separating these properties from each other. Besides these great lakes, a vast number of smaller ones are interspersed amongst the mountains, most of them abounding with trout.

*Surface and Agriculture.*—The face of the country, like the rest of the Highlands, is mountainous and rocky, and, to a stranger, shockingly rugged. The more inland parts, which constitutes Lord Reay's deer forest, are nothing but a vast group of dreadful mountains, with their summits piercing the clouds, and divided only by deep and very narrow vallies, whose declivities are so rugged and steep, as to be dangerous to travellers not furnished with guides. Yet these wilds afford excellent pasture, in many places, to all sorts of cattle, being clothed, to the tops of the highest mountains, with clover and daisies, and other rich pasture. In many places numbers of deer are to be seen, very large and fat, especially in the harvest season; for looking after which certain persons, called forresters, are appointed with salaries, in convenient parts of the country. The bounds of the forest are very extensive, making a considerable, if not the greater part, of Lord Reay's estate; but that part of it which is reckoned the best, and abounds most with deer, is that which belongs to this parish. The inhabited places are only those next the sea, and some others on the confines of the forest, which happen to be somewhat level, and thereby fitter for rearing cattle, or the culture of corn; and though, towards the coast, the ruggedness of the ground be less, and the mountains seemingly subside, or present a less awful and horrid appearance, yet rocks and marshes, lakes and mountains, though of less magnitude, are all along continually intermixed; so that, excepting pasture for cattle, it seems but very indifferently calculated by nature for any other purpose. It is matter of no small difficulty, even on the shore, to find a lot fit for a house to stand on conveniently, without under water, or some other remarkable disadvantage.—And as for the villages or dwellings, where the inhabitants make a shift to rear some corn, they have so great labour in clearing their little plots (many of which are no larger than the floor

floor of an ordinary room), by digging, turning out great stones, and grubbing up bushes and underwood; that, excepting the benefit of the straw, for saving the lives of their cattle in spring, considering especially their toil in cultivation, they would surely find their account in abstaining from agriculture totally, and spending their time in some handicraft employment; but this must be understood concerning such as do not work themselves personally, but must hire others to labour for them, for that makes very great odds in this country.—It is true there are ploughs drawn by horses, no less than 10 in different parts of the parish; but there is so little ground for them to go upon, that 2 constantly employed, as in the low country, could easily perform all the work of the ten\*.

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\* The instrument chiefly used for tillage, is called a *Cascrain*, or crooked foot; being a crooked piece of wood, the lower end somewhat thick, about two feet and an half in length, pretty straight, and armed at the end with iron, made thin and square to cut the earth. The upper end of this instrument is called the shaft, whereas the lower is termed the head: the shaft above the crook is pretty straight, being 6 foot long and tapering upwards to the end, which is slender; just below the crook or angle, which is an obtuse one, there must be a hole, wherein a strong peg must be fixed, for the work man's right foot, in order to push the instrument into the earth; while in the mean time standing upon his left foot, and holding the shaft firm with both hands, when he has in this manner driven the head far enough into the earth with one bend of his body, he raises the clod by the iron headed part of his instrument, making use of the heel, or hind part of the head as a fulcrum, in so doing, turns it over always towards the left hand; and then proceeds to push for another clod in the same form. To see six or eight men all at work with this instrument, as is often to be seen, standing all upon one leg and pushing with the other, would be a pretty curious sight to a stranger.

With all its disadvantages the *Cascrain* of all instruments is the fittest for turning up the ground in the country; for among so many rocks, a plough can do little or nothing, and, where no rocks are, the earth is commonly so marthy, that cattle are not able to pass over it, without sinking deep.

Therefore

The crops raised in this country are only oats and bear alternately. The kind of oats which answers best, is found to be a large bodied grain of a black colour, and a thick coat, which ripens early, and meals well; and the bear is the kind commonly used in the Highlands. Potatoes, though less than 30 years ago scarcely known here; now constitute a considerable part of the food of the inhabitants.

Notwithstanding the ruggedness of the ground, and the wild appearance of this country, scarce any place affords a more commodious habitation to poor people, if there are any such in it. For upon a farm of 200. and sometimes only of 100. many families want none of the necessaries of life; having bread and potatoes, fish and some flesh, wool and clothing, milk, butter, and cheese, all the fruit of their own industry, and the produce of their farms. Their fuel they have also good, and on easy terms, every farm having plenty of peat mosses free to all. — Travelling, it must be owned, is difficult and disagreeable, there being no roads, but such as the feet of men and cattle have made; yet, when one has occasion to come to it, and remain there, he will find it as convenient for the purposes of living as most parts of the Highlands.

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Therefore it is of pretty general use in the Highlands, and is of great antiquity. One man can turn over more ground with it in a day than four are able to do with a common spade. For a single man to delve as much ground as will require two pecks of bear seed in a day is nothing uncommon; nay, some have sown four in a day's work. There are many instances of single men in this parish, who with good seasons have reared as much corn as, with the help of potatoes, has subsisted families of 6 or 7 persons plentifully, by the *Casserois*. But for this they have one advantage, denied to many others, that there is always plenty of manure; for besides what the cattle furnish, there is almost every where the greatest profusion of sea-ware, which makes the best manure, especially when cut early in the spring and mixed with earth.

lands. Lying on a coast well known to sea-faring people, and frequented by shipping, any necessaries the place itself cannot supply are easier got than in most parts of the kingdom.

*Harbours, Fishery, &c.*—What Edderachylis has been, and still is, happy in, far beyond other parts of the Highlands, is the fishing upon its coast, and its many excellent bays and harbours, where shipping of all sizes can enter, and moor close to the land, at all hours of the day and night, in perfect safety. Of these harbours are, *Loch-Badeuat*, erroneously marked *Badwel* in some draughts of the coast; *Loch-Calva*, which signifies literally in the Celtic, “good harbour;” *Laxford*, having several good anchorages, of which *Island an Erinich*, or “the Irishman’s island,” is the best; *Feannack-Moir*, near the entry, is a very safe place; *Inchard* has also a good harbour; and so has *Kyles-cuin*, near *Stirk’s-island*.—There has not only been a greater quantity of fish killed on the coast of this parish, for some years past, than on the coast of any other place in the Highlands, but more herrings than what have been killed on all the coasts of all the Highlands put together. Here there is no person whose sole business is fishing, consequently no fish is sold, excepting herring; yet every man is a fisher, and fishes for himself. Every village, and almost every house, has a boat; nets, and all sorts of fishing tackle; yea, some householders have 2 or 3 boats, for answering different purposes. In summer, glassocks, or sals, are got in great plenty. In July, shoals of mackarel, the forerunner of the herring, appear. Soon afterwards, almost every creek and harbour are quite full of herrings; and sometimes they remain off and on the coast to about Christmas; at other times, they leave the bays all at once in September, and no more is seen of them that year.—Haddocks are killed on this coast also, and in some years in great numbers, and they are commonly larger

larger and fatter than in almost any other place; but again for some years, few or none of them are found. The uncommon goodness of them, and the other fish caught here, must be imputed to the proximity of the Atlantic and North seas, and that there are fewer in pursuit of them than in more populous places.

In the year 1789, three vessels from Murray, bound for Barra-head fishing, being forced into Inchard by stress of weather, and wind-bound there for some days, thought fit to try their luck where they were, and met with wonderful success in killing both cod and ling; so that they were in suspense, whether to proceed to Barra or remain there. They declared that, from former experience, they could hardly expect so great success, in so short a time, in Barra; that the cod here were larger and fatter than there, at the same time of the year; and, if the ling would come in their proper season, which was not then commenced in this place, in as great plenty as they used to do at Barra-head, they could not but think this a better fishing station; because what ling they had taken here, they found to be very good, and rather larger, as well as the cod, than those they used to find there; so that it is more than probable, had the joint stock company a proper representation laid before them of the fitness of this parish for a fishing station, they would consider it, (as it in all likelihood is), incomparably more deserving of being at the expense of an establishment for the purpose of fishing, than either Ullapool, or Tobermorie, or perhaps any other place in the Highlands.

*Islands.*—In Edderachylis, and on the coast of it, there is a number of small islands of different sizes, many of them affording pasture to small cattle, especially lambs, in summer and harvest. In these spots they require no herding, and are safe from foxes. The only inhabited island is Handa. It is



separated from the main land by a narrow sound, through which vessels pass with good pilots. Its name is Celtic, either *Aon-Lo*, "the island of one colour," or *Aon-toobh*, "the island of one side;" in either of which senses the appellation is just and applicable. For viewing it from the sea upon the S. it appears wholly dusky and green; and rises gradually by a gentle ascent from the sea upon the S. side towards the N. so as to consist of one face or side, and to have nothing upon the N. but one tremendous rock of 80 or 100 fathoms high in some places. It is a mile square, having some fertile spots for rearing corn and hay, but the natural and proper application is the converting it to a sheep walk, as there no foxes could annoy the flocks, nor contagion find access to it. The present rent is L. 12 sterling \*.

#### Migratory

\* Here once lived *Little John Mc'Dhoil-mbich-Huisdonn*, a gentleman of the Affint Mc'Leods, who were a branch of the Mc'Leods of Lewis, or *Sbiol Ter-quil*. He was low of stature, but of matchless strength, and skill in arms; kept always a birchin or galley in this place with 12 or 20 armed men, ready for any enterprise. Some alledge he practised piracy; but of this there is no certainty. By him it was that judge Morison of Lewis, of whom several respectable families now living there are descended, was slain. This judge had King James VI's. commission for maintaining justice and good order in that country; and though he was murdered by this Mc'Leod, it was for no personal quarrel, or injury done Mc'Leod himself, but in revenge of his being instrumental in putting to death one of that family, who acted as laird of Lewis. The preceding laird of that place dying without lawful issue, but leaving a number of natural sons, (some say 60), a contention arose among them about the succession to the estate. The eldest being not so popular among the name, as one other especially, the son of a gentlewoman whose parents were of considerable influence among the tribe, was obliged to leave Lewis, and live upon the main land. Judge Morison being informed that there was a French vessel employed in killing fish contrary to law upon the neighbouring coast, sent for the reputed laird, who lived near that place, and taking also a party along with him, boarded this vessel, and made her a prize; but whether by stress of weather or design, they came

*Migratory Birds.*—Island Handa is remarkable for being the resort of vast numbers of sea-fowl of different kinds, which about

to anchor below the house of the eldest of the brothers upon the main land, who in this way getting his rival within his power, had him immediately put to death by hanging him up, thinking no more was necessary to his succeeding to the possession of the estate of Lewis. But the death of the favourite young man so irritated the whole clan of M'Leod, that they resolved nothing except the death of the judge should atone for it, and this *Little John M'Doal mbeib Huifdan*, being universally reputed the fittest person for this enterprize, it was committed to him accordingly. The judge, informed of his danger, thought fit to come and wait on the master of Reays who then lived in Diurness, about the Christmas holidays, in order to prevail with him, to protect him, and to threaten John M'Leod from attempting any thing against him. But John M'Leod being told of the judge's having left his boat at Inverchirkak in Assint, waited for him there in his return, slew both him and his brother; and after this went to Lewis and married the judge's widow.—On account of the barbarity and cruelty of these M'Leods at this time, and their murder of a very promising youth who was the rightful heir of the estate of Lewis, immediately upon his coming home to his estate from Edinburgh, where he had his education under the King's eye, and this murder of judge Morison, of whose integrity his majesty had a high opinion, the king disposed of Lewis to a company of adventures from Fife and Dundee, whose history is well known.

Among the numerous islands on this coast is one called *Elan a Bbriv*, or, the Island of the Judge, from the above mentioned Judge Morison. After he had been slain, his friends in Lewis came in a galley to bring home his corpse; but contrary winds arising drove them with the body on board to this island, where they found it convenient, after taking his bowels out, to bury them; and the wind soon after changing, they arrived in safety at home. This small island, which furnishes good pasture for lambs, being about 4 acres of extent, is possessed by the present minister of Edderachylis, as it has been by all his predecessors in office by the gift of the family of Reay.

All these islands, and many more, some of them inhabited, and others affording excellent pasture, and of considerable extent, from Roe a Stoir in Assint to Stroma in Orkney, are said to have been granted in property, and included in a charter to one Ferchard Beton, a native of Isla, and a famous physician,

about the end of April every year come to it to breed and hatch their young. Their numbers are so great, that the whole face of

physician, at his own request, by one of the Stewarts, Kings of Scotland, whom he had cured of some distemper. This Ferchard was physician to the M'Kays of Far; and received from them, in exchange for his right to these islands, a piece of ground near Tongue, called Melnefs, where he lived himself, and some of his offspring after him; but the M'Kays found means to recover possession of Melnefs long since; and yet it is said Ferchard's posterity remain still in the country under the name of M'Kay.

There is yet one small island in a fresh water loch, that deserve some notice, on account of memorable events that happened in it. It lies in Loch-Stack, so termed from a mountain having the figure of a stack of corn, but of immense height, near it. In this small island M'Kay Laird of Far, chief of the name, had a hunting house with a small garden, which on occasion of his visiting the distant parts of his forest in the hunting season, he resorted to for some time, and not only he, but after him, other gentlemen have been in use to pass some days in the same place, when employed in the diversion of hunting. While Sir Hugh M'Kay of Far, the father of Donald first Lord Reay, happened to pass sometime in this island, it was the custom of the people in the neighbourhood to make him and his company presents of milk, fresh meat, butter, and cheese; and in this way the wife of a man occupying the next farm or grazing called Loan, who seems to have been of the better sort, came to him with her present also; and being a young woman, and as it would seem of uncommon beauty, Sir Hugh took a fancy for her person, wanting her to gratify his sensual inclinations; but she rejected his proposal disdainfully, telling him she would not live to commit such a base deed, while her own husband lived, and so wanting to return home, she found she would not be permitted to leave the island. Next day Sir Hugh, with one or more attendants, took a walk towards the house, where the husband lived, and desired him to come along with them as they returned to the Island, which as he was doing, either Sir Hugh himself, or some of his company, stepping behind, all at once ran him through the body with a durk, took off the head, which they brought carefully along with them, and upon their return presented to his wife. Then the poor woman fearing, by persisting in her opposition, to meet with her husband's fate, was obliged to submit to Sir Hugh's inclinations, and of that commerce was Donald

of these tremendous rocks, and the sea in the neighbourhood, appear covered with them. There they remain all the summer

and M'Kay begot, who was the first laird of Edderachylis of the name of M'Kay.

Who the earliest inhabitants of Edderachylis have been, is not now easily discoverable. After the most diligent inquiry among the oldest and most intelligent people, all that can be learned is, that two or three centuries ago this place was but thinly inhabited; and, that the inhabitants were such as held their possessions by no legal tenure, paid no rent, and acknowledged no landlord or superior. The first who are said to have held it in property were M'Leods, a branch of the Lewis family, or *Shiel Torquil*: but prior to their establishment as proprietors, tradition reports that in the time of the Norwegian kingdom of the western isles, these islanders made frequent descents upon the coast, and sometimes not without bloodshed, while they attempted plundering the few inhabitants of their cattle, and carrying them off in their boats. The last of the M'Leod family, who died the acknowledged proprietor of Edderachylis, and seems not to have been of the family of Assint, was called *Machs a Leisler*; probably on account of the first or principal man of the tribe being remarkable for skill in making arrows, for *Machs a Leisler* is, literally, "the son of the arrowmaker." He having no children by his wife, brought over from Assint, a nephew of his wife, called James, the son of Roderick, the son, John Moir M'Leod, to live in family with him, and succeed him in the possession of the estate at his death, which accordingly happened; but he, being of a turbulent and factious disposition, had quarrels with several of his neighbours, particularly the Morisons of Diurnefs and Ashir, some of whom he put to death. The Laird of Farr also, Sir Hugh M'Kay, having occasion to remit a sum of money to Edinburgh, the bearer of it next day returned to him, after being robbed only one day's journey from his house, by a party of armed men having their faces disguised with black paint, whom every one supposed to have been sent upon that enterprize by James M'Leod of Edderachylis. As the Morisons of themselves were not able to bring James to task for the injuries done themselves, they contrived a plan for it, by bringing the M'Kays to their assistance. The principal man of the name of Morison at that time in Ashir, had in his house and family, a bastard son of the Laird of Farr's (Donald M'Kay) the same already mentioned, as begot in the island of Loch-Stack; him he proposed both to the M'Kays and to his own friends, to

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mer and harvest till the middle of September, when they migrate no body knows whither. Many of those who live nearest

be Laird of Edderachylis, if by their joint efforts James M'Leod was made away with; and all agreeing to this proposal, the plan for effecting it was to engage a cousin of James M'Leod's, one Donald M'Leod, son to Murdoch, son to John Moir of Assint, to take away his life: this business, he was reckoned the likeliest, and fittest to perform, being a notorious ruffian, and, in order to hinder James's friends from prosecuting revenge afterwards when the deed should be perpetrated by one of themselves. The reward promised Donald, induced him readily to undertake it, which was, that he should have the half of Edderachylis for himself, and his offspring, and that the mother of this Donald M'Kay, the bastard, should become his wife. Hereupon, a party of the Morisons from Ashir, headed by Donald M'Kay the bastard, and Donald M'Leod, who among other qualifications, was incomparably skilled in handling the long bow, marched in a dark morning for Edderachylis, though not directly towards Scoury, where James M'Leod lived, but to some other places nearer them, where James's best friends, and ablest supporters dwelt, in order to dispatch them first; which having done, and three or four men, whom they surprized in their beds in their several dwellings, cruelly slain, they proceeded to Scoury; where, after slaying two or three more of the M'Leods, they found James, upon getting some notice of their approach, had taken shelter in a small house he had sometime before built in the middle of a lake in Scoury. But with arrows, having fire bound to them, this house, being thatched with straw or reeds, was soon made to blaze, when he was obliged to come out; whereupon Donald, his cousin german, killed him dead with a musket bullet. And as James had a son of his along with him in this island, Donald did for him also; for after he had swam to the farther side of the lake, and endeavoured to run for his life, he slew him with an arrow from his long bow.

James M'Leod, or M'Rory, being in this manner slain, Donald thought himself sure of possessing at least half of Edderachylis, according to agreement, but here he found himself mistaken; the Morisons now told him, he must be content with some other reward, for that Donald M'Kay must have all Edderachylis: whereupon Donald in a rage declared that would not do, and immediately betaking himself to his friends in Assint, in a short time returned with a body of men to take possession. But the Morisons, aware of his motions, prepared to meet and fight him upon his first entering the country;

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est this island, as well as its inhabitants, make it their business, as often as they can, to come with boats to this place, and

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besides

and as both parties were ready for an engagement in a place called Maldy, Sir Hugh M'Kay of Far presented himself to them upon the top of a hill hard by with 300 men, and finding how matters stood, immediately called both before him to a conference in order to an accomodation, which none of them durst refuse. At this interview Sir Hugh propos'd to Donald M'Leod, that he should resign his pretensions to Edderachylis in favour of his son Donald, and that he himself, in consideration of his doing so, would grant him other land near himself, called the Davoch of Hope, as also Donald M'Kay's mother to be his wife; which proposal he at once agreeing to, the whole difference ended and peace and harmony took place. This promise Sir Hugh actually fulfilled, giving Donald the Davoch of Hope, where he lived to an extreme old age, with a family of six or seven sons, continuing the same ruffian to the last. He was buried in the kirk of Diurness, where, upon the fourth wall on the inside of the building, there is a monument of his with the initials of his name, and his arms cut out in the stone, and the year 1619. What became of the sons cannot be discovered, but the lands of Hope are in the possession of the Reay family, as a part of their estate.

In this manner came Edderachylis into the hands of the M'Kays, or that branch of them who call themselves the family of Scoury; but of them there were only three proprietors before it became a part of the estate of Reay; the first of these was Donald already mentioned, the second his son Hugh, and the third his son Hugh, who was the famous general M'Kay, commander in chief of the forces in Scotland under King William III. He was born in Scoury, this parish, and as George Lord Reay married his daughter, he gave him Edderachylis, as her tocher.

Next as to Ashir or Fashir, the northern part of this parish, which, as before observed, was the waste or uninhabited parts of Diurness. It, as well as Diurness, as far back as our information goes, was church-lands, belonging of old to the bishoprick of Caithness, and they were disposed of by one of the Popish bishops of that see to a Lewisman, one Ay Morison, son of Norman, who coming by sea for a cargo of meal to Thurso, near the Episcopal seat, happened to fall in love with a sister of the bishop's, and married her, and as her tocher received all Diurness and Ashir, a good and extensive highland estate. What was the name of this country, prior

to

besides catching and killing great numbers of them, to the great benefit of their families in the way of provision, they make considerable profit of the feathers, bartering them commonly for an equal weight of wool. The flesh of the birds, (the young ones excepted), has a fishy taste, offensive to most palates. Three men, at different times, lost their lives by falling from the rocks, where they were unhappily scrambling in pursuit of them and their eggs, in the memory of the present inhabitants.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—In Edderachylis is plenty of all sorts of game; deer, roes, mountain hares, which vary their colour according to the season of the year, being white in winter, and brownish gray in summer; moor fowls, black cocks, and tarmigans,

to this event, cannot now be ascertained by any traditional account; but Morison at this time gave it its present name of Diurness, from the place of his nativity, so that it cannot be considered as local or descriptive; but upon being established in his newly acquired estate, he brought over with him from Lewis a colony of no less than sixty families, mostly of his own name, to whom he gave lands upon his own property; hence it is that the name of Morison is so prevalent in these parts, for though the property be fallen into other hands, the stock of the inhabitants remains. Some generations after this, it happened that the descendant lineal of this Ay Morison died childless, and left a widow, a Sutherland woman, daughter of one Donald Bain Matheson then proprietor of Sheeness. This woman, finding herself ill used by her late husband's relations, eloped in the night, carried with her the rights by which the Morisons held Diurness, went to Dan-robina, the Earl of Sutherland's seat, and delivered these papers into his hands. Possessed of these rights only, the Earl considered himself as intitled to claim Diurness for himself, and consequently had great bickerings with the Morisons to bring them to pay rent to him; but they continuing obstinate and refractory, and being encouraged in an under-hand manner by the laird of Far and his agents, the Earl at length became tired of contending with them, and agreed with the laird of Far, ancestor of Lord Reay, to give Diurness to him for a feu duty of 60 marks in the year; and in this manner came the Reay family to be possessed of this estate, but the feu duty, though still continued, is now reduced to a trifle.

tarmigans, wild-pigeons, partridges, and all kinds of small birds, with great varieties of sea fowls.

There are in the parish considerable woods, in the more inland parts, fit for building houses, and making farm utensils, mostly birch, and far from the shore: those which antiently grew upon the shore, of which there are still some remains in different places, have been destroyed.

There are appearances of mines in this parish, which have never yet been investigated by persons of skill, as well as white marble, particularly in *Foinne bhein*, a part of the deer forest. Near Island-Handa, upon the main land, is found a kind of light grey coloured stone, heavy, and perfectly free of sand and gritty matter, and of so fine a consistence as to admit of being cut and fashioned with a knife, and bored through with a gimlet, without these tools being hurt by it. It is used by many for sinkers to their hand lines in fishing.

The air is reckoned wholesome, though often damp from the vicinity of the ocean, and of very high mountains, but the frequency of very violent storms purifies it. The thatched houses, which all the houses here are to a very few, require a new cover every year to render them water tight; and the stuff used for this purpose is either straw, long grass, rushes, fern, or heath; but this cover must be bound artfully with new ropes made of either heath, straw, or the crops of trees twisted, all which occasions no small trouble and expence to the inhabitants, yet without them, every house would infallibly be unroofed, and destroyed in a short time. Rains here are frequent and heavy, but not quite so frequent as in most places to the S. of this coast, and the weather is generally milder; for though snow falls deep sometimes, and remains long upon the highest mountains, yet upon the shore it is seldom of any continuance, for the exposure to the S. W. and the shelter from the storms of the N. and E. by the hills and rocks, render the habitations



comfortable; so that many of the cattle, cows, and horses, as well as sheep and goats, lie in the fields without being housed at all the whole year, and look and thrive better than such as have been house fed. Vegetation also commences early in these parts; but the ground for husbandry is never begun to be broke up till March, as rain and wet weather before that period is reckoned more hurtful to it in that situation. April is the seed time for oats, and May for potatoes and bear; and in August and September, all the harvest work about hay, bear, and oats, are performed, and these are all gathered in with favourable weather against the beginning of October.

There have been several instances of longevity in this parish; and at present there live in it two or more men betwixt 80 and 90 years, one of whom, with good weather, travels four miles to hear sermon, and returns the same day to his house.

There are none living in this parish having any property in land, for, as has been already observed, Lord Reay is sole proprietor of it, though there are several families of considerable substance in the grazing way, possessing extensive pasture grounds; but by far the greater part of the parishioners are subtenants of the tacksmen of the family of Reay. And though Lord Reay exacts no services for his own particular behoof from the people of this parish, which lies at a great distance from his own seat at Tongue; yet that is not the case with respect to the tacksmen. They parcel out among poor people, as under tenants, such farms and out skirts of their possessions as they do not labour for their own immediate behoof, upon condition of paying the full rent of their different small holdings, and some other small items; besides these, the subtenant engages to perform such and such services, by sea or land, as their matters affairs may require; especially in harvest and spring, they must be ready at a call, to do what work may be assigned them; and, as they have no lease for their possessions,  
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the masters orders cannot be disputed, but at the risk of being turned out at the term, when, with the character of being refractory, no other tacksmen will be ready to receive them, and they must be set a-drift, which is a dreadful situation to a poor man with a wife and family. A tacksmen, whose lands are extensive, has it in his power in this manner to ease himself of a good deal of expence in the way of hiring servants to do his work, which is a great advantage, especially in such a place as *Edderachylis*, where servants are scarce by reason of so many of them being employed in kelp, fishing, and the management of cattle. The rents therefore each of these subtenants will have to pay, must not exceed what will be barely sufficient for his circumstances, 20s. or perhaps 10s. and often not so much, that the tacksmen may have as many hands to work for him as possible; but as he gives them commonly their maintenance when he employs them, to ease himself in this article he calls them out the seldomer.

Servants being scarce in this country, some tacksmen have fallen upon a way of providing themselves, by giving a piece of land equivalent to the wages of a servant for a year to a man with a family, on condition of giving him his service for one half of that time, by alternate weeks, and paying half the rent of the land along with this service. But the fittest and best kind of servants for this country are the domestic kind, having no family of their own. About 30 years ago, and later, the best men servants here were hired for 7 or 8 merks in the half year; but now, they must have 20s. with perquisites: —the best maid-servants then were satisfied with 3 merks wages in the half year; but now they get 6 or 8 merks, also with perquisites. Many servants of both sexes have of late fallen into a way of going to the southern parts of the nation, where menial service stands higher; and yet, when distress overtakes them there, they often make their way back to their  
I friends

friends in this country, and become a burden to them. Many also have entered into the army as recruits; and several find employment on board the bounty fleet in catching herrings; whilst women and children make some money by gutting, &c.

There are but few in this parish that may be called real objects of charity. The native inhabitants are all connected by blood, and few strangers dwell among them, so that they assist each other, and scarcely any are in want of bread. The poorest, to a very few, have some cattle which they can call their own; and if any go about for charity as beggars, they are commonly such as come from distant parishes, or perfect strangers. The only public fund for relief of the poor in this place, is the Sabbath collections, which is distributed by the Session once in the year, or in two years; and its annual amount is commonly from L. 3 to L. 4; but in times of a great herring fishing it exceeds this sum, for many of the bounty fishers attend public worship, too often for information where the fish abounds most, than on account of devotion. It is to be regretted, that the toleration allowed by law to such men to prosecute their fishing upon Saturday evenings and Monday mornings, is too often abused by breaking the Sabbath rest. Yet there are among them who seldom or never send out any boats, either on the Saturday evenings or Monday mornings, and yet they are known to make out their cargoes as soon as the others, for, as they declare themselves, their men exert themselves more vigorously, in consequence of that rest, all the week over, so as to prove more successful\*.

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\* The only monuments of antiquity in this parish are the ruins of four dry stone round towers, supposed to have been the work of the Norwegians. Two of them have been used as cemeteries for burying the dead down to the present times, which practice had its arise probably from their being a security

It is pleasant to observe the progressive state of civilization in the Highlands of Scotland, and in this place in particular, compared with the ferocity and barbarity of the last century. Then, a Swedish vessel of considerable size, happening to cast anchor in Kyles-cuin, attracted the rapacious attempts of some young men in the neighbourhood; who, to the number of 12, boarding her in the night with blackened faces, shot the captain in his cabin, mastered the crew, wounding such as resisted, and then carried off all they coveted of the goods, leaving the remaining part of the hands to sail off with their ship. Next year, another ship appearing on the coast, and continuing to hover nearer land than any of the beholders could understand the meaning of, a number of men from the shore, observing her motions, took a boat, and made towards her; but approaching pretty near, saw several men from the ship jumping into the long boat, armed with muskets and other weapons; and so, not liking their appearance, thought best to sheer off with all speed towards the shore; but, finding themselves pursued by the long boat, and ready to be overtaken, they landed upon the first island they came to, but in landing received the fire of several muskets, by which one man was slain, who cried out as he was dying, "I have got what I deserved," meaning his having killed the captain of the Swedish vessel, for he it was who shot him. Upon this, the long boat returned, and the vessel sailed off.

*Disadvantages.* — 1. The want of arable ground for producing corn. With the best seasons, the crops raised in this parish will hardly be sufficient for two-thirds of the inhabitants; yet,

sity from the ravages of wolves, which were numerous and destructive in this country, and where they were not wholly destroyed till of late.

yet, by being situated at no great distance from Caithness, this disadvantage is in some measure obviated.

2. The want of roads within the country, and towards other places. Were the people called out, and made to work upon the roads according to the statute, travelling here might in time be rendered commodious and easy.

3. The want of schools. There is indeed a legal salary of 100 merks for a schoolmaster, but that, without other emoluments and school fees, is no sufficient encouragement for one properly qualified; and the great distances of the several habitations, and the want of fit houses for boarding, render it impossible for a school here to be of general benefit to the people. A few years ago, the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge gave a schoolmaster to this parish with L. 10 of salary, yet all at once thought fit to remove him, because there was no greater number of scholars than 17 attending the school; yet, had they duly considered the situation and circumstances of this place, they might have easily seen, that granting the means of instruction to 17 scholars in this remote quarter, was a greater charity by much than giving a school to a populous inland parish, like Kiltearn in Ross-shire, which could so easily maintain a schoolmaster for itself, and yet that was the place to which they removed our schoolmaster.

4. The want of communication with post towns, which is not only grievous to the inhabitants, but also a public disadvantage and loss. This is a place of general resort for all kinds of shipping, on account of the many excellent harbours, where they ride in safety in all weathers. Here, therefore, before they face the North seas in their outward bound voyages, they are ready to put in, and desirous of acquainting their employers and friends with their condition; and also, in their return from these seas, they are in the same way willing to give information to their concerns at home. Besides, the fleet  
of

of herring fishers, who often spend more of their time upon the coast of this parish than any where else, because here they find most employment, have always great occasion to write home concerning their affairs; and, as early information of the state of the fishing is of the greatest importance, that information might be given was there once a regular communication established with the nearest post town: the want of this, last season, was attended with immense loss; for while this fleet were losing their time doing little in the bays to the S. our creeks and harbours were full of the finest fish, and there was none to take them; for, as the inhabitants had no salt for curing, and could find no buyers, they desisted from killing them. — The expence of a weekly courier from hence to Tain, which is only a distance of 40 miles, though too heavy for the inhabitants of this place, would be only a trifle to the public, and would be richly compensated by the benefit arising from it to the community. At present, a few of the parishioners are at the expence of a runner, once in the fortnight, from this place to Tongue, a distance of 22 miles and bad road, where there is a weekly communication with Thurso.

## N U M B E R    X X X I V .

UNITED PARISHES OF WISTOUN AND  
ROBERTOUN.(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF  
GLASGOW AND AIR.)*By the Rev. MR. JOSEPH HENDERSON.*

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*Name and Extent.*

**T**HE parishes of Wistoun and Robertoun were united in 1772. Robertoun was probably so called from some eminent person of the name of Robert, or from some opulent family having conferred it as a portion upon a son of that name. — Wistoun, in old papers Woolstoun, derives its appellation from wool; for about the middle of the village, which gives name to the parish, near the church, there is a green mount, called the Cross, where in former times wool was fold. Situated betwixt the low and the high lands, or betwixt the arable ground and the sheep farms, it must have been a convenient place for a wool market; and so might naturally have obtained the name of Wools-town.

The united parishes extend about 5 miles along the west banks of the Clyde, whose course here is nearly from S. to N. It is almost equally extensive in the opposite direction.

*Heritors,*

*Heritors, Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—The heritors are 6 in number, 2 of these have each a small or moderate farm in the parish. One of them farms his own property, which is partly inclosed and subdivided. The present Lord Justice Clerk is the only considerable heritor. He has a seat in the parish, round which his Lordship has made great improvements in farming, planting, and inclosing. There are no inclosures or growing timber worth mentioning in the rest of the parish.

The mode of farming which prevails here, is much the same as has obtained from time immemorial. Even about the village of Wistoun, the tenants of the croft lands have not their possessions separately divided, but intermingled with one another in small spots here and there, or *run-rig*. This, however, is not the case through the whole parish.—The soil, especially about the villages, is good, and the land lets high. There is lime in the parish, but the road to the kilns is often scarcely passable. There are commons, moors, and mosses, in the parish.

The chief produce is oats and barley, which are allowed to be very good, and much more than sufficient for the inhabitants, though the situation is high, and the climate rather cold and damp, which often occasions late harvests. The crops here have been very defective since the year 1782; perhaps crops 1788 and 1791 may be considered as exceptions.—Thirlage, with very high multures, prevails here.—Besides arable, there are a good many sheep farms, particularly in the upper part of the parish. Several farms let for about L. 100 *per annum*. As in other parts of the country, so here too, the number of tenants has been much diminished by the conjoining of farms.—Agricultural labours and improvements, which, together with tending cattle, are perhaps the most natural and salutary occupations of man, do not flourish here. Trade and



manufactures, though going on so briskly in the neighbourhood, have as yet made no progress in this parish\*.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, from Wigtoun, was 591, and from Robertoun, 511;—in all, 1102 souls. In spring 1791, there were residing in the united parish 740 persons, 370 males, and 370 females. The number of families was 182, which at an average is about 4 persons to a family; 27 of these families consisted of single persons. There were 214 married persons; 54 widowers and widows; about 140 under 9 or 10 years of age; several persons about 80,—one 82,—one 83,—one 85,—and one 88, years old. Each of these parishes seems to have been as populous, or nearly so, 50 or 60 years ago, as the united parish now is. This opinion is grounded on the register of births and marriages, which about that period seems to have been pretty accurately kept, and on the accounts of old persons in the parish. The decrease is easily accounted for:—from one farmer now occupying what several had occupied formerly;—from arable land being converted into store or sheep farms;—from a greater number of cattle and horses being reared;—and from people of late years, particularly young persons, removing to places where there are manufactures and public works. Hence one cause of the great proportion of deaths, by a number of old people being left in the parish, while their children remove.—For 4 years preceding 1792, the yearly average of births in the united parish is 15; of marriages, 7; and of deaths, 16. In 1791, 11 were born, and 21 died: since the commencement of 1792, 4 have been born, and 11 have died. From so few years no certain calculation can be made: however, it evidently appears that

\* The wages of servants and day-labourers have risen much of late, on account of the great demand for hands at the public works and manufactories.

that the number of inhabitants has been decreasing rapidly of late, and continues to decrease.

*Houses, Diseases, and Fuel.*—The houses here in general are bad. A good many people die of a kind of consumptions, conjoined with, and terminating in, rheumatic pains and swellings; induced, perhaps, by living meanly in cold damp uncomfortable cottages. Inoculation is little practised here; but the natural small pox has seldom proved fatal in the parish. The fuel is coal from the neighbouring parishes of Douglas and Carmichael. The price was much advanced some years ago.

*Poor.*—There is, strictly speaking, no poor's roll. Those in need apply occasionally, as desired and encouraged, to the minister or elders, and receive supply, or any farmer or neighbour applies for them. The sick are sometimes assisted; and some have the school-fees of their children paid by the parish. Since 1780, the collections at the church doors, and the interest of a trifling sum of public money, have answered the exigencies of the poor. Sometimes the effects of poor persons, who have received much from the public funds, are added to these funds at their death. None stroll out of the parish to solicit charity; but vagrants from every quarter resort thither. Generally speaking, the poor in this place are reasonable in their demands, and live contented on little: this holds not only with respect to those who apply for aid from the public funds, but to many other householders. It is sometimes necessary to press aid on the necessitous, such is their modesty. Sometimes two widows, or single women, join in one cottage, to save house-rent and fuel; and many, even such as are advanced in life, support themselves by spinning flax, and working

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ing in harvest, and at other times. The rent of a cottage is about 12s. a year.

*Ecclesiastical State and Schools.*—There are only a very few dissenters from the Established church in the parish.—The Crown was patron of Wistoun, the family of Douglas of Robertoun. When the parishes were united, it was settled that the right of patronage should be alternate, the Crown having the first turn.

The schools remain as before the parishes were united, there being one with the legal salary in each of the former parishes.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The high and well known hill of Tinto stands on the borders of this parish.—Dun-gavel, a detached beautiful green hill, stands betwixt Wistoun and Robertoun. A water spout broke upon it, August 2d, 1768\*. —There are good trout in the Clyde, as also in two small rivers, the one running through Robertoun, the other by Wistoun.—The great road from Carlisle to Glasgow, by Moffat, passes thro' the head of this parish. There is a pretty good road across the parish, made sometime ago by statute-labour, to give access to coal. The other roads here are very bad.—The greater part of the people live in scattered villages, none of which are large. Robertoun contains above 30 families;—Wistoun about 30;—and New-town of Wistoun much the same : besides these there are several smaller villages, of about 8, 9, or 10 families each.

\* This event is described in the Scots Magazine, for the month of Sep. 1768.

## NUMBER XXXV.

## PARISH OF LOTH.

(PRESBYTERY OF DORNOCH, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE McCULLOCH.

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*Extent, Rivers, Fisheries, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Loth lies on the N. side of the Murray Firth. The arable or inhabited part is bounded by the sea on the S. and S. E. and on the N. and N. W. by a ridge of high mountains running parallel to the shore. The length of the parish is 14 miles, and the breadth, where broadest, not above  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and in some places not  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile. The river of Helmsdale, in the Celtic *Avonmillie*, near the northern extremity of this district, issues from a number of lakes in the parish of Kildonnan; the most distant of which, for they are joined together, borders on Strathnaver, in the parish of Far. Its course, from the last lake to the sea, is from N. W. to S. E. for the length of about 20 miles. It is a pity there is no bridge at Helmsdale; as all travellers, to and from Caithness and Orkney, are obliged to cross the river, which they do either by a ford, or in a passage-boat; but in a speat, the one method is impracticable,

practicable, and the other very difficult. About a mile from the mouth of the river are cruives for intercepting the salmon; and the privilege of fishing here is rented from the Sutherland family by a company, for L. 133 sterling *per annum*. This company has of late erected a boiling house at Helmsdale, where not only the salmon of that river, but likewise those of Brora and Shin, are boiled for the London market. The river of Loth, near the other extremity of the parish, has no permanent source, and very little water in summer. It rises in the neighbouring mountains; and has two branches which meet at a small village called the Glen, about a mile above the place where it falls into the sea. This Glen, or Glen-loth, is a small farm, fitter for producing grass than corn, and has for a long time past been the residence of one tenant; but of late, several families have begun to build and take up their residence to the N. of the old farm house, and to extend their cultivation towards Duchal. The number of inhabitants at present in this tract, which may be called the highlands of the parish, including men, women, and children, amounts to 68 or 70 souls. It is upon the spot where the hunting house, mentioned by the late Mr Alexander Pope, minister of Reay, in his account of Sutherland and Caithness, published in the Appendix to Pennant's Tour, stood, that one of these colonists has pitched his tent, by which that monument of antiquity is destroyed. The Pictish castle of which Mr Pope speaks, is on the N. side of the river, about a furlong below the place where the two branches meet; a little below this building, is the cataract he mentions. It is impossible to conceive what could induce him to talk of fine fishing in the river Loth, for there is no such thing, though, perhaps, a salmon might have been caught in it occasionally, or by accident. One summer, the Helmsdale company employed a boat and crew for about 2 months in the mouth of the Loth; they caught several salmon;

but the success was not such as to tempt them to continue their operations. This river falls into the sea, in a channel cut through a rock 20 feet high, by Lady Jane Gordon, Countess of Sutherland\*. Before this channel was cut, the course of the Loth was eastward through the low grounds of Crakag and Lothmore. This river is very rapid, and sometimes impassable in speats; upon these occasions it is more formidable to travellers than Helmsdale, because on the latter there is a passage boat, whereas on the former there is no resource but to encounter the stream. A Caithness post was drowned in attempting to cross it in 1755, and an excise officer's servant perished in it in the same way soon afterwards. There are four rapid burns in the parish to the S. of Helmsdale, besides the burn of the Ord to the N. of it; in the last a young man and his wife perished in a speat, being carried down by the stream over a high precipice, about 20 years ago. The rivers and burns abound in trout. The road through the parish is dry, and would answer well for travellers on horseback and on foot, if there were bridges over those streams; but it is not adapted for wheel carriages.

*Soil, Manure, Produce.*—The soil is generally good, and the arable part of it in constant culture, producing a crop every year, as far back as the memory of the oldest men or even their fathers. All the tacksmen and tenants have one half of their arable land in bear, and the other half in oats and pease. The bear land gets two furrows and is manured, but that for oats and pease gets only one furrow without manure; so that the land is manured every second year. The ordinary manure, and what answers best for bear is sea-ware, but it is believed to have lit-

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\* This useful work was executed by that lady, during her son's minority. She was likewise the first that began to dig for coal, at Brora in the neighbouring parish of Clyne.

the effect on the second crop, so that in most places the oats turn to a poor account; they are also frequently infested with a kind of small vetch that over-runs the ground and destroys the crop. Some years the pease answer extremely well, but at other times they entirely fail. The same may be said of the beans, of which a few are sown instead of oats or pease in deep or very wet grounds. The great dependence of the farmers, therefore, is upon the bear, of which the parish yields near 3000 bolls yearly. When well dressed, each boll is seldom below 18 stone weight, and often a stone or two more. The soil in some places is said to be well adapted for lint, but hitherto the attempts to rear that useful plant have been few and feeble, and therefore not followed by any beneficial effect. There is very little pasture ground in the low parts of the parish, and therefore few cows are maintained in it in summer. A great quantity of potatoes are raised, hardly an inhabitant of the parish but has a plantation of that useful root, which is generally planted after a crop of bear, and prepares the ground for another crop of grain. The deer of the forest of Steitil are very troublesome to the people of the glen in summer and harvest, by eating their corn.

*Rent, Stipend, &c.*—The Countess of Sutherland has the whole property of the parish, but there are 6 wad-setters, of whom 2 reside. Several gentlemen of property have taken farms in the parish; these farms are provided with good houses and offices, and some are inclosed with stone dykes. Some tacksmen have the whole, and others a part, of their victual-rent converted at 10s. per boll. The valued rent is L. 2264 : 4 : 8 Scotch. The real rent is in victual 583 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 pecks, and 2 lippies, in money L. 288 : 12 : 1½ ster. and the fishing on the river of Helmsdale the third part of L. 400, or L. 133 : 6 : 8 ster. all which, converting the victual at 10s. per boll, amount

to L. 713 : 13 : 5½ ster. The stipend, including L. 50 Scotch for communion elements, is L. 26 : 7 : 9½ ster. and 5 chalders of bear. The schoolmaster's salary is only 100 merks Scotch, and there was no proper school house till last year, on which account the parish frequently wanted a schoolmaster. At present there is a decent school-house, and betwixt 30 and 40 scholars attend it. The registers of baptisms and marriages have hitherto been ill kept, and frequently neglected. The number of baptisms, at an average, amount to about 40, of marriages 24, and of burials 16. There is no fund for the poor but the weekly collections, which are very small, little is given in silver, and the copper is frequently bad. The tenants give their alms in meal at their houses or at the mills, and the gentry are frequently their own almoners. There are 5 millers, 3 smiths, and 7 or 8 wrights; but some of them have land, and hardly any have constant employment in their different departments. There are also taylor, shoemakers, and weavers; but these, for the most part, are likewise labourers and cottars. There are 2 or 3 pedlars that import from Aberdeen or Glasgow such things as the common people have occasion for; but hardly one of them depends entirely on that commerce for his living\*.

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*Fisheries,*

\* All the tenants, cottars, and fishers, pay bodily service, or what is called carriages, to the landlord or tacksmen. The incumbent having applied to a parishoner in whose knowledge and integrity he had great confidence, for information on this subject, received this answer: "Your inquiries as to services or carriages performed by the subtenants and cottars on my farm, in consequence of Sir John Sinclair's Statistical queries, having suggested the following thoughts on that subject, you are at liberty to use them as you please. Whatever the nature and extent, use or abuse of services were formerly, I believe they are now generally a kind of commutation-rent, which the possessors of narrow and detached spots of arable or grass ground, on the out-skirts



*Fisberies, Fuel and Minerals.*—Some years ago, there were several fishing boats and crews of fishers in the parish, but now there

“ out-skirts of a property or farm, pay by mutual agreement to the proprietor or tacksman in lieu of money or victual rent, or in part of the rent. The services performed by such as pay no other rent are always personal, and commonly not limited to a certain number of days, though restricted to certain seasons of the year, and to particular kinds of work, viz. shearing in harvest; carrying the corn from the stacks to the barns in the winter; delving or turning with a spade such corners or angles of a field as the plough cannot reach, in spring; planting potatoes, cutting or spreading peats, and weeding in the fields and gardens, in summer. As these services, however, and the culture of their own small possessions, take up but little of their time, and as the produce of such possessions, commonly does not serve to maintain the possessors, they subsist chiefly, the men, by being employed as day-labourers by their master or the neighbouring farmers; the women, by spinning lint or wool for private families, or such as are concerned in manufactures.

“ But the services of such as pay either money or victual-rent are commonly limited to a certain number of days; and the work which they with their cattle are bound to perform, is specified, such as ploughing or carrying manure, cutting and carrying home a limited quantity of peats, and shearing or stacking corn and hay. When these services are performed faithfully and cheerfully, and when the master, whether proprietor or tacksman, demands no more than an equivalent for what rent the ground so possessed is worth, both parties are benefited by the bargain; as the master could not always get his work so quickly or so cheaply done by any other hands, and as it is easier for most of our small tenants and cottars to pay the whole or part of their rent by their personal labour, or that of their cattle, than to pay the full value of their possessions in money or victual. I know that this opinion of mutual advantage from services has been controverted, and the practice in general condemned as oppressive by our southern neighbours; nor will I deny, that where such manufactures are established as are fit to employ persons of both sexes and all ages; and that, in the neighbourhood of towns or populous manufacturing villages, where a farmer could get any number of labourers wanted for a particular purpose for a few days, the small tenants and cottars might find it more for their interest to pay a proportional rent without any services; and the proprietor or tacksman might bring his outfields to a better  
“ account,

there is only one crew, and the remains of another; and though they go sometimes to sea with small lines, their subsistence does not depend on their success in fishing; there are several other small boats, in which the tenants and cottars fish occasionally with hand-lines, near the shore, when the weather and their other business permits them to be so employed. For the two years past, the inhabitants derived little advantage in the way of fishing from their vicinity to the sea, as they had not their usual success; but appearances begin now to be more favourable. — It is an ordinary custom with the fishers on the south side of the Firth, and on the Firths of Inverness and Cromarty to repair to the coast of the parish of Loth to fish in the spring and summer seasons, whence they generally carry home their boats fully loaded. The coast is in some places rocky, in others, a sandy beach. There are several boat-harbours on the shore, but that of Culgour is accounted the best. Connoisseurs say, that a pier for ships could be erected at

“ account, than by letting them for occasional services. But where there  
 “ are neither populous towns nor villages in a neighbourhood, nor manufac-  
 “ tures of any kind introduced, except perhaps a little spinning of lint, and  
 “ where the country is at the same time populous in proportion to the de-  
 “ mand for labouring and to the means of subsistence, I see no other alter-  
 “ native in the power of small proprietors or tacksmen, than either to al-  
 “ low these poor people to continue in their possessions as formerly on equi-  
 “ table terms, or by removing them from, and depriving them of, present  
 “ means of subsistence, to force them to emigration or beggary. Which of  
 “ these alternatives is most consistent with the feelings of humanity, or most  
 “ likely to be conducive to the public interest, is not difficult to determine.  
 “ It is devoutly to be wished that manufacturing villages were established in  
 “ every corner of our country, so that the lower class of people might have  
 “ it in their power either to continue as they are, or to earn their livelihood  
 “ entirely as day labourers, or by carrying on some useful branch of manu-  
 “ facture.” After all, a few only are so indulgent to the poor as my corre-  
 spondent, yet they seem to enjoy life under those that treat them with  
 severity.

at a very moderate expence in that bay. In the summer time, the people fish sand eels in the sand, and lobsters and crabs amongst the rocks in the ebb. Fuel is an expensive article on account of the distance of the peats, and the badness of the road; so that all the peats are carried home in back loads on horses. Some of the gentlemen have of late begun to import coal, which though dear, they have found to be very convenient. There are quarries of lime stone and free stone on the shore; as also some detached blocks of a very hard and beautiful kind of granite, which Jones, who travelled the country lately in quest of natural curiosities, says, is susceptible of a fine polish, and the best he ever saw except the Italian. There are some rocks of parrot-coal in the sea under Crakag, which are accessible at ebb. The bell-ware on the shore is cut every third year, and made into kelp.

*Population, Horses, Cattle, and Sheep.*—As there are no manufactures or fisheries established in the parish, or any improvements in agriculture introduced, the number of inhabitants has not increased or diminished much since the commencement of the present century. There is a yearly emigration of young people of both sexes to the south of Scotland; few of whom return. No account has been kept of these emigrants, and therefore their number cannot be exactly ascertained. It appears by a decret of locality in 1722, that the number of catechizable persons at that time was 1000. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1193 souls. And in spring 1791, the number of the whole inhabitants amounted to 1370.—They purchase yearly several horses at the Dornoch markets, as the manuring the ground with sea-ware, which, as well as peats, they carry on horse back-loads, occasions a great consumption of that species, of which there are about 500 in constant work, and very few of them are reared

reared in the parish itself. Besides these, the gentlemen keep riding-horses, which are occasionally used in the harrow; some of the tacksmen have likewise begun to use carts and wains for carrying manure, but that method of labouring has hitherto made very little progress. There is a good deal of the land ploughed with horses, but still more with oxen, of which there are about 300 kept for that purpose alone. The number of milch cows is above 200, and that of sheep, betwixt 1500 and 2000. There are likewise a good many swine reared; they are all consumed in the parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The climate seems to be upon the whole healthy. The people in general live to a good old age, though they are not instances of remarkable longevity here. The most common diseases, especially amongst those of advanced life, are coughs, asthmas, and the rheumatism. As to the moral and religious character of the common people, they are generally sober, serious, and industrious, attentive to their business and credit, humane in their deportment, respectful to their superiors, and ready to shew kindness to strangers. No doubt there are exceptions, especially amongst the lowest class; of whom there are many addicted to pilfering, when they expect to escape detection, or to come off with impunity. The better sort have an high veneration for the forms of religion, and are very strict in the exercises of devotion in their families, and in attendance on public worship, of which there is no form but that of the established church in the parish. This uniformity of opinion as to doctrine and worship is not confined to this parish, but extends over all the country; which is an uncommon appearance in a free nation, and amongst protestants, not owing to any thing peculiar in the inhabitants of Sutherland, but entirely, to their local situation, and external circumstances. However though there be no open schism to divide

vide them in public worship, they have their lay-leaders, some of the boldest and most conceited speakers at fellowship meetings, whom they implicitly believe, merely on account of their high pretensions and affected sanctity, by which they impose upon the people, and frequently mislead them. Of late they have begun to keep fellowship meetings amongst themselves, without the presence of a minister. To these meetings they convene at certain fixed periods from different parishes, propose questions in divinity, explain scriptures, and give a sanction to any doctrines or opinions that are considered as orthodox by the presiding saint.—The evil consequences of these meetings on the heads and hearts of the people are begun to be too clearly seen by the clergy; but they have not been able as yet to devise a method of suppressing them; if they are allowed to proceed, it is not easy to say, in what they will terminate at last\*.

There

\* The remains of several Pictish buildings are to be seen; one on the shore below the church, which with its out-works, covered a great extent of ground, is almost effaced, as most of the stones used in building the manse and church were dug out of its ruins, as were likewise very lately the stones of a farm house. In digging these last several deer-horns and human bones were found.

A green mote stood on the banks of the river of Loth, which the gentleman that now possesses Lothbeg ordered to be dug up. There appeared a subterraneous dwelling, surrounded on the outside with large flat stones, which seem to have made a part of the wall; the rubbish was cleared away, and the stones left in the same situation in which they were in the old fabrick.

In an adjacent field, the same gentleman having ordered the ground to be cleared of some cairns, in order to inclose it, there were two stone-cosins found, and in them several urns of clay-ware, which the workmen broke with their spades before they discovered them. On the shore, in several places where there was a beautiful surface of grass about 36 years ago, breaches have been made by sand-blowing, that have discovered about ten or twelve feet below that surface, of which some detached spots remain, an area of  
sand

There have been only three Presbyterian ministers in the parish, prior to the present incumbent. The first was Mr. Robert Robertson, who was settled in 1717 or 1718, and transported to Eddertoun in Ross-shire in 1730. It was during the ministry of this gentleman, and from this parish, that the last unhappy woman that suffered for witchcraft in Scotland was executed. She was burnt at Dornoch; and the common people entertain strong prejudices against her relations to this day.

land, on which are cairns of stones close by one another, which appear evidently to have been heaped up to cover dead bodies, some of whose bones are still to be seen. A number of these tumuli lie on the shore of Wester Garty, which is said to have been the field of a bloody battle, betwixt the Sutherland and Caithness men; the particulars of this engagement, under the name of *Stronrunnie*, used to be a frequent and familiar subject of conversation in the young days of the oldest men in the parish; but they themselves remember nothing but the tradition of the battle. On this spot are the remains of an edifice resembling the other Pictish buildings in the parish; in which was found some years ago, the entire skeleton of a man, who, by the size and length of the bones, must have far exceeded in bulk the common standard of the present days. There is a pretty extensive plain in the moor above Garty, to the west of Helmsdale, which is said to have been the field of another battle, fought at an earlier period than that of *Stronrunnie*. A number of tumuli are still to be seen in this place which is called *Louriboness*. In a valley, betwixt two high hills, is a large stone fixed in the ground, and standing pretty erect, evidently raised by art, as it is of a cylindrical form, and more than ten feet high above the level of the ground; it has no discernible inscription, or carving of any sort; neither is there any tradition as to the cause for which it was erected. Near it are other two stones of a smaller size erected in the same manner.

## N U M B E R   XXXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF SWINTON AND  
SIMPRIN.

(PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD OF MERSE  
AND TIVIODALE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. MR. GEORGE CUPPLES.*

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*Extent, Name, &c.*

**T**HIS district extends 4 English miles from E. to W. and about 3 or  $3\frac{1}{4}$  from N. to S. Swinton and Simprin became one parish by annexation, and by the translation to Coldstream of Mr Jolly, then minister of the latter, on the 24th September 1761. This tract is very irregularly indented; Swinton, the principal village where the church and manse stand, is too near the E. end, and the N. side, to be quite in the centre of the parish; but in so small a district no real inconvenience is felt from this circumstance. As to the origin of Simprin or Simpron, it is uncertain what it means. There is hardly any doubt but Swinton was derived from swine, with which the adjacent plains abounded, and by which they were infested of old. Heroes, it is supposed, first became such by clearing the earth from savage animals, and thereby asserting

ing man's supremacy in the globe; such a hero became the founder of Swinton family, by rescuing these fields from destructive animals, and enabling his dismayed countrymen to eat instead of being eaten by them; he had these fields assigned him, and has transmitted them to a very long series of descendants. This fact does not rest merely in tradition, for it is certain that swine make a great figure in the arms of the family; that there are several persons who still retain the name of swine without the additional syllable; and that the animal itself, no longer an object either of terror or of superstition, is now become a favourite source both of commerce and food to the inhabitants.—The appearance of the parish is in general neither uniformly flat, nor is it mountainous or rocky; it exhibits a set of gentle elevations in long ridges, generally from E. to W. with alternate flats betwixt them. The soil for the most part is fertile, and to a very high degree productive of grass, natural or artificial, and grain of all sorts; except some of the flats, a few of which are too marshy for corn, and even rather unmanageable as to grass, if the season be not uncommonly dry. The soil in general is deep; below what has been already mellowed by frequent tillage, by manure, and change of crops, a strong tenacious clay prevails to a very great depth. Of course, the roads are deep, miry, and often almost impassable in winter; when new made, they seldom continue good for any time; gravel is distant and often scarce; and the clay soon swallows up such hard materials as are employed. It appears that the art of road-making still wants much of that perfection which it formerly had, and may perhaps attain. The same soil, which is miry and dirty in winter, is devoid of moisture and parched in dry summers, exposing the inhabitants at one time to all the inconveniencies of excessive moisture, and at other times to all the hardships of excessive drought. Cattle have been driven from the N. side of the parish to Blackadder, and



from the S. side to Tweed, for water; but the ingenuity of the times has now in a great measure supplied this defect, by deep ponds or very deep wells; and this district is now very rarely, though sometimes, distressed by want of water. In spite of these and other inconveniences, plants, animals, and men multiply and thrive exceedingly. From some undrained marshy grounds, from some low lying spots which long retain the waters in a stagnated state, the air is often moist, foggy, and seemingly unwholesome, though not so much so as one would conclude, the inhabitants living as long, and enjoying as much health as in other places; except that there is one disease very prevalent, namely the ague, the causes of which seem to be the miry nature of the ground, the fogginess of the air, the miserable huts the common people till of late lived in, a defect in cleanliness, and the scanty portion of animal food which falls to their share. The virulence of this disease, however, seems to be a good deal abated, owing to the universal inclosing of the grounds, draining off the moisture, a very conspicuous improvement in the houses, personal cleanliness, and a great alteration for the better in diet. But this disease some years returns with such unexpected frequency and force, as often baffles all speculations concerning it.

The only stream of any note in the parish is Leet, which abounds with pike\*.

*Minerals, &c.*—There is great plenty of free stone, particularly one excellent stone quarry is wrought in the farm of Swinton quarter, on which the family of Swinton retained a servitude

\* A regular fois can be still traced in the church yard round the church, which was a strong stone building, into which it would seem the parishioners upon a sudden alarm retired till their countrymen, roused by a certain signal, came to their assistance. Then they sallied forth, and aided by their neighbours drove off the southern invaders.

trade when they sold the land. It is much used in buildings and the stone is so much in request as to be sent for from considerable distances. As most human advantages or disadvantages arise from some slight local circumstances, it is probable that to this quarry the parish owes a set of ingenious operative masons, highly regarded in their line, cadets perhaps from the Swinton family, and prior to the additional syllable which has long ago both lengthened and softened the name. Except ordinary whin-stone and freestone, no other minerals are to be found here. All the coals come from Northumberland, at 8 miles distance at least from Swinton.

*Population Table.*

Population in 1755 in	Weavers	-	-	8
Swinton - - - 351	Handycraftsmen	-	-	28
----- in Simprin - 143	Journeymen & apprentices	21		
Total - - - - 494	Household servants, male			
Number of souls in 1791 898	and female	-	-	45
Males - - - - 481	Labouring men servants	30		
Females - - - - 417	Tradesmen	-	-	35
In Swinton village - 357	Shopkeepers	-	-	4
In Simprin do. - - - 73	Farmers	-	-	2
Under 10 - - - - 258	Surgeon	-	-	1
From 10 to 20 - - - 152	Dancing master	-	-	1
From 20 to 50 - - - 341	Fiddler	-	-	1
From 50 to 70 - - - 120	Heritor, resident	-	-	1
From 70 to 87 - - - 27	----- non-resident	-	-	2
Births in 1790 - - - 25	Burgher, Antiburgher,			
Males - - - - 17	and Relief Seceders	90		
Females - - - - 8	Cameronians	-	-	2
Deaths in 1790 - - - 22	Proportion of marriages			
Considerable farms - 14	to the whole populati-			
Farmers and their families 123	tion	-	-	1 to 64
	Proportion			

Proportion of births, do.	Valued rent, Scotch L.	4750
- - - - - 1 to 32	Real rent, sterling L.	4030
----- of deaths do.	English acres - - -	5120
- - - - - 1 to 42	Average rent per acre	16s.
Inhabited houses - - -	Horses - - - - -	168
Average number of per-	Black-cattle - - -	778
sons in each house - -	Sheep - - - - -	1517

The present incumbent had occasion some dozen of years ago to take an accurate list of the inhabitants upon a rumour of a Scottish militia, and finds they are now more numerous by 98. The increase is to be ascribed entirely to Lord Swinton's judicious attention to improve and enlarge his village of Swinton, partly by perpetual feus, and partly by leases of 999 years, which last mode gave great offence, and made some of the tenants ask what was to become of their houseless posterity at the end of that period. The real increase lies upon this village, as the other parts of the parish rather must decrease, for these reasons; universal inclosing has in a great measure superseded hands; two horse-ploughs, where the same man holds and drives, have made fewer boys necessary; and farms becoming larger, and grazing prevailing more, fewer hands are required to cultivate them. Swinton has increased rapidly. About 30 years ago there were not 100 persons in it; whereas it now contains 351 souls; and it is inconceivable how many of the necessaries of house-keeping, and how many conveniencies can be now found here, which 25 years ago the inhabitants had to send many miles for \*

Nothing

\* It is almost impossible that any person in this place should die for want of the necessaries of life. Against so dreadful a disaster the securities are a fertile soil, a very regular poor's rate, a humane people, both gentry and others being ready to contribute liberally where any extraordinary case claims their attention;

Nothing that can be called emigration has happened here for many years; some boys, girls, men and women are at the hiring markets in the neighbourhood, engaged to serve out of, or in the parish. In this way many in form of hynds, cotters, cot-men, &c. flit in hopes of better usage, often from whim or caprice; and every Whitsunday exhibits them removing or returning with their whole furniture and apparatus in a cart or two. But such changes imply no settled discontent, arising often merely from levity and a love of change, either in them or their masters. No doubt several have accepted tempting offers of employment in other parishes or in other counties, but they are generally such as the farmers would have been fonder of employing at home.

There are no uninhabited houses. The number of houses is 180, and the average number of persons to a house is almost exactly 5.

*Natural Productions, Advantages and Disadvantages.*—This parish produces in great abundance all the vegetables and plants known in the south of Scotland, along with such trees as are encouraged and taken care of; and does a great deal more than supply itself with all sorts of grain; exporting a considerable quantity of corn by means of the merchants at Berwick and Eymouth.—The seasons of sowing and reaping vary greatly, yet the eligible time of sowing wheat is from the 20th of September to the 20th of October, spring wheat is sown any time in March.—The best season for field pease or beans is from the last week of February to the last week of March.

teation, along with a discretionary power in the minister for sudden emergencies; so that the charity of the parishioners is in little hazard of being either abused or withheld. In 1782, a trifling attention, first to the pensioned poor, and secondly to such as were in temporary straits, removed all complaints within this parish. Some persons suspected to be in want modestly declined the proffered aid, and others repented the offer as an insult.

March. Cold seed oats are sown as early in March as the ground and weather will admit; but hot seed oats may be sown three weeks later; barley from the middle of April till the 8th or 10th day of May. The harvest is reckoned early, when it begins before the 20th of August.—The advantages which this parish enjoys are a very fertile and productive soil;—the neighbourhood of the Tweed, and furnishing, by its carters, such as lie to the north and west with coals and lime, by their hired-carts and horses; a central situation with regard to the market towns of Berwick, Kelso, Dunse and Coldstream.—The disadvantages are, a ticklish soil, easily hurt either by drought or rain, tho' no spot is more fertile when the season exactly suits it; most impracticable roads, which no skill nor attention hitherto has made effectually good; the having no fuel but coals from Northumberland brought across the Tweed at a ford precarious, and often fatal by the rashness of the men and the sudden rise of the river: every season some horses are lost in it; no peat, no fuel, no timber, except the scanty and uncertain supply of thorn-hedges cut and sold; and the total want of manufactures.

*Rent, Changes of Property, Agriculture.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 4750 Scots: The real rent is about L. 4030 sterling; the number of English acres (exclusive of 14 acres of glebes) is 5120 or thereabouts, which is nearly 16s. an acre at an average; the highest rent yet known is 25s. per acre for a few acres, the farm of Swinton quarter gives 23s. per acre, and the lowest rent here is 8s. There is all the certainty such subjects admit of that this rent, instead of sinking, will rise considerably.

It has already been mentioned, that the founder of the Swinton family got the lands of Swinton as a reward for his valour in clearing the earth of those destructive animals, wild boars.

The family afterwards became still more conspicuous, by assisting Malcolm Canmore to recover the throne of his ancestors; and that sovereign confirmed to them the property of the whole parish of Swinton, by one of the first charters granted in Scotland, still preserved in the archives of Durham. During the commonwealth, the then representative of the Swinton family having espoused the cause of Cromwell, the estate was forfeited at the restoration of Charles II. but it was given back at the Revolution. However, a long exile, while their revenues were sequestrated, had so involved the family that it became necessary to sell the three farms of Mont Suir, to the Kerrs of Morriston, who still possess them. And some years afterwards, the father of the present Lord Swinton sold three farms for L. 5500 to Provost Coutts, whose heirs sold them about 1754 for L. 6500 to William Hall of Whitehall, who, after many meliorations at a great expence, sold them to Patrick Lord Elibank for more than double of his purchase money. However, after all these alienations, the Swinton estate is still a noble and extensive property. The whole parish of Simprin was long the property of the antient family of Cockburn of Langton, but their affairs falling into disorder, the estate was sequestrated, and purchased, about 1758, by Patrick Lord Elibank, for L. 18,000.—The most conspicuous object in Simprin is the very high and spacious barn built by the Cockburns, consisting of a threshing floor and large and lofty granaries. Lord Elibank thinking its height exposed it to storms, lowered the roof considerably, but left the gabels standing, so that they still shew the original altitude of the building, which is seen from almost every part of Berwickshire. These are, exclusive of the grass parks of Swinton and other pasture grounds extending to 720 acres, about fourteen farms in the parish; and each farmer occupies 320 acres at an average. One farm of 414 acres is let at 23s. another of 400 acres at 14s. a third of 477 acres

at 15s. a fourth of 370 acres at 18s. and a fifth of about 300 acres at 12s. per acre.—The farmers are allowed by their leases to plough half of their farms annually, the other half being occupied by pasture or sown grass. The former is usually divided into five portions, one in fallow, one in wheat, one in pease or some other green crop, one in barley, and one in oats. Were this practice strictly followed, a tenth part of each farm would be in wheat; but as in some farms and in some seasons this will not do, it will be nearer the truth to compute a twelfth of each farm, according to which estimation there will be annually 366 acres sown with wheat in the parish. About 228 bolls will be required to sow them, and the produce, reckoning 8 bolls after one, will be 1824 bolls of wheat; which at 30s. per boll will give L. 2736. From the above data it will be easy to compute the quantity and value of the other productions of the parish. The farmers are prevented from sowing turnips to any extent by the impracticability of pulverizing their strong ground to the fineness this seed requires, and the difficulty of getting the roots off without leaving dangerous impressions upon the soil. To remove them by horses or carts is very hurtful; and when sheep are folded on them, the holes made by their feet render the ground unfavourable for bearing the succeeding crop of barley. The farmers therefore prefer taking fields of turnips in the neighbouring parishes, at from L. 2 : 10s. to L. 5. per acre. It was formerly customary to sow grass seeds among barley after the ground had carried several crops since it was fallowed and limed; but the farmers now begin to sow grass seeds among the young wheat in spring, and this method is thought to succeed much better than the former.

Betwixt the two longitudinal elevations or ridges of Swinton quarter and Greenrig lies a flat low piece of ground of a very considerable breadth, often overflowed by the swellings of the Leet, which great pains have been taken to drain, and which

is

is most productive of grass, and even sometimes of corn in a very dry summer. If the large and expensive canal, made by William Hall, Esq; to secure a spacious bed for the Leet while passing through his grounds, were continued westward through Lord Swinton's lands to Swinton mill, it would contribute much to the fertility of the soil and the health of the inhabitants\*.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Crown is patron of this united parish. The stipend consists of 100 bolls of oats, Linlithgow measure, 106 bolls of barley; L. 12 : 12 : 8 vicarage teinds, all which, exclusive of house and garden, and including the 2 glebes, along with ferritudes of 2 horses and 2 cows, may amount to L. 136 sterling, *per annum* †.

The manse was built in 1771. At the annexation it was on good grounds believed, that the old church of Swinton would hold all the inhabitants of both parishes; but the village of Swinton increasing very rapidly, the new comers felt themselves crowded, and therefore applied for an enlargement of the church. They asked the consent of the heritors to build an aisle for themselves, the seats to descend with their houses and

T t 2

gardens

\* The family of Swinton by their extreme antiquity constitutes the greatest curiosity of the parish. Sir Isaac Newton in his Chronology calculates, that in no series of Kings the average duration of each of their reigns exceeds 21 years; now it would appear that 22 barons, including the present proprietor, have occupied the lands of Swinton during the long period of 731 years, which supposes that in a most turbulent aristocracy, amidst feudal broils and foreign wars, a series of border chieftains enjoyed their estates at an average each more than 33 years.

† 56 bolls of the victual stipend are paid out of Paxton in the parish of Hutton; a chaldor of barley is paid out of the lands of Eymouth; and L. 26 : 5s of vicarage out of the lands of Horndean in the parish of Lady-kirk. These irregularities probably arose from the dependance of this parish on the abbacy of Coldingham; the abbot drawing the best victual out of this district, and paying his dependent clergy from places where the grain was worse in quality.



gardens to their heirs, and to be inseparable from their possessions.—This the heritors most readily granted, and 28 of these zealous heads of families, at their own expence, and in a great measure by their own hands, did in 1782, add a very handsome aisle to the north side of the church, which was built in 1729. The old fabric was taken down on account of an apprehension that it was in a ruinous and dangerous state; whereas on setting about pulling it down it appeared to be uncommonly strong, and might have stood for ages. In the middle of the church below ground is a vault very neatly built of hewn stone, extending a considerable length, long the burying place of the family of Swinton; but being generally full of water, it is now no longer used for that purpose\*.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—Many changes have indeed happened in the village and in the parish since the year 1754. At that time Swinton consisted of a few miserable huts not containing 100 persons, and Simprin contained the whole inhabitants of that parish. By a division into three farms, the parish has increased in numbers, though the village of Simprin has declined a little; but Swinton now consists of one spacious square,

\* A stone figure of Allan Swinton, the 5th Baron of that family lies in an arched open niche on the south wall on the right hand of the pulpit, with this inscription, *Hic jacet Alanus Swintonus miles de eodem.* In his folded hands, which rest upon his breast, he grasps a round awkward stone, and above him are very ill shaped figures of pigs and of a brood sow. No date can be discovered; but it is well known that he died about the year 1200. The stone he grasps in his hand is by immemorial tradition said to allude to a large clew of yarn, by the dexterous use of which in one hand, while he used his sword with the other, he dispatched a great wild boar in that field in Swintonhill which, from that event, still retains the name of Allan's Cairn; so it would appear that this gentleman engaged in the same manly sports, the same dangerous exercises, and was emulous of the original fame of his family, long before his time become great and conspicuous.

square, with a green in the middle, where two fairs are held, one in June, and the other in October.—At one corner is a large well-built public house. A street issues from the square east towards the kirk, hard by which stands the manse, raised by its situation considerably above the level of 3 public roads, which meet below it. Every house almost without exception has its clock, and not a few of the owners have watches besides; a considerable quantity of loaf bread is brought from Edinburgh, but especially from Berwick, Dunse, Coldstream, and Norham. No regular butcher market is held here; but many black cattle, swine, and sheep are killed occasionally, and sold to the villagers from the adjacent farms, especially in the week of the sacrament, the two weeks of the fairs, and about Martinmas. The price of poultry begins to rise by the new institution of an Edinburgh carrier, though still it is not unreasonable\*.

About 1754, three farms in this parish were occupied by Northumbrian stewards of Northumbrian farmers; on the other farms lived a set of plain unpolished farmers, scarcely distinguishable from their hynds, either in dress, information, or mode of living. Now a most comfortable change for the better has taken place. Of the present farmers some no doubt still exhibit that sort formerly known by the appellation of *gude men*, the toiling and struggling cultivators of small farms; but a second sort occupy large territories, early and intimately acquainted with the theory, the practice, and the commerce of

\* Hens sell from 7d. halfpenny to 9d. a duck at 9d. a goose at 1s. 8d. and 2s. a turkey from 3s. to 4s. The incumbent's two servant maids cost him 3 guineas; his man servant L. 6 : 13s. and his boy 1 guinea *per annum*; and these are nearly an average of the farmers prices; it being understood that wages are always for many reasons much higher in summer than in winter. The average price of grain for some years might be stated at 10s. 6d. for a boll of oats, 13s. for barley, 18s. for peas, and 30s. for wheat; all Linlithgow measure or six Winchester bushels.

of farming, shrewd and sensible, in easy, and some in affluent circumstances, independent either of lairds or factors; they live in a neat, handsome, and hospitable manner, and give their children a very extensive education.—Some of them have had a liberal education. They employ in farming the considerable funds acquired by their fathers in the same line of life; still retaining however their laudable literary curiosity and taste for the belles lettres. So that while this district yields to many of the neighbouring parishes in the size, neatness, and conveniencies of farm houses, in the easy circumstances and even opulence, in the intellectual attainments, the social, and hospitable manners of the farmers, it has no occasion to envy any parish whatever. Even the hynds and cotters derive some improvement from living near such superiors; for beholding in them the advantages of neatness, of cleanliness, and knowledge, they strive as much as their circumscribed sphere will admit to imitate them, giving their children as much reading, writing, and figures, as they can spare time for, along with a little dancing. These hynds and cotters seem to live snug, happy, and contented, except when sickness or want of œconomy distress them.

The poor are maintained by a poor's rate laid on by the heritors, as trustees for the poor, along with the minister of the parish, on whom no small share of the trouble falls. During the life of the late Lord Elibank, merely to gratify a whim of his Lordship, the poor's rates of the two parishes were kept separate; but they have been since thrown together, after an ineffectual opposition from the Simprin tenants, who apprehended that the growing size of Swinton would aggravate their expences on this score.—These rates have always been the chief support of the poor, the collections at the church doors being very scanty indeed. The number of poor at present, is 12; the sum raised for their support is L. 32 : 14s. which di-

vided among the 12, gives L. 2 : 14s. 6d. each, which may aid, but cannot supersede their industry, or the kind offices of their immediate friends.—The people of this parish are humane, clever, and ingenious, and seem to have the advantage of the Northumbrians on one side of them, and of the East Lothianers on the other. The incumbent, after a very long residence among them, cannot find any truth in the observation of an ingenious, learned, and witty Lord, who said that the natives of the Merse were engendered in mud, brought up in mud, and that their ideas were all muddy.

Inclosing they have been long reconciled to, and it has for some time been universal; the commutation of the statute labour into money they submit to with a tolerable grace,—— Turnpikes and toll-bars, with which they are now threatened, they most heartily abhor. \*

#### NUMBER

\* Most of the labourers in husbandry are hired by the half year; the day labourers are often a set of neat, clean, young girls, who feed in their parents houses, and employ themselves in that easy and wholesome exercise, for 4d. 5d. or 6d, according to their age and skill, without victuals from their employer; and who deck themselves out with their purchases in Swinton October fair by their gains. Mowers have without meat generally 18d. a day, though they often undertake it at 2s. or 2s. 6d. per acre. Stout women reapers have from 10d. to 11d. and 3 meals.—Men 1s. and sometimes 13d. and their meals. Corn is generally threshed by weight for the 25th part of what is threshed and dressed, but during harvest no stout man at his liberty will thresh upon any other terms, than being paid as a reaper. Carpenters and masons always find their own meat, and are paid from 1s. 3d. to 2s. according to their skill, the nature of the work, and the length of the day. Taylors, who always get their meat where they work, now exact 8d. per day. A coal cart drawn by two horses is loaded at the coal-hill for from 2s. to 3s. according as the coal is small, great, or splint; the two last being double of the first, and the hire of the cart and horses to Swinton is 3s. which is increased every mile as carters carry them farther.

## NUMBER XXXVII.

## PARISH OF NENTHORN.

(PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND  
TIVIODDALE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. MR. ABRAHAM KER.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**T**HE name is derived from some remarkable thorn trees. The present incumbent remembers a very large one in the parish. The length of this district, from S. to N. is about 4 miles, and the breadth from E. to W. about as much\*. The measurement is about 1900 acres. It is mostly low ground with a moderate descent to the S. except a rising in the north part of the parish, the north side of which falls to the N. The soil in some parts is remarkably good, a small part of the north end, however, is very poor muir ground upon a deep clay. The air is good and healthy.

*Rent.*—The real rent of the parish is about L. 2040. The inclosures are among the very best in Scotland for keeping cows  
OR

\* From Armstrong's map of Berwickshire, it appears the length of this parish is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles and the breadth little more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

or feeding cattle or sheep, and producing milk and fine butter. A cow's grafs cannot be got in these inclosures under L. 3; and they are let at more than L. 2 per acre for summer pasture. There are 4 heritors, one of whom resides.

*Population.*—The relation to Dr Webster in 1755 was 497 souls; the present number of inhabitants is between 300 and 400; the diminution being owing to the setting large farms, and casting down two villages. For 4 years preceding 1792, the births were 44, the deaths 13, and the marriages 9. There are 8 farmers, 2 smiths, 4 wrights, 2 weavers, and 3 masons in the parish.

*Stipend, and Poor.*—The stipend is L. 600 Scotch, 2 chalders of barley, and 2 of oat meal, with a glebe of 6 acres. The King is patron. The number of poor on the roll is 6, and the amount of the assessment for their support for the first half year of 1792, is L. 12 : 12.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The stone in the parish is generally blue whin stone, with one quarry of red free stone; on the side of the water of Eden are two rocks commonly called the Meikle and Little Thairn.—There is one lake called Lurgie Loch.—Dotterels appear in a little flock on the muirs for a few weeks in June.—Both clay and shell marle are used here for manure.—Coal is the common fuel, brought from England, and from Lothian. The price is about 1s. per Cwt.—There are in the north part of the parish 2 or 3 stones with large seams, which it is said Mr Pocock when passing that way thought to have been cemented together: but they have been carried from the Lurgie craig, where are plenty of such stones. When broken, they do not break at the seams. They have been dug up, but nothing was found under them.

## N U M B E R    X X X V I I I .

## P A R I S H   O F   A U C H T E R M U C H T Y .

(P R E S B Y T E R Y   O F   C U P A R ,   S Y N O D   A N D   C O U N T Y   O F  
F I F E .)

*By the Rev. JAMES LISTER, A. M.*

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*Name, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HE town, from which the parish takes its name, is called Auchtermuchty; which, as those who are acquainted with the Gaelic language say, signifies, ‘the cottage of the king.’—If so, it is more than probable, that this town had been originally intended for the accommodation of the king’s servants, during his residence at Falkland. The parish is 2 miles in length, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile in breadth.

The general appearance of the country in this parish is extremely various. Towards the S. the ground is so low and flat that were it not for drains, a great part would be covered with water after heavy rains.—Towards the N. and N. W. the country assumes a hilly appearance. There nature is seen in its wildest forms, and those fond of romantic scenes are much gratified by contemplating “the goodly prospect of hills and dales that spread around.” But though mountainous, and covered with heath in general, it is not altogether barren or uselefs.

useless. Some spots have been cultivated within these few years; and there is a large plantation of firs, interspersed with some larch, in a very flourishing state, the property of Mr Gourlay of Kilmarron, a gentleman well known in this country, not only for his enterprising spirit, but also for his judicious and extensive improvements.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—Around the town the ground is rather light, loose, and black, somewhat gravelly and stony. Towards the S. and S. E. there is a mixture of black clay, loam and mellow earth, so exceedingly fertile, that there is perhaps not a richer spot in Scotland. Some inclosures lying towards the N. W. of the parish have been particularly remarked for the production of excellent pasture, singularly calculated for feeding cattle, and consequently have rented very high to graziers for some years past \*.

There is plenty of free stones and other sorts commonly used in building.—There are four remarkable echoes in the parish †.

## U u 2

*Cattle.*

\* The air is good and healthy. Consumptions are the most prevalent distemper, particularly among young women, which perhaps may be attributed to their staying at home, spinning at two-handed wheels, and not enjoying that comfortable diet, and moderate exercise, the result of being in service.

† The migratory birds are the wild goose, the lap-wing and the fieldfare.—The wild geese make their appearance about the first of November, and leave this place about the first of April. The lap-wing is as it were the harbinger of spring.—When that is early, they appear in February, but if the weather is severe, they come not till March; they go for England or Ireland about the end of September. They are much diminished in numbers within these few years, because the gentlemen in this neighbourhood are now draining their moorlands and cultivating their muir grounds, the usual haunts of this beautiful though gloomy bird. The fieldfare comes from the northern countries in the month of December; but when the winter is mild it makes a very short stay.



*Cattle.*—Much attention is paid to the breed of cattle; a great many are reared of good size and great value. Of late the cattle dealers from England have been in the habit of purchasing them privately, which has injured the markets considerably. They give from L. 6 to L. 12. before they are fattened; and calves new dropt, which could have been purchased a few years ago at 4s. to 5s. last season gave from 10s. to 12s. It is so far well for the country, that there is such a demand; for, considering the advanced price of labour, and the high rents given for land, if either the cattle or grain were to diminish much in value, none of those tenants who have got new tacks could possibly pay their rents; a circumstance to which gentlemen of landed property would do well to attend, if they regard their own interest, and the comfort of such a respectable and useful body of men.

*Population.*—On account of the different sectarists in this parish, which will be afterwards more particularly taken notice of, it is difficult to ascertain with precision the increase of population; as these sectarists seldom register the births of their children in the books appropriated for that purpose; but it is the opinion of some aged inhabitants, whose veracity may be depended upon, that the number of the inhabitants and houses within the town, has increased at least one half within these 60 years.

Number of souls in 1755	halt	-	-	147
- - - 1308	Males	-	-	61
— in 1792 - 1439	Females	-	-	86
In the town - - 1134	In the country	-	-	158
Males - - 527	Males	-	-	75
Females - - 607	Females	-	-	83
In the village of Danes-	Total males	-	-	663
				Total

Total Females	-	776	Butchers	-	-	4
Annual average of births,			Hairdresser (who acts oc-			
for 10 years preceding			asionally as a player)			1
1792, as nearly as can			Barbers	-	-	2
be computed	-	35½	Surgeons	-	-	2
———— of marriages*		18	Their apprentices	-	-	4
———— of deaths	-	21	Writer	-	-	1
Age of the oldest man		92	Merchants	-	-	6
Considerable farmers		12	Shopkeepers	-	-	10
Linen manufacturers		205	Established clergyman			1
Tailors	-	20	Relief seceding do.	-	-	1
Blacksmiths	-	7	Burgher do. do.	-	-	1
Wrights	-	15	Antiburgher do. do.	-	-	1
Saddler	-	1	Established church, not			
Shoemakers	-	18	including children			620
Wheelwrights	-	3	Relief church, do†.			284
Coopers	-	3	Burghers, do.	-	-	189
Heel-makers	-	2	Antiburghers, do.	-	-	93
Dyers	-	2	Batchelors above 25 years			
Bakers	-	6	of age	-	-	16
						Instead

\* It is to be regretted that little attention is paid to the registration of marriages and deaths, as this neglect not only injures the session clerks, but the revenue itself. The tax indeed is very unpopular; and the act of Parliament which imposes it ought either immediately to be enforced or repealed.

† The divisions in this parish commenced soon after the deposition of Mr Gillespie. These surely are among the greatest judgements which can befall any place. They are a judgement temporally, as they take away the substance of families to support ministers, and thus often prevent the just claims of others being paid. They are a judgement spiritually, as they extinguish that spirit of love and charity, the distinguishing characteristics of our holy religion. At the same time, the parish minister lives on very good terms with their clergy, who seem to be well disposed men, and he desires to love all who are lovers

· Instead of any leaving the parish for want of employment, or there being any uninhabited houses, a demand for both daily increases, although upwards of 40 new houses have been built within these few years.

*Natural Productions.*—Comparing the fertility of the land in this parish to what it was in former times, a very remarkable difference will be found; there is no reason to doubt but that one fifth more of provision is annually produced, than what was raised in the same time, on the memory of many yet alive. To account for this, recourse must be had to the history of society in its progress from a rude to a civilized state. It is acknowledged by all, that when mankind were in an uncultivated state, every individual provided for himself all the necessaries of life; but as the manners of the human species improved, the arts were divided among different hands, and individuals, with the fruit of their respective employments, purchased from the manufacturers of other commodities whatever they stood in need of. Thus every thing was not only procured at a much easier rate, but finished in much greater perfection. It was but lately that Scotland, especially this part, and places adjoining to populous towns and villages, arrived at a proper knowledge of agriculture. The learned Dr. Anderson's treatise, and others on this subject, begin now to be read with advantage by farmers; and consequently the modern system of husbandry is generally adopted. The minister too, who farms about twenty acres, flatters himself that he has been of some use

ers of the truth, though they may differ in lesser matters. It is well for the ministers of the established church, that their subsistence does not depend on the caprice of the people, as the relievers here lately turned off an inoffensive old man who had preached to them upwards of twenty years; and who must have suffered in the evening of life, had not their injustice been compensated by the benevolence of a son.

use to his parish in this respect; as within these three years he has raised turnips, potatoes, wheat, and barley on a spot where they were never before seen in the memory of man. The crop on that ground this season is surpassed by none in the country. There are in the parish only one small flock of sheep, about 160 horses, and 230 cows, in general of a good breed. The parish contains upwards of 3000 acres, 90 of which are generally appropriated to the raising of flax. Although the crop this season promises well, yet for these some years past it has been very indifferent, which makes it the more to be regretted that the Honourable Board of Trustees should have curtailed the bounty on that article. There are about 70 acres in turnips and cabbage, 150 in wheat, 200 in sown grass, and 160 in pasture; the remainder is occupied in raising oats, barley and potatoes. All the waste grounds, to the extent of between 6 or 700 acres, are planted with fir. In general beans and pease are sown in the end of March, oats in April and barley in the beginning of May. Considering the backwardness of the seasons of late, sowing ought to commence more early; yet some of the old farmers still delay it, alledging, that they did not begin last year till such a week, or such a day; as if providence always limited the season to a week or a day. The wheat which is sown in the months of September and October, is generally cut down along with the barley in the months of August and September following.

There is marble, but no other kinds of minerals have yet been discovered. The gardens produce every necessary vegetable and root, together with all kinds of common fruits. A small rivulet flows directly through the town and falls into the river Eden, a little below the village of Daneshalt, which terminates the southern part of the parish.

*Manufactures.*—Auchtermuchty is well calculated for  
3 manufactures,

manufactories, being situated in a healthy fertile country.—A gentleman from Glasgow proposes to establish a tambour branch immediately, which must contribute to the prosperity of the town, as thereby a number of children, who at present can be of no service either to themselves or their parents, will find employment. It must also be an eligible situation for an woolen branch, considering its vicinity to the Lomond hills, and the frequent opportunities of conveying wool from the Ochils. Such is the spirit of industry and enterprize, which now actuates the inhabitants, that a manufactory of that sort could not fail to succeed. From the books of the stamp-master of Auchtermuchty, it appears that, from 1st November 1790 to 1st November 1791, he stamped

239,244½ yards of 35 inch wide brown linen, valued at 9½d. per yard	L. 9470	1	8½
260,093 yards of 30 and 27 inch wide brown Silesia linen, valued at 8d. per yard	8669	15	10
2,212¼ yards of white linen, at 8d.	73	15	2
	<hr/>		
	Total L.	18,213	12 8½

Great part of the above must be manufactured in the town, and the immediate neighbourhood, as there are stamp offices in Falkland and Newburgh, which are within two and three miles of Auchtermuchty. An ordinary journeyman weaver will work 9 spindles in a week, at 1s. per spindle, but others who are more expert at their business, will weave 17 spindles at the same rate. L. 50,000 sterling is annually expended by green linen merchants in this town for that article\*.

*Ecclesiastical*

\* Wages within these 20 years are more than double, at that period 5d. halfpenny per spindle, was the ordinary price. Labourers now receive 1s. per day, wrights 1s. 2d. masons 18d. taylor's who work out of their houses

*Ecclesiastical State, Town, &c.* Auchtermuchty was constituted a royal burgh by James the IV. which charter was renewed by James the VI. It enjoys all the privileges of a royal burgh, but that of sending a representative to parliament. It has 3 bailies chosen annually at Michaelmas, 15 councillors, (one of them treasurer) and a clerk. The annual income of the town's property is L. 106 : 14 : 6, which arises from the custom of fairs, rent of the mills, &c. How that money is disposed of is best known to those to whom the management of it is intrusted. By the charter there was a market appointed to be held every Tuesday, which it is to be regretted is now done away. There are four considerable fairs in the year, the one held on the 13th of July, by the same charter, was to continue 8 days. It is now one of the most considerable in Fife, for the sale of black cattle, horses, sheep, wool, &c.

The church was built in 1780. The patronage belongs to Moncrieff of Reedy, an antient and respectable family, who received some signal tokens of favour from one of the Scottish kings, when residing at Falkland. The stipend is 3 chalders of barley, 3 chalders of oats, and L. 36 : 13 : 4. sterling. The glebe is now let at L. 19. Sterling.—There are 65 heritors, of whom 57 reside in the parish. A new manse is just now finished, and much to the honour of the heritors is inferior to none in the country; the church too is well finished, and superior to the generality in the neighbourhood. There is a flour mill, a corn mill, and 2 lint mills. Within these few years there was a cotton work; but one of the partners dying before it had well commenced, it is converted into a mill for  
 VOL. VI. X x dressing

8d. and their victuals. When a common labourer is frugal and well married, he can do more than support himself and family. The usual wages of male servants in husbandry are from L. 6 : to L. 7. *per annum*. A female servant L. 2 : 10s. besides as much ground as will sow 2 lippies of flax seed.

dressng flax. The price of beef and mutton is generally about 4d. and 4½d per lib.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The chief disadvantages consist in being at a distance from coal, there being none nearer than Balbirnie and Balgony, 6 miles off; but were the proprietors of these mines to erect a coal yard here, they would find their account in so doing. Another is, the want of a proper schoolmaster and school-house; and without an augmentation of salary, which at present is only L. 5 : 11s. it can never be expected that a man of merit will devote his time and talents for such a trifle. It is worthy of remark that the youth in this place have been, and now are, ruined with bad schoolmasters; and to this may be attributed in a great degree the narrow and uncharitable dispositions of the inhabitants, and that bigotry and party spirit which manifests itself in all the actions of those who are given to divisive courses.—The rent of tradesmen's houses is from 20s. to 50s. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5782 Scots, and the land-rent of L. 4000 sterling. The lands immediately around the town let from L. 2 : to L. 3 : 10s. per acre, though it must be acknowledged that those who pay such rents have other means of subsisting themselves and families than from the produce\*.

The

\* Several places take their names from some remarkable circumstances, which had happened at or near them. Daneshalt is supposed to signify the *shelter of the Danes*, as it is said that formerly the Danes having made an invasion into the country, were repulsed in Falkland muir, fled, and concealed themselves in the lower part of the parish of Auchtermuchty. Daneshalt is half a mile distant from Auchtermuchty; and the road to Falkland, Kirkaldy, and Kinghorn lies directly through this village, which is the property of Ebenezer Marshall, Esq. of Hill Cairny, who is doing every thing to encrease the number of its inhabitants, by leasing out ground for building, &c. The great M'Duff is supposed to have lived once in Auchtermuchty, in a house

now

The roads and bridges are getting into high repair; and the advantage of the turnpikes which are now established in this county, will soon be felt by all ranks, though at present, the common people do not relish them, as they deem the statute-labour a great hardship. It is in contemplation to repair the road from Perth to Kinghorn, through Auchtermuchty-hill, which will add to the prosperity of the town; for travellers will naturally come this way, instead of going by the Ferry, as it will save them twenty miles journeying. The post ought also to come this way, and the post-office for this district to be established here, rather than at Falkland; as this is not only a more central place, and more business carried on, but it is also in a direct line from Kinross to Cupar, and St. Andrews.

The inhabitants of this parish, with a few exceptions, are very industrious, and rather economical than otherwise; in so much that there are only 6 on the poor's list. There is here a society distinguished by their social habits, their hospitality, and their benevolence to the poor. Upon the whole, if Sir John Sinclair wishes that his *patriotic exertions* should be effectually crowned with success, and the condition of the country meliorated, he must devise some means of increasing the salaries of country schoolmasters; so that men of merit may be induced to take upon them that important charge, the education of youth; for as the poet says.

“ 'Tis education forms the human mind.

“ Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclin'd.”

X x 2

NUMBER

now the property of William Marshall, Esq.—In the South East end of the parish, there are the remains of a road: it commences at the east end of Rosic-brae, and runs in a direct line to Falkland. In ploughing the lands where it lies, the plough is frequently obstructed by large stones; and what makes it more remarkable is, that these lands about 50 years ago were overflowed with water.



## NUMBER XXXIX.

## PARISH OF ORDIQUHILL.

(PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN,  
COUNTY OF BANFF.)

*By the Rev. MR. ROBERT OGILVIE,*

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*Name, Extent, and Stipend.*

ORDIQUHILL is of Gaelic original, and signifies, the “hollow beside the height.” The Earl of Findlater is patron; and, though he has not a foot of ground in the parish, pays most of the stipend. The parish is of an oblong form, being near 4 miles in length, from N. to S. and about 3 in breadth. It was formerly a chapelry in the parish of Fordyce, where public worship was performed once a month; and seems to have been erected into a separate parish, about the year 1622. The church, which was built about the same time, on the spot where then stood St. Mary’s chapel, is, at present, in bad repair; as is also the manse and office houses. The stipend, including the glebe, which here is not worth much, is about L. 70 sterling yearly—Previous to the augmentation, which took place in 1766, it was one of the smallest stipends in Scotland, being in all not above L. 30 sterling *per annum*.—The school-master’s

master's salary is 8 bolls of meal, L. 1 : 5 as session clerk ; and, the profits arising from baptisms and marriages, and from about 40 scholars.

*Names of Places, Mineral Springs, &c.*—The names of places in this parish seem mostly of Gaelic original.—There are several excellent mineral wells in the parish ; which were formerly much frequented. They are of a medicinal quality, and are known to be useful in many complaints, particularly those of a scorbutic nature. One of them, being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was formerly at certain seasons much resorted to by the superstitious as well as the sick. The air here is salubrious, and the people healthy, hospitable and industrious.—The face the country is wildly beautiful, and corresponds exactly with the signification of the name given to it.

*Produce and Rent.*—About two thirds of the parish are arable ; the other is still in a state of nature, and partly covered with heath. The soil is, in general, deep ; but cold and wet at the bottom. A considerable quantity of lint, turnips and potatoes are raised here ; but hemp, cabbages, and the like, however, are seldom produced in the fields. Though there are 3 or 4 farms of about 100 acres arable, besides a considerable extent of pasture, the highest rent, every thing included, does not exceed L. 40 sterling yearly. The valued rent of the parish is L. 1700 Scots ; the real rent at present, including servitudes, amounts to about L. 700 sterling.

*Proprietor and Improvements.*—Sir Ernest Gordon of Park, who generally resides in the parish, is sole proprietor ; and his house, which is lately fitted up in the modern taste, is commodious and elegant ; and surrounded by a number of venerable ash, and other trees, in a thriving way. He is spread-  
ing

ing improvements rapidly around him; and there is now a probability, that agriculture will advance apace; though, in this part of the country, it must be confessed she is but in her infancy. There is moss enough here for generations to come, and stones sufficient for the purpose of inclosing; and, though the parish cannot boast of woods, and groves, of forests, and water-falls, yet it can be said that it has winding rills, and purling streams, in abundance; and that there is scarcely a farm, or cot-house, in this district, but has some spreading trees to screen and adorn it. Ash and other hard woods thrive tolerably well; however, the soil, in general, seems better adapted for aller and other aquatics; and there is the pleasing prospect, that the oaklings, and various seedlings, that have lately been planted, will give an agreeable variety to this part of the country, and prove a lasting source of wealth and amusement to the industrious proprietor.

*Hills.*—The Knock hill, part of which belongs to this parish, is about 2500 feet above the level of the sea; and, as its towering head is seen from afar, it becomes an excellent landmark to those who trade in the Murray Firth. It is situated, as it were, in a large capacious plain; and, while it produces a variety of excellent game for the amusement and health of the sportsman, and suggests to the contemplative mind an idea of the grand, the sublime, and the beautiful, it affords a delicious repast for the flocks and herds of those that live near. The parishes of Grange, Fordyce, and Ordiquhill meet on the top of this hill; and, on the very spot where they meet, is a terminus, or mark, from which is seen the greater part of Caithness, Ross, Banff, Murray, &c. the windings of the Devern, part of Spey, the Murray Firth, the German ocean, &c. &c. as far as the eye can reach. In short, this hill affords one of the

the most grand, beautiful, and variegated prospects south of the Tweed\*.

*Population.*—There are, at present, 517 souls in the parish, and, of these, 130 below ten years of age.—Several old people died lately, upwards of 90. The oldest person just now, is about 86, there are three men above 80, and as many women; one of them was never married. The number of males and females, is nearly equal. There 452 examinable persons in it, 6 Seceders, about as many Methodists, two Roman Catholics, and one Episcopalian.

There is only one village in the parish. It contains, at present but 12 families. It is called Cornhill: and near it, during the summer season, there are annually held some well frequented markets. There are but few handicraftsmen; and, at present, only 3 apprentices.—The farms are, in general, uninclosed, and but small; being commonly from L. 5 to L. 20 sterling yearly rent.—Till of late, however, few leases were given without a grassum.—The people are, in general, modest, sober, and of a religious deportment; and, though few of them may be said to be rich, yet there has not been any begging poor, belonging to the parish, in the memory of man.—The contributions, seat rents, &c. &c. for the behoof of the poor, amount to about L. 6: 10 *per annum*.—There are, at an average, in the parish, 5 marriages, 18 births, and 10 deaths annually.

\* The seed time here is commonly finished soon after Whitsunday, and, by the middle of October, the farmer, in general, sees his corn beyond the power of the storm.

Among the many improvements that might be introduced into this part of the country, a bridge, on the great road between Huntly and Portfoy, over the Boyn, which partly runs through the parish, is much needed. For want of such an accommodation, several useful members of society have lost their lives; and a woman, in attempting to cross it, was with her horse hurried down the stream, where they perished.

annually.—The number of inhabitants has continued for these hundred years past, nearly what it is at present. The return to Dr. Webster, however, was 666 souls\*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people here are, in general, of a contented mind, not given to any peculiar vice, and regular attendants on public worship; and, though few of them are gaudily dressed, yet most of them appear at the church in clean and decent apparel.—About 30 years ago, there were only 3 hats, and 3 watches in the parish, being those the proprietor, the minister, and the schoolmaster; but now almost every labouring servant has his hat, and watch, his English cloth coat, his white thread stockings, &c. The ordinary fuel is peat, and turf; and the making of tether bindings, and ropes from moss-fir, is common all round this part of the country †.

Mr. Walter Goodall, a native of this parish, assisted Mr. Thomas Ruddiman, in several of his productions; and, about the year 1750 published 2 vols. 8vo. in defence of Mary Queen of Scots.

There

\* The price of labour here is much increased of late; as is also that of every thing. About 30 years ago a labouring servant would have been got for L. 2 : 10, and now he cannot be had under L. 6 sterling a year. Female servants earn from L. 2 to L. 3 sterling yearly.—The surplus grain, which annually amounts to some hundred bolls, is generally carried to Portsoy, or Banff, the nearest sea port towns; to which places, also, and Cullen, most of the other surplus products are carried for sale.

† There is a woman in this parish, that has the perfect use of all her faculties, though she has not been above half an hour *at once* out of bed these 30 years. A disappointment in love is thought to have been the cause; for, about 33 years ago, upon her father's discouraging a young man's paying his addresses to her, she went to bed, and has never left it since. The struggle, it seems, between love and filial affection, ran so high, as materially to affect her active powers.

There is but one inn in the parish.—Several hundreds of cattle, sheep, &c. are carried annually from hence to the southward. Land is commonly ploughed by oxen; oxen and horses, however, are joined to the same plough.—But to conclude this short imperfect account; at a distance from the abodes of luxury and vice, the wants of the people of this parish are but few; and nothing seems more calculated for bettering their external circumstances, and making their days glide on comfortably, than extending leases to a greater length, and encouraging them to inclose, drain, and improve their farms. Such a measure would also be highly beneficial to the proprietor\*.

\* Meal generally sells at about 9d halfpenny per peck;—beef and mutton at 3d halfpenny;—a good hen at 8d.—and a fat lamb at 3s.—A labourer earns about 10d. a day;—a mason 16d.—a carpenter 14d.—and a taylor 6d. and his maintenance.

## N U M B E R    X L .

## P A R I S H   O F   L I T T L E   D U N K E L D .

(P R E S B Y T E R Y   O F   D U N K E L D ,   S Y N O D   O F   P E R T H   A N D  
S T I R L I N G ,   C O U N T Y   O F   P E R T H .)

*By the Rev. MR. JOHN ROBERTSON.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, &c*

**T**H E parish of Little Dunkeld is united to that of Laganalachie; the latter deriving its name from a faint called Aulachy\*.

The figure of the parish is a kind of irregular triangle, the longer sides being the northern and southern boundaries, each of them from 15 to 16 miles in length, and the shorter, the western limit, which stretches from the Tay on the N. to the river Bran, at Amulrie, (an inn on the military road from Stirling to Tay bridge) at the S. W. corner. Nature has divided it into three districts, each of which would make a parish of ordinary magnitude, both in respect of extent and population. The first begins at the eastern extremity next the parish of Kinclaven,

\* It appears from Dean Miln's manuscript Memoirs of the cathedral of Dunkeld (in the possession of the Duke of Atholl), that the parish of Caputh once made a part of this district, from which it was detached about a century before the Restoration.

ciaven, and ends at a small village called Invar, about a quarter of a mile W. from the church. Murthly, the residence of the Stewarts of Grandtully, is in this district, and presents itself to the eye of the traveller, at the distance of a mile on the right hand, the moment he comes in sight of the Tay, upon the great Highland road from Perth to Dunkeld. This may be called the district of Murthly, as the barony of that name makes the greatest part of it.

The soil towards the E. is a kind of black loam with a small mixture of sand. It is for the most part light and free, but not ungrateful to the husbandman who treats it with skill and industry. The surface is waving and various, but no where too steep for the plough. The inclosures of Murthly are spacious and beautiful. There is a large tract of uncultivated heathy muir, all capable of cultivation; but a considerable part of it is covered with valuable woods. The western part of this district consists of a stripe of arable land, extending three miles below Invar, in the bottom of a deep narrow vale along the Tay, adorned with oak woods and plantations.

The hill of Birnam, rendered classic ground, by the magic pen of Shakespear, rises on the south side of this vale, with a rude and striking magnificence, to an elevation higher than that of the Sidla hills in Forfar-shire opposite to it. The soil is a mixed sand, far from being unproductive when cultivated with judgement.

The second district stretches from Invar along the Tay about 10 miles, till it joins Grandtully in the parish of Dull. The greatest part of this tract, having once been the property of the see of Dunkeld, is called the bishopric; under which name therefore this whole district may be comprehended. It contains a considerable number of inhabitants.

The cultivated lands make the south side of a charming valley, through which the river winds its course in a gentle majestic



current. The fields are level and of easy culture. A regular system of agriculture would soon give this district the appearance of an almost continued series of beautiful gardens, from the one extremity to the other. A ride through the whole length of this division is peculiarly delightful to a traveller, passing alternately through woods and lawns, at the bottom of a long range of mountains, presenting a bold and elevated face; and which by its various angles and striking projections, is ever and anon entertaining the eye with varying shades of light, and new prospects, on each side of the valley.—Two or three gentlemen's seats, of a snug and romantic appearance, add considerably to the beauty of the rural scene. The soil consists chiefly of sand, with some mixture of loam.

The remaining district is separated from the bishoprick by a large tract of hilly ground of considerable extent and elevation: This too, is a valley, extending 9 miles westward, from Invar to Amulrie, and derives the name of Strath-bran from the river Bran, which runs through its whole length, and falls into the Tay opposite Dunkeld. The arable fields rise from the river towards the hills, on each side, in a gentle slope. The country is planted thick with populous hamlets and farms; sustains about 1400 inhabitants, old and young, and looks cheerful and thriving. One of the proprietors has his residence near the western extremity of this district, which he is beginning to improve considerably both in the way of agriculture and planting. The soil of this country is of no mean quality, being a mixture of reddish clay and loam. It abounds more in moisture than the other districts, and is very favourable to the growth of flax.

The hills of the parish are those already mentioned, together with a long tract, of about 4000 acres, on the south side of the Bran. They are for the most part covered with heath, and some of the eminences are rather barren; but in general, they

are coated over with a mixed heavy mould, pretty deep, and producing, along with heather, various species of plants affording good pasture; they rise no where so high as to be destitute of all useful vegetation. There are frequently deep falls of snow upon these mountains; yet it is seldom that a very considerable part of their surface remains covered for three successive weeks\*.

As there is not a map of this parish, its extent of surface cannot be ascertained with precision, but from partial surveys that have been made, and Mr Stobie's excellent map of the county, there is sufficient ground for stating it at 31,000 Scotch acres.

*Diseases, Minerals, Woods.*—Chronic distempers are not frequent: The most prevalent is the rheumatism, and that chiefly among

\* There is no great peculiarity that distinguishes this from the bordering highland parishes of Dowally, Logierate and Dull, with respect to air and climate; they are temperate and salubrious throughout the parish in general. The two districts along the Tay are free from bogs and stagnant waters, and of consequence, from the humidity of atmosphere produced by these circumstances. Their summers are warm, and vegetation forward; barley is often stacked in the barn yard within less than four months from the sowing of it in the field. A great part of this country is exposed to severe and unseasonable hoar frosts, which prove hurtful to lint, potatoes and other crops, even in May, but more so in August. Great swarms of caterpillars infest this part of the parish, and large oak woods, have sometimes been entirely stripped of their foliage, for several months, by these insects. Dry easterly winds generally set in from the beginning of April, to the end of May; but in other months, these winds are always attended with rains.

Strathbran is not so subject as other parts of the parish to hoar-frosts, but it is much colder, and vegetation later; barley and lint find always a timely harvest, but oats often fail of coming to full maturity. This is not to be wondered at, when it is considered that the bed of the Bran is, at an average, above 200 feet higher than that of the Tay.

among the aged of the poorer sort, and probably owing to scarcity of fuel and cold lodging. The small pox is not peculiarly malignant. About 16 persons were destroyed by a putrid sore throat in summer 1775; but that disease has not appeared since. The worst epidemics are fevers, which sometimes spread their contagion to some extent; but may be traced for the most part to great towns, whence young people at service bring home the infection.

Below Murthy, is an inexhaustible body of free stone, of a very fine grain, a light, vivid ash colour, and so hard as to resist for centuries the injuries of the weather. The cathedral of Dunkeld with its tower, were built of stones from this quarry. In the hill of Birnam, is abundance of slate that splits into plates of a convenient size and thickness, of a deep blue colour bordering on violet, and exceedingly beautiful. Several pieces of lead ore have been lately found in this same mountain. The ore was incrustated with a white sparry, or rather quartrose substance: One piece contained about six pound weight of unmixed, compact ore, of a small grain, and covered by this kind of matrix, but open at one end. A considerable portion of lead was separated from this mass by mere roasting in a blacksmith's forge. This was found at the foot of the mountain: But upon the highest summit, also, the small fissures of the rock contain the like ore, but platy and of a less firm cohesion\*.

The

\* Though no iron ores have been yet discovered above ground in this parish, yet it would appear, from some springs, that this metal is lodged below the surface. About a mile above Dalguise, in the hill, is a fountain strongly impregnated with iron. The water bursts out, copiously, in a plot of level ground which it covers for many yards round with the colour of ochre. Its taste is that of green vitriol in ink, and so strong that one perceives it by only wetting his finger and applying it to his tongue. There is a spring of the very same qualities near Murthy, where the rocks, too, more clearly indicate the

The natural woods, which make no trifling part of the wealth of the parish, consist mostly of oak; and grow in smaller and larger clumps along the banks of the Tay, all except one wood in the east end of Strathbran. The grounds that produce them, are for the most part of very poor quality, so steep as to be inaccessible to the plough, and incapable of cultivation. These woods are treated in the way of coppice, being commonly sold to wood cutters, and felled when from 20 to 25 years old. Where the oak grows thick and unmixed with other wood, it sells at the rate of from L. 25 : to L. 40, and has sold lately so high as L. 54 per acre. Where it grows thin, or interspersed with birch, the acre is not of near so much value. But a crop, 24 yards old, of all the oak coppice in the parish, would fetch at least L. 10,000 sterling. It occupies about 800 acres of ground. The proprietors are improving their oak woods by inclosing them with stone walls, and filling up the vacant spaces with planted oak. The extirpation of the birch and other baser wood, would also be a great improvement. The birch woods of which there are near 200 acres, and treated also as coppice, are not worth, at 22 years old, above L. 2 : per acre.

The plantations will soon become a more important object than the natural woods. Within 25 years past the Duke of Atholl has planted 1000 acres in this parish, upon the heights round little Dunkeld and Invar, not only with Scotch fir, but with a great proportion (probably more than one half) of

the presence of iron. In Strathbran, near the king's high-way, there is to be met with a pretty remarkable kind of clay. When wet, it feels perfectly smooth and unctuous; when dry, it acquires a remarkable degree of induration; and when pounded, the powder affects the touch like the finest wheat flour. This argillaceous substance may be fit for some of the finest works of the potter. But very unfortunately for this parish, there has not been yet discovered a single particle of lime stone or fossil marble within its whole compass.

of larix; together with many thousands of oak, ash, elm, plane, beech and other species; all exceeding 3 millions of trees. This wood makes part of a grand system of plantation, connected with that which covers the high mountains round Dunkeld on the opposite side of the river Tay; and the whole entertains the eye of the beholder with an aspect of nature peculiarly impressive and magnificent. In the bosom of this vast wood, some hundred yards from Invar, is situated the Duke's hermitage, with a cascade on the Bran, a rustic arch thrown over the river, romantic walks and gardens, and an elegant summer house, erected upon the top of a perpendicular cliff 40 feet high.—A lovely scene, and the delight of every traveller who visits it.

All the residing proprietors of the parish are engaged in extending their plantations with great activity, but more particularly Mr Stewart younger of Grandtully, and Mr Stewart of Dalguise, whose property is remarkably well wooded with both young and old trees. Exclusive of the Duke of Atholl's, there have been about a million of trees planted in the parish within ten years past. The full grown planted trees, including some thousands in the avenues acres and round the inclosures of Murthly, would sell just now at more than L. 2000.

A fir wood of 300 acres, has been rising for about thirty years upon a muir near Murthly, from seed blown by the wind from an old plantation. A considerable part of the trees is worth from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. each. Mr Stewart of Grandtully has succeeded in raising a considerable oak wood from acorns sown in pits, instead of plants from a nursery. In the wood of Invar are some old oaks, reckoned, timber and bark together, worth L. 20 each.

At the landing of the east ferry of Dunkeld, there is an oak 15, and a plane 16½, feet in girth. The average price of ash,  
elm,

elm, and other hard timber trees is at least 1s. 2d. per cubic foot, and of Scotch fir, 6d.

*Animals, Horses, Cattle, Sheep.*—A species of serpent abounds near the hermitage and little Dunkeld which is found nowhere else in the parish.—It grows to the length of 20 inches; is of a yellowish colour, and speckled all over with brown spots, which give it the appearance of a beautiful marble. Its bite is not thought poisonous. This reptile is never seen in elevated situations, but always in grounds of a warm exposure. The black snake worm, from 8 to 10 inches in length, a noxious animal, is sometimes met with, but very seldom, in the same tract of ground\*.

Three lochs in the hills of Strathbran afford abundance of excellent trout, as firm and red as salmon, and of a much better relish. In the largest of these pieces of water (loch Skiach) trout are sometimes caught that weigh about 12 lb. avoirdupois. The trout in the Bran are small, but a great many of them fine cheer.

The rising extensive plantations already mentioned, have attracted some animal tribes that were utter strangers to the parish before.—For more than seven years past, black game,

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and

\* A quadruped found in the moors at the eastern extremity of the parish is entitled to notice, as a remarkable variety of the lizard tribe. It is about 9 inches long; the body or trunk is of an unusual length in proportion to the tail, which does not taper gradually from the hind feet as in other lizards, but becomes suddenly small like that of a mouse. The back is full of small protuberances, and guarded with a skin almost as hard as a sea shell. The eyes large, clear and circular, like those of an ordinary trout; the jaws more than an inch in length, and the teeth so strong as to be heard making a ringing noise upon the iron point of a pole, at the distance of more than ten feet. It is believed in that part of the country, that about 50 years ago, the bite of this animal proved fatal to a child two years old. It is never seen but upon very dry ground. When irritated, it expresses its rage by the reddening and glistening of its eyes.

and that elegant animal the roe deer, have made their appearance, and are encreasing in number every year.

Foxes are very numerous, and badgers not a few. The woods and fields are enlivened with more than twenty species of small birds, such as woodlarks, thrushes, bullfinches, stock-doves, linnets &c. The birds of passage are woodcocks, field-fares, cuckoos, quails, swallows and some others: The birds of prey, kites, ravens, and hawks.

There is no noted breed of horses in the parish. Those generally used are rather small, and of a mixed degenerate race. But since the remarkable advance of price (from L. 6 : to L. 11 : 11s.) which has taken place of late, the farmers are making horses more an object of care than they did formerly. Most of them have breeding mares, and they study to improve the breed.

Except those upon gentlemens farms, the cows are rather puny ; it being too much the practice to overlook in this article. They are but poorly fed, and, of consequence, few of them let fall calves every year, and they give little more than two Scotch pints of milk even at the end of June. Having little to eat during winter, but straw, nor even that in abundance, they are wretchedly lean in the months of April and May\*.

The small tenants here scarce entertain any thought of improving the breed of horned cattle, and little indeed can be done of moment in this way, till some nourishing hay or fresh vegetables are provided for them to eat in winter. The gentlemen

\* The average prices of cows in ready money, about the beginning of June, are the following

A milch cow with a calf	-	-	-	L. 4 0 0
Ditto without a calf	-	-	-	3 12 0
A lean cow without a calf fold to a grazier	-	-	-	2 12 6
In November a bullock one year old	-	-	-	0 19 6
Ditto two years old	-	-	-	1 15 0

men of the parish, and a few individuals on a large scale of farming, are beginning to be attentive in this respect.

There are two kinds of sheep; the black faced, brought from the southeren counties, and the white faced sort, which may be called the native breed. The former are bought when a year old at 6s. and after they have been kept here for two years, and have yielded three fleeces, are sold for about 10s. 6d. each; if kept a year longer they fetch 12s. They are generally allowed to live in open air both night and day. The native kind are housed at night even at midsummer, and are much inferior to the other both in weight and vigour; but their wool is of much superior quality. From the information of an intelligent man in the trade, it would appear, that when the wool of the black faced sheep fells (unsmearred) at 9s. per stone, that of the white faced brings 13s. 4d. These two kinds are somewhat mixed, as might be expected; yet it is surprising to what a degree they still remain distinct. The wedders of the native sheep are sold to the butcher at about 8s, and the ewes at 7s. Their mutton is excellent.

The lowest estimate of the number of horses in the parish is 624, of horned cattle of all ages 2528, and of sheep 8496.

*Farms, Crops.*—Till of late, four horses were yoked in a plough, and for each plough, or ploughgate, there were at least two, and in many instances, four partners. Each tenant's land was interspersed in small ridges with that of his neighbours; an arrangement commonly termed run-rig. About 15 years ago the tenants began to divide the land among themselves into small glebes or lots, and now they are beginning to cast each tenant's land into one glebe. This may be considered as the first step towards improvement. The old four horse ploughs \* have been divided into two horse ploughs,

Z z 2

of

\* There are not above 26 four horse ploughs in the whole parish.



of which, there are now about 299 in the parish. Some of these have 6, some 8, some 10, and a few 15 acres of land to labour. But in more than two thirds of this parish, one of these ploughs, with horses of very little more strength than those at present employed, would thoroughly labour from 24 to 30 acres; and from 16 to 20 acres, in the remaining third. What an important reduction of the number of horses, and consequently of expence? In one instance there have been eight of these small ploughs united in one farm; in one six, and in another four. Some more have been united upon a smaller scale.

The grain raised in the parish is bear and oats, with a very few pease. The land for barley gets two ploughings; the first called ribbing, in the fall when it can be overtaken; the other the seed furrow, immediately before sowing, which takes place from the beginning till the end of May. It is made to succeed oats, and is sown with dung, and a little lime also when it can possibly be had, the people are very eager to procure it, though none can be had nearer than the port of Perth. The return in general is about five after one, but, where lime has been applied, eight and upwards. The boll weighs from 15 to 17 stone Dutch. About a boll is sown in the acre. Oats are in general a scanty crop. The return is often below three after one. They are made to follow both barley and potatoes; but it is too general a practice to take two successive crops of them from the same field. Taking both barley and oats together, the average return may be about four times the seed.

Pease are more prolific and luxuriant in the moist than in the dry lands of the parish, where the droughts and heats of June frequently dwarf the crop. The kind always sown is hot seed, called in this country kastersns. They are sown about the middle of April, and reaped from the middle to the end of September. The produce is seldom more than three seeds.

They

They are chiefly considered on account of the straw they produce, and as a meliorating crop for the land.

The cultivation of artificial grasses has been hitherto little practised; but great numbers of the farmers are now making trials of them, and a general eagerness for these crops begins to show itself. Some few have adopted them into their scheme of husbandry, and not one who has begun the practice would be persuaded to quit it. An acre laid down with 20 lb. of red clover and a bushel of rye grass, will yield for the first crop about 300 stone of hay, and a considerable second crop the same season, for green feeding in the stall, if 25 bolls of lime shells have been applied. All the land in the parish is favourable to the growth of turnips. When properly thinned, kept clean and well dressed, the roots at an average, over a whole field, will weigh 6 lb. avoirdupoise. This vegetable will very seldom outlive the severity of the winter in open air, but may be saved by laying it up in a dry house or shed about the end of October. The residing heritors are very laudably setting an example before the tenants with respect to both these crops; Mr Stewart of Dalguise in particular, gives them a place in a regular rotation of cropping, which he is pursuing with judgment and perseverance, and much to his own emolument. The eyes of all the farmers round him are eagerly fixed upon his practice.

There is no summer-fallow used here, but in the way of horse-hoed crops. So far as the destruction of weeds, especially annuals, is the end of a fallow, it is effectually attained by the horse hoeing of turnip and potatoes.

This last root has proved more beneficial to the country than perhaps any other production of the land, lint excepted. It has saved the tenants from the ruinous necessity of purchasing meal for their families to a prodigious amount. It is not above 22 years since potatoes were introduced into the field, and cul-

tivated by means of the plough. The people pay much attention to the culture of this root, but still they plant too thick. A boll of heaped Linlithgow barley measure is generally planted in  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre, or less; the return in some places is from 25 to 30 bolls, but the average is found to be 16 bolls. The quantity planted in the whole parish is 304 bolls, and the produce 4860 bolls.—This vegetable may be reckoned a full third of the food of the common people; yet they are as healthy and vigorous, at least, as before; and instead of involving themselves in inextricable debt and difficulties, by purchasing meal as formerly, they can afford to sell a part of their barley to the distillers. They eat potatoes for the most part with milk, but sometimes with a little animal food from their flocks and herds. By means of this root the produce of the parish is fully adequate to the maintenance of the inhabitants.

Lint is another article of great importance to the inhabitants of this country. Potatoes and lint may be called the two feet that support them. Lint-seed is more generally sown after barley, but very often after potatoes. In the latter case where the land is somewhat moist, the ground does not get a seed furrow for lint: because this was found to be detrimental to the crop. It is sown in the state in which it was left at the digging of the potatoes; and to secure the more abundant crop of lint, some of the farmers incorporate a little lime with the soil, by means of the hoeings for the potatoes. It is by this management that the richest crops of lint are obtained. The poorer crops are from lands where sand is predominant in the composition of the soil, but rather finer lint. In whole districts of the parish, 4 stone of 22 lb. avoirdupois, mill dressed flax, from a peck of seed, Linlithgow barley measure, is no uncommon produce; the average produce, however, is 3 stone per peck.

There are 1375 pecks of lint-seed sown in the ordinary economy

mony of the farms, and their produce is 4125 stones, besides which, 51 pecks are sown by adventurers for premiums, &c. producing 171 stones; in whole 4296 stones of flax. All this is made into yarn by the women of the parish, (12 years old and upwards), and affords them constant employment for six months in the year, and not a little in the remaining months. The yarn, all but a small part of it manufactured for domestic purposes, is sold to hawkers and others who purchase for the great manufactories. Weavers in the country indeed purchase some part of it, which they sell again in webs of green cloth. A spindle from the lb. of heckled flax is the common size of yarn for sale. Of late the spinning wheels with two flies have become pretty frequent, with which woman spin near twice as much as with the wheels of one fly. The thread is coarser; but as the flax is but slightly heckled, there are more pounds from the stone weight, and families experience this size of yarn to be the more profitable. Some young women in the parish, without any previous teaching, are able to spin so fine a thread as  $3\frac{1}{2}$  spindles from the lb. avoirdupois.

There are five lint mills in the parish, most of them are accommodated with large sheds roofed with slate, for stowing unskutched flax. The board of trustees for manufactures have given much encouragement to these erections, and have lately furnished one of the weavers with a diaper loom.

*Population.*

Number of souls, in 1755, 2919	— — — —	Females, 290
— — — — in 1776, 3051	Between 20 and 50,	Males, 502
— — — — in 1792, 2705	— — — —	Females, 590
Under 10, Males	293	Between 50 and 70, Males, 179
— — — — Females	275	— — — — Females, 190
Between 10 and 20, Males		Above 70, Males
— — — —	287	— — — — Females
		51
		From

From 82 to 87, of both sexes	-	-	24	Shoemakers	-	-	31
Married couples	-	-	451	Smiths	-	-	11
Widowers	-	-	37	Men-servants	-	-	64
Widows	-	-	112	Maid-servants	-	-	101
Annual average of baptisms for 3 years preceding 1792	-	-	45	Livery-servants	-	-	6
----- of marriages	-	-	19	Schoolmasters	-	-	3
Weavers	-	-	160	Flax-dressers	-	-	23
Masons	-	-	10	Day labourers	-	-	43
Wrights	-	-	31	Fishermen	-	-	6
Tailors	-	-	35	Writer or attorney	-	-	1
				His apprentice	-	-	1
				Gardener	-	-	5
				Excise officer	-	-	1
				Chelsea pensioners	-	-	3

The decrease between 1776 and 1792 can be no otherwise accounted for but by the uniting of farms, and by the migration of some of the inhabitants to Perth and its neighbourhood, for employment at the bleachfields and extensive manufactories lately erected there, and to the village of Stanley in the parish of Aughtergaven, where there is a considerable cotton work carrying on\*.

The

\* The following instances of longevity have occurred in the parish during the course of 23 years past; Donald Dow farmer aged 95; Michael Stiel, a farmer, 103, who walked a journey of 26 miles in one day at the age of 97, without complaining of weariness. John Stiel his brother, a travelling beggar, 105. David Paton, weaver, now living, aged 91; and Catharine M'Lean, who died about 5 years ago at the age of 103. This woman lived near the mansion house of the late Charles Campbell, Esqr. of Kinloch. He had passed 50 years of his life at Pompeio in Brasil, and returned to his native country at the age of 79. She perfectly recognized him at the first glance, though she was then about 98 years of age. Mr Campbell himself lived on his estate here for 6 years after his return, in vigorous health, and with unimpaired faculties, when he died

The proprietors are 8 in number, 4 of whom reside on their estates within the parish, and were all batchelors, till last spring, when the principal heritor, Mr. Stewart of Grandtully, married. Besides the above there are 4 small heritors, called portioners, each of whom has but a few acres. The non-resident heritors are men of property in other parishes.

The men generally marry below the age of 30, and the women from 22 to 27 years of age, and each of these marriages produce at an average about 6 children\*.

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*Poor,*

died unexpectedly, in consequence of having over heated himself walking one day in the hills.

The number of persons from other parishes, may be about 30 : most of them from Inverness-shire, several of them beggars, and the rest in quality of servants. A great many of the native youth of both sexes, pass a few years in the low country, at service, where some of them remain for life.

\* *Language and Character.*—In that part of the parish which is below Invar, the people speak the Scottish dialect of the English, and are not distinguished by any perceptible shade of character from the inhabitants of the low country parishes around them. The rest of the inhabitants (more than three fourths) are Highlanders, who speak a dialect, not perhaps the purest, of the Gaelic. They have all a strong attachment to their native tongue ; many speak English with tolerable ease, and the youth, by means of the charity schools, can write it with rather more propriety, and copiousness than those of the low country part of this parish, who are very ill situated with respect to schools.

In their persons few of them are above middle stature, but of a shapely firm make. To the attributes of temperance, industry, probity and content, all the inhabitants are justly entitled, with very few exceptions. They are very sensible of the advantages they enjoy under a free constitution, and firmly attached to their rights, both civil and religious. Newspapers and other periodical publications find their way to every corner of the parish. And several clubs have been formed, who purchase the Statistical Account of Scotland. Though peaceable subjects, they are soon interested by any public affairs in which they apprehend the general welfare of their country to be materially concerned. This disposition shewed itself remarkably during the American war. Their attention is much roused by the momentuous transactions which  
are

*Poor, Church, and Schools.*—Though the heritors have very wisely declined burdening their lands with a permanent assessment, they make the poor an object of much attention. They hold both stated and occasional meetings, along with the minister and kirk-session, for enquiring into their state, and providing for their necessities. They permit them to beg from door to door within the parish, but not beyond the limits of it. The number at present upon the parish roll for stated or occasional supplies is 30\*, but generally they exceed 40. The funds for their support are,

Part of the interest of Grandtully's mortification †	L. 20	0	0
Annual average produce of the Sunday collections in the church, fees of mortcloths, marriages, &c.	-	-	22 0 7
Interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of a capital of 220	-	6	18 0
			In

are just now taking place on the continent of Europe. As to their religion, scarce a fifteenth part of them are dissenters: The rest are of the communion of the national church. The bulk of the dissenters are Antiburgher seceders. There are 7 or 8 of the church of England, and scarce 3 Roman Catholics.

\* One of this number, a girl about 18 years of age, and not found in mind, left the house where she is lodged, either in a fit of obstinacy or caprice upon a cold evening in February last, and stayed in a wood during 5 nights and 5 days, of the most intense frost within that month. She laid herself down by the side of a rill, some draughts of which were her only sustenance all this time. She returned of her own accord to the family she lives with, and was seized with a great swelling in her limbs, which left her in a few weeks, and now she enjoys perfect bodily health again.

† Towards the beginning of the present century, John Stewart, Esq. of Grandtully mortified the sum of 20,000 merks Scotch, originally destined for the support of 12 poor men on his estate, of the communion of the Episcopal church of Scotland, and appointed his own heirs, and the heirs of 3 other considerable families nearly allied to his own, administrators of this fund.

About

In the year 1782, when not only the corn crop proved bad, but the potatoes also entirely failed, L. 30 of the parish capital, besides 20 bolls of oats bought with a share of the money voted by the parliament, were applied to the relief of the poor upon the roll, and of some of the poorer class of farmers.

There are two places of worship. The chapel of Laganachie in Strathbran, and the church of Little Dunkeld. The former was lately rebuilt, and made pretty commodious by contributions from the people of that part of the united parishes; the latter stands within 60 yards of the great highland road leading from Perth to Inverness by the ferry of Invar, in one of the finest situations, perhaps, in the world, for a goodly edifice of that kind. It is 130 feet long by less than 20 feet wide, and mean, uncomfortable, and ruinous. The heritors, it is believed, are immediately to build a handsome new church. The stipend hitherto paid has been L. 70 : 16 : 8, including 4 guineas for communion elements; but the Commissioners of Tiends have lately decreed an augmentation of three chalders of victual, and a small addition for communion elements, with the almost unanimous consent of the heritors.

There is a glebe of about 8 Scotch acres at Little Dunkeld, and a small glebe at Laganachie.

There is a parish school at Little Dunkeld; but in so narrow

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About the year 1740, there was a handsome building erected for the objects of the benefaction, near the great road 2 miles below Little Dunkeld. The house did not answer the intended purpose, and the original destination was found to be in many respects inexpedient or impracticable. By accumulation of interest, the capital amounted at last to L. 2600 sterling; the interest of which is now annually applied for the relief of poor people on the estate indiscriminately, without regard to their religious persuasion. The extensive property of this family lies in the several parishes of Dull, Auchtergaven, Kinclaven, Caputh, and Little Dunkeld, to which last parish considerable part of it belongs.



a stripe of the country that few children are within 2 miles of it. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  sterling.—The society for propagating Christian knowledge have, very judiciously, planted two of their schools in this parish, at which are taught for a great part of the year 160 children of both sexes. The good effect of these charity schools are manifest and important. By means of them the youth in the Highlands are early instructed in the principles of religion and morality, as well as taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and a tolerable knowledge of the English tongue. Thus successive generations arise of enlightened and useful citizens. Some have entertained the mistaken maxim, "That it is impolitic to give the common people so much instruction."—A maxim bad enough for Russia, or for the church of Rome during the periods of its foulest corruption\*.

*Rent.*—The greatest part of, by far, the most extensive property in this parish was let about half a century ago, but some of it later, at a very low rental, for one or two lives, upon the payment of a grassum by the tenant. Not a small part of the best lands in the parish are thus rented at 1s. 8d. and some of them lower, per acre, in money, together with a trifle paid in mutton, butter, poultry, and some services. When any of these lives fall, eight, or nine times the present rent is freely

\* The wages of full grown men servants are, at an average, L. 7;—of maid servants L. 3 a year; a day labourer in summer at ordinary work, 6d. and his victuals; in winter 4d. or 5d.—at hay and corn harvest, quarrying stones, and some other kind of work, 1s. and his victuals;—a mason from 1s. 6d. to 2s. without board, and wrights 1s.—a taylor 6d. with board.—The average price of beef and mutton at Dunkeld is 3d. halfpenny per lb. Dutch; good veal and pork rather higher. Chickens are sold in the country at from 3s. to 4s. per dozen, a hen at 8d. The expence of food and clothing for a day-labourer with a wife and two or three children cannot be less than L. 15 a year. The industry of the wife is necessary for defraying a considerable part of this expence.

freely offered. There is a smaller estate upon much the same footing. Land is let at present at from 15s. to 20s. per acre; but in some instances, whole farms have given so high a rent as 28s. per acre. The rent of a house and small garden is from 10s. to 15s. and a tradesman pays for an acre and a cow's grafs 30s. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4801 Scots, and the real land rent (reckoning what is in possession of the landlords) is L. 2568 sterling, exclusive of corn-mill rents (about L. 200). This is the rent of the whole area of the parish, as each possessor of arable land has a proportional interest in the common pastures of the hills, as well as his share of the divided pastures. The salmon fishings on Tay fetch about L. 50.—The whole surface, with respect to produce, falls under the following division.

	Acres
Grafsings of the common, hills and moors	23610
Richer grafsings within head dykes	1272
Natural oak woods	780
Ditto birch, alder, fir, &c.	440
Plantations	1200
Arable land	3700
	<hr/>
Total	31,000

*Roads and bridges.*—The road from Amulrie to the west ferry of Dunkeld was made, and the bridges upon it built, by government. A great part of it is too steep; and the whole was originally marked out with very little judgement. It has been always kept in good repair, but much better of late than formerly. The great Highland road already mentioned is a county road, till it meets that of Amulrie at the west Ferry, where it begins to be a military road. The want of a bridge over the

the Tay at or near Dunkeld leaves these roads very imperfect. This matter cannot be unworthy of the attention and assistance of government. The road from the Ferry last mentioned (a county road) through the bishopric towards Taymouth, is much frequented; but, notwithstanding many good bridges, in wretched repair. From its mouth to Amulrie there are four public bridges on the river Bran. One of them is upon a county road from Tay bridge to Perth. This road if well executed, would be of great advantage to a considerable tract of country. But so far as it has been made it is very poor work; as are most of the roads made by means of the statute labour. The people have seldom sufficient skill for this kind of work, and always perform it with reluctance. Roads are not likely to be well made but by sufficient undertakers.—One may venture to pronounce, that so low a conversion as 6d. or even 5d. per day of the statute labour, would be far preferable to the labour in kind. There is always a very good inn at Invar, and a house lately built at Balnagaird on the Taymouth road, promises to be very comfortable to travellers\*.

#### *Improvements,*

\* *Antiquities, and Natural Curiosities.*—A round mount at the bottom of Birnam hill on the south east side is worthy of remark. It is faced with steep oaks, except for a few yards where it was fortified by art. This eminence has been known for time immemorial, by the names of Court-hill, and *Duncan's-Hill*, and is believed to have been on some occasions occupied by the unfortunate Scottish king of that name. It looks full in the face, at the distance of about 12 miles, the celebrated Dunstan-Hill, the seat and fortress of Macbeth. Within the range of an arrow from this mount, are to be seen a number of tumuli or small heaps of stones, about the length of a human body. It is not unlikely that upon digging, human skeletons would be found under these tumuli. Higher up the same face of Birnam are the ruins of an oblong square building, with circular turrets at the corners: It is called (in Gaelic) Forhallon. Birnam was antiently a forest, and a part of the royal domain of Scotland.—There is a beautiful little field some more than 2 miles above little Dunkeld called *Yoke Hangb*, (*Dalmacraig*) concerning which there is the following

*Improvements, and Miscellaneous Observations.*—The hills are far from being under proper management. There is but a small

lowing curious tradition. A man, who may be called the Cincinnatus of Scotland, happened, along with his two sons, to be ploughing in this field on the day of the battle of Luncarty. Hearing the fate of the battle, and seeing the Scotch army retreating this way, he was instantly fired with heroic indignation, and together with his sons, seized, each of them, the yoke of an oxen plough, persuaded their countrymen to rally, and marching at their head, they met the Danes on the banks of the Tay, some where near Caputh, where there was a second action, in which the Danes were completely defeated, and this aged hero exhibited prodigies of valour; in consequence of which, he was dignified by his sovereign with peculiar honours, obtained the name of Hay, and the implement with which he fought, for his arms.—The yoke is still the arms of the noble family of Kinnoul, who are thought to be descended from this saviour of his country.

On the south side of the Tay, a mile below Murthly, and opposite to the field where the engagement just mentioned may have taken place, though one cannot say with certainty that this was the occasion of it, there is a considerable military entrenchment. A ditch 600 feet long, and still pretty deep, is extended from a precipice on the bank of the river southward, along the side of a deep ravine, on the opposite side of which there is a similar work. At one of the angles of this trench are the remains of a circular stone building still 15 feet deep. This work was probably executed to guard a pass upon the Tay, which is fordable at this place.

In a plain on the bank of the Bran, 3 miles above Little Dunkeld, are to be seen the ruins of the castle of Trochrie, formerly one of the seats of the noble and unfortunate family of Gowrie. Some parts of the wall are yet standing, which indicate the ancient magnificence of the structure. When the lands of that ill fated house were forfeited, Trochrie, and the whole extensive barony (in some writs it is called Lordship) of Strathbran, was made a grant of by royal munificence to William Stewart of Banchrie, a gentleman of the bed chamber to King James VI. He was brother to Sir Thomas Stewart of Grandtully, from whom he inherited the patrimonial estate of that ancient and respectable family; and had attained the honour of knighthood himself before his brother's death. In a commission dated 16th November 1600, appointing Sir William bailie of Strathbran, and keeper of the king's house of Trochrie, and of the parks and forests of Strathbran, there is inserted the following clause;

small part of them divided among the proprietors, and they are all overstocked with cattle; while at the same time no regulations are put in practice for proportioning the share of each tenant's stock to his respective title to the common. The proprietors, however, seem to be now determined to divide these hills, and will, no doubt, take care to put them under proper regulations.—

clause; expressing the motive of the royal grant; "For the long, true and faithful service done to him by the said Sir William, and spending his time therein, and for the late service done, being at the preserving of the king's life frae the late conspiracy of umquhile John Earl of Gowrie, upon the 5th of August last." This clause is inserted in the original charter to the above lands, &c. dated 16th July 1606; and in the subsequent charters granted by the son and grandsons of that King.—Remains of Druidical circles, of circular buildings called castles, and prodigious piles called cairns, so frequent in other parts of the Highlands, are to be seen in different parts of this parish too. A stone bridge over the Bran, a little above Trochrie, is reckoned among the oldest in Perthshire.

The fall upon the Bran at the hermitage has been mentioned; but there is another just a mile further up the river, which cannot be passed over in silence. It is called the Rumbling Bridge. In dry weather there is little water in the Bran, and this object is not very striking; but during a considerable swell of the river it appears a very different character. For several hundred feet above the fall, the stream thunders with prodigious force down a craggy bottom, exhibiting a most dreadful cataract; then precipitating itself over a high cliff, it dashes upon the bottom of a small basin with such fury as to lose almost every appearance of a liquid, and passing next into a deep, dark, and narrow chasm, it hides itself for a little below a bridge and some huge fragments of rock suspended, mid-way down, in the passage, till it appears again on the other side of the bridge, moving in a more peaceful current, as if tired with violent agitation. The chasm is formed by rocks of equal height, awful and ruinous, about 12 feet asunder, bending towards each other at top, and every moment threatening tremendous collision. The water rising above the basin into an atmosphere 100 feet high, resembling white smoke, and in sunshine presenting beautiful rainbows; woody precipices, the hoarse terrific roar of the torrent, and the rocking of the solid ground; all conspire to heighten the grandeur of the scene, and the whole affects the mind with a certain pleasing kind of amazement and horror.

regulations.—Grounds upon the declivities of the hills, and in flat moors to the extent of 500 acres, might be converted into arable land of no bad quality. A very public spirited \* gentleman, made out, 25 years ago, a good large farm on a moor at the east end of the parish, which he accommodated with substantial elegant farm houses, and out-offices, that promise to turn to good account. A gentleman in the bishopric is just now improving a farm, acquired from the hill, of the extent of 80 acres, which is estimated to be rather of superior quality to the land upon the level of the Tay. It is probable that more improvements of this kind are coming on apace. From what has been already stated, with respect to produce, it is manifest that agriculture in this parish it not arrived at any advanced stage of improvement.

But an active and enterprizing spirit is now beginning to discover itself among the farmers; which, if tenderly cherished and judiciously directed, cannot fail of producing important effects. In riding through large districts of the parish, in the beginning of spring, it affords one much pleasure to observe in almost every field the operations of a glowing and vigorous industry; draining of bogs, tearing up of brush wood, blowing of stones with powder, and the carrying them off the fields. Hence meadows that yielded from 30 to 40 stone per acre of miserable bog hay, and pieces of ground, that produced nothing but rushes, briars, or other useless vegetables, are daily converted into the best arable land in the country. The people watch every opportunity that occurs of carrying home some lime, and are beginning to make experiments on their little farms, in the way of sown grasses and turnips. The youth learn all the new modes of husbandry, and to be good plough men, at service in the low country. The

\* The late John M'Kenzie, Esq. of Delvin.

Scotch plough only is employed, and hitherto clumsily made; but some even of the small farmers are getting them neatly made, and pay from 30s. to 40s. for a plough. In short, it is neither want of skill, nor enterprize, that chiefly retard the progress of agriculture here, but other causes, some of which it may be proper to mention.

Though there is a vast extent of stone walls reared in most parts of the parish, yet there are few or no *inclosures*, except those about gentlemen's seats. The farms are all either quite open, or destitute of sufficient fences; while cattle of every species are allowed to roam at large through the arable fields, from the time the corn crop is carried home, till the succeeding crop begins to rise. A great many of the farms are too small; being from 5 to 7 acres of arable ground. A farm of this size as effectually bars the possessor and one of his children from every other line of industry, as one of double or triple the extent. Hence the small tenants are poor, except they are weavers; in which last case they live very comfortably. The want of lime and marle is another great disadvantage. Lime cannot be had nearer than the port of Perth, which is 12 miles from the nearest, but 25 from the remotest parts of the parish. Good marle is not less distant. Some resource may be found at a future period from a great body of marle, on the borders of the parish of Auchtergaven, if the proprietors drain and expose it to sale. This disadvantage with respect to fossil manures, is aggravated by the trouble and difficulty attending peat, the principal fuel in this country. Though peat be abundant enough, yet the casting, winning, and carrying them home occupy the greatest part of the months of June and July, the season most convenient for bringing home lime and marle.

These evils cannot be removed, nor even much alleviated, without great judgement and attention on the part of the landlords.

lords. One thing is obvious, from the situation of agriculture as already stated, that the tenants ought to have leases of 19 years indurance. It cannot be expected, upon the principles which usually govern human conduct, that people will be at the trouble and expence of any considerable improvement, without some prospect of reaping the fruits of their labour. To do the proprietors justice, they do not withhold leases with the oppressive view of keeping the tenant under a racked rent. On the contrary, they act upon humane and rational principles; instead of letting their lands by the absurd mode of auction, or by inviting private offers under pretence of concealing them, they take care to inform themselves of the true value of their lands, and the rent is determined in most cases by the appreciation of persons of knowledge and experience in these matters. When leases are withheld, it is with a view to let a number of contiguous farms become open at the same period, in order to put them upon a more advantageous plan of improvement, both with respect to the landlord and the tenant.—The enlarging, and, of consequence, the uniting of farms, might set agriculture upon a more thriving and respectable footing; but, in this country, humanity forbids the attempt, till some resources can be found out for the comfortable subsistence of the numerous occupiers of small farms. Landlords are beginning to collect weavers and other handicraftsmen into small villages, where they are accommodated with neat dwelling houses, and each of them with an acre or two of land, to afford them the benefit of a milk cow and some other comforts of agriculture, without being too much hindered, by the labours of the field, from a vigorous application to their respective trades.

Every thing practicable should be done in this parish, for procuring manure in a greater abundance. As nature has denied



nied it both lime and marle, the attention of the people should be turned to other sorts of manure. A parish association for encouraging the making of composts, by pointing out the properest substances, and granting premiums to such individuals as combined them most judiciously, might be attended with much advantage. The grazings in the hills might be greatly improved in some places, by the draining of bogs, and in other places, by turning water upon dry declivities.

Many new houses have been built, and old houses allowed to go to ruin, for six or seven years past. Five farm houses are two stories high, with slate roofs. One of the tenants pays L. 40, one L. 100, and another L. 105, of rent. A taste for cleanliness, and even some degree of elegance, with respect to the articles of lodging, household furniture and dress, is beginning to display itself. Instead of mean dirty hovels, built with stones without cement, dwelling houses are now built by good masons with mortar, cast on the outside with lime, and neatly, finished within. Many young men appear at church and market dressed in English cloth and round hats, and the young women in printed cottons or linens. It is perhaps to be regretted that more attention is not paid to the woollen manufactories, as an article of domestic industry and economy.

A few etymologies shall conclude this memoir. *Murtbly* (in Gaelic *Morbullich*) is compounded of the word *Mor*, signifying great, and *Tullich*, mount; *Findowie*, from *Foan* (declivity) and *Fuigh*, or *Duigh*, Divot; *Dalguis* from *Dail*, Haugh and *Guis*, fir; *Balnagaird*, from *Bail* (town) and *Kaird*, signifying handicraftsmen of any sort; *Trochrie*, from *Treuchry*, meaning a narrow pass or defile; and there is such a pass near this town. *Kinnaird*, from *Cucan*, Head, and *Ard*, high, a name peculiarly applicable to this very striking and

and romantic feat, where a stupendous rock almost overhangs the mansion house. Here there are a fountain, and the ruins of a chapel, both dedicated by antient superstition to St Laurence. *Dalmarnoch*, from *Dail* and *Marnoc* the name of another faint, whose burial place was *Kilmarnoc*. *Bran* (in Gaelic *Braigh bhuine*) *Braigh*, meaning high grounds, and *Bhuine*, stream, *i. e.* the stream from the mountains.

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

## P A R I S H O F L U M P H A N A N .

(PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL, SYNOD AND  
COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM SHAND.*

*Name, Extent, and Stipend.*

**T**HE name of the parish in Gaelic signifies it is said, the "bare little valley;" which might have been the case when it first received its name; but time has produced great changes here, in respect of fruitfulness. Almost in the middle of the parish stands the church. The length of the parish from S. to N. is about 6, in breadth from E. to W. 4 computed miles.—Hills surround the greatest part of the parish. The soil is deep and good in the low grounds, thin and sandy on the sides of the hills to the S.—The air is dry and healthy in general. Fevers are the most common distempers.—There are many excellent springs, at the foot of the hill, and in other parts; so that every village except one, is well supplied with water.—There is a considerable lake, called the loch of Auchlossen, nearly one mile long, and more than half as broad at the south end; and which produces pikes and eels in great plenty

plenty. Some large pikes 6 feet long, weighing about 25 lib. have been taken in it. It yields likewise some grass, as horse pipes, &c. Ducks, geese, and sometimes a few swans, frequent this loch, and afford good sport for gentlemen and others. In summer it is divided into 2 parts, and the passage for the water between them may be about 5 feet wide; the loch is frozen in winter, and may be travelled on. In its present state it has many inconveniences. It frequently overflows in summer, carries off the fuel, and hurts the corns growing near it; about it the frosts and mildews are severe, and the wild fowls destructive, especially in the night time. It has been proposed by the proprietors to drain off the water, and render the grounds arable; the greatest depth when sounded, did not exceed 6 feet. The rent, for the almost useless ground at present, might be considerable, and some marle perhaps got. Some years hence the plough may be seen going where the ugly and voracious pikes are now lying; and corns growing instead of almost useless weeds. The neighbouring towns would then be more healthy, and no depredations made on their crops.

Meal-mead and Craiglich are the most considerable hills; the latter is steep, and arises from the arable land about a mile. They are in general covered with heath, having some green vallies on the sides of the rivulet, and afford pasture to large flocks of sheep; turf and peat for fuel, and a few birds for game.

*Population.*—For about 20 years back the population has not varied much. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 682 souls, the present number of inhabitants is 621. Males and females bear the same proportion as in other parishes; the births on an average are only 10 or 12 yearly; marriages 5 or 6. There are 44 farmers, 4 smiths, 2 weavers, 3 wrights, 8 shoemakers, 6 millers, 1 taylor, 3 students at the university of

of Aberdeen, 2 merchants, 3 or 4 families of seceders, 1 Roman Catholic in the parish.

*Productions.*—The number of black cattle is 902, of horses 153, and of sheep 1907. About 200 bolls of meal, oats, and bear, may be annually sold out of the parish. The crops are potatoes, bear, oats, turnips, pease, some lint, but little artificial grass. No heritors reside here, and we are in the infancy of winter herding, though there is great occasion for it on many accounts. Several tenants keep bee-hives; a first swarm sells for about 20s. sterling; if the summer be favourable, 3 swarms may be looked for from each hive.—When killed, the best hives yield from 10 to 12 pints of excellent honey; for which, 3s. 4d. to 5s. per pint may be gotten. There is not one third of the land under culture. Some industrious tenants have ploughed several acres from the heath, one 15, and another about 14, acres. After ploughing it lies a year unfown; then they take several crops before it is allowed to rest. One man affirms that he had for the first crop from a small piece taken from the muir 8 returns, or 4 bolls from half a boll, which yielded 3 bolls of meal. There are apparently many ridges in the hills not now ploughed. The hills are very fit for wood, yet none of them are planted. Commonly, and the non-residence of heritors, are the causes of this great defect. The want of fire wood is every year more and more felt. Nay all the ash and plane trees, &c. on some estates are now cut down; as are likewise the allers that grow on the burns of Lumphanan, Findrach, and Pool bog; so that there are remaining only a few trees in the tenants yards, and the people are obliged, with a great loss of time, and much expence, to purchase wood from the neighbouring parishes.

*Advantages, and Disadvantages.*—The advantages are an early soil, well filled and ripened crops. The bear, oats, meat

&c. are very good and fetch high prices. Meal last summer sold at Finzean's ginnell at 17s. per boll of 9 stone. The north and south roads, passing through the middle of the parish, give the farmers many and easy opportunities of falling in with the south country dealers in cattle. The parish is well supplied with garden plants from Auchoor and Mill-town of Auchlossen, where 3 gardeners reside. It has likewise a good school-master, but his encouragement is small, and the school built in a very improper place. Many cattle are reared here, and the principal roads are not bad. On the other hand, the parish is no less than 24 measured miles from Aberdeen; has no lime nor marle, nor can the high grounds often get any advantage from watering; grass is scarce, and few cattle can be kept in summer. The farmers must often sell them to great disadvantage when the labouring is finished, put them to glens, or starve them at home. The sheep are often a prey to the foxes from the woods of Craigievar and Aboyne. The fuel is fetched from the distance of 2 computed miles, and on bye-roads where carts are drawn with danger and difficulty. Little is done by many from Whitsunday to the beginning of autumn but to cast, dry, and lead peats. Some think it would be as cheap to bring coals from Aberdeen. The north and south roads, too, are attended with some inconveniences from beggars and pilferers. The mill multures are heavy, the tenants affirm, that in multures, &c. they pay 1 boll in 12.

*Language Rent, &c.*—None of the parishioners speak of understand Gaelic, though the names of most places are said to be derived therefrom, as Auchlossen, Auchoor, &c. The valued rent is L. 2082 : 6 : 8d. Scotch, and the real rent may be about L. 1000 sterling. The stipend is L. 36 : 5s. including 20 merks for communion elements, with 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal

at 9 stone per boll, and 5 bolls of bear. Sir William Forbes of Craigivar, Bart. is patron. The church was built in 1762. The manse in 1782. In the minister's garden are plenty of green trees and low fruits, and the trees bear well. The situation is pleasant, and so healthy, that there is a proverb, that no minister dies here. The glebe may be about 6 acres, but is strangely and inconveniently divided; some of it lying above half a mile from the rest.

There are 4 heritors, one of whom has two thirds of the parish. The number of poor on the roll at present is only 6. The weekly collections are about 10d. We have no other funds except a few pounds in the Kirk box. The years 1782 and 1783 obliged the minister and elders to give out L. 10, or L. 12 extraordinary; victual then was very scarce and dear. A neighbouring heritor, Mr. William Brebner, was then of great service to his own, to this, and to other parishes. He imported, and brought home from Aberdeen with his own carts, oats, bear, &c. grinded them, and sold the meal at moderate prices. Sir William Forbes likewise ordered his factor at Craigivar to distribute some meal among the poor in his lands, and did not exact all his rents. He likewise procured seed for his tenants, who suffered greatly. Many were much reduced that year\*.

*Ploughs,*

\* Prices of provisions.—Oat meal sells from L. 8 to L. 10 Scotch per boll, 9 stone; bear meal about L. 6.—beef and mutton 3d. per lb.—butter from 6d. to 8d. per lb. of 18 oz. to the lb. cheese 5s. per stone, same weight;—hens 6d; eggs 2d. per dozen;—seed corn from L. 9 to L. 10 Scotch; bread much the same;—oats with fodder, L. 10 to L. 14, do.—bear L. 10 to L. 16 do. peck and proof;—lambs 3s. 6d. to 5s.—year old sheep 5s. to 6s.—ewes 3s. to 5s.—weddors 6s. to 10s.—fed sheep according to their weight and fatness;—calves 5s. to 20s.—year old black cattle 20s. to 40s.—2 years old do. L. 3 to L. 5.—rising 4 year old, L. 5 to L. 7;—oxen L. 6 to L. 10;—cows L. 3 to L. 7.—A good many sheep and black cattle are sold every year.—Few horses are reared, and those small.—They sell from L. 6 to L. 12.—There is one yearly market for sheep, where about 2000 sheep are exposed one year with another.

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*Ploughs, Farms, and Inclosures.*—There are about 56 ploughs of land in the parish, but sometimes 2 or 3 are united, and laboured by one plough or 10 oxen, so that there are not above 44 ploughs yoked, those excepted who join and labour their small crofts in a few weeks. The ploughs in general consist of 8 or 10 oxen.—There is one farm held by 2 tenants at L. 50; others pay from L. 25 to L. 30; most of them L. 12 with 6 or 8 bolls of meal and 3 or 4 of bear.—Many of the farmers have carts, and some of the crofters.—The houses are now a little better than formerly, the new ones being built with good stones and mortar, and pinned with lime.—A few have chimneys and wooden floors, and are covered with heather.—The offices in general are yet mean. But as some heritors are now allowing payment to the tenant at his removal, for walls, the houses it is hoped will soon put on a better appearance. The way of managing farms is none of the best.—Lands rent at L. 1 per acre in-field, when let to crofters by the tenant, who pays little less for it himself, and yet he often labours the ground for his subtenants.

The first inclosures seem to have been at Auchinhove by the Duguids, who once were the greatest heritors in the parish.—The dykes there are 6 feet broad at bottom.—Some dykes with hedges were lately built at Camp-field. There are a few inclosures likewise at Findrack, but in bad order. The tenants

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are

A day-labourer's wages, 6d. per day, with diet;—a carpenter's, 8d;—taylor's 6d.—mafon's 15d. to 20d.—A woman servant gets from 20s. to 25s. per half year.—Those who engage in harvest from L. 10 to L. 12 Scotch.—Men servants L. 2 to L. 3 sterling.—They are the same in summer, because they go south to dyking. In harvest from L. 15 to L. 18 Scotch.—A herd now gets L. 10 or L. 12 Scotch or more.—Those who draw the plough, L. 18 Scotch.—The wages, like the rents, have increased one third since 1772, and are still increasing.



are beginning to do something in this way, but the sheep are great enemies to them in winter\*.

*Miscellaneous*

\* One or two seemingly druidical places of worship are known, also a pretty large stone without inscriptions near Kinlocher. At the manse there is a curious font stone, 2 feet diameter. A few old coins were found some years ago, when repairing the church-yard dykes, and a mortcloth bought with them. Very lately above L. 100 sterling, all in Queen Anne's shillings were found by two herds in one of the dykes of the Gordon's fold near Auchhove. Their parents had taken one of these folds for grafs; and the boy and girl were taking down some stones to let their beasts get in to feed, where they accidentally found the money. Tradition says, that it is only a part of 50,000 merks hid there in 1745, by one Malcolm, a servant belonging to Mr Duguid of Auchhove, who unfortunately joined in the rebellion, and that the rest was secreted in a man's boot.—The unfaithful servant, after Culloeden, returned home, and was seen going about the dykes as if he had lost something;—when examined, he said it was a silver headed sword that he was searching for.—The Pool Bogg near the manse, consists of 50 acres, now inclosed, and rented at about 10 guineas. About three fourths of the ground are arable. The burn of Lumphanan which runs through it, formerly, in the time of rain, when it rose high, did great destruction, carrying off the earth, and covering the ground with sand and small stones; but these evils are now remedied. Near the middle of the bogg stands a fort, built chiefly of earth from the moat around it, not perpendicular, but contracting as it rises; it appears round, but is really oval. The height is 12 yards. It measures  $86\frac{1}{2}$  yards in circumference at the top, and the area may sow 6 or 7 pecks of oats. The moat at the base is 23 yards wide. Without lies another ring 350 yards round. It is uncertain who built this fort; some ascribe the work to Longueville who came over from France in Wallace's time; some to Wallace himself, and call it Gargunock. Others give it a much earlier date. Before the invention of gunpowder it has been a place of strength; and it often excites the curiosity of strangers.

Macbeth's Cairn lies about a measured mile north from the kirk, on the brow of a hill, is 40 yards in circumference, and rises pretty high in the middle. Farther up the hill are several smaller cairns. It is said by some that Macbeth, flying from the south, had but a few men with him when he reached Lumphanan; that he endeavoured to hide himself at a town called Cairn Baddy, but flying from hence went about a mile north, till M'Duff out-riding his company, came up with him at that place where the cairn now lies, killed him in single combat, and brought back his head to his men.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The people are not expensive in diet or clothes —The young folks begin to appear more gay on public occasions.—All are punctual in attending public worship, and seem pretty well pleased with their condition. The farmers complain of grassums, and short leases, but especially the want of servants, their high wages and little work. It is evident that the tenants here must take the burden of the work on themselves, and pay every attention to their business, else they must go to ruin. It cannot be said that any of them are making rich; few are laying by so much cash as their servants. In winter they often can get little done for some months, on account of the storms of rain and snow, and great frosts. During the long winter nights the men servants think they should do nothing for their masters advantage. Subtenants there know not how to employ themselves so as to get bread.

The public roads are not bad, being kept in tolerable good order by the statute labour; the people sometimes grudge that they are called out, especially when well advanced in life, 6 days every year, or that they must pay money.—Bridges are much needed, as the burns swell suddenly, and become almost impassable. Nor are they in much better condition often in winter frosts. Two great roads intersect one another very near the church, eastward.

## N U M B E R XLII.

## P A R I S H O F G L E N I S L A .

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

*By the Rev. MR. JAMES DONALD.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**G**LENISLA derives its name from its local situation, being placed in a glen through which the river Isla runs. — From the head of this parish to the foot, taking a straight line, it measures about 18 English miles, but if all the windings of the river are taken in, it measures precisely 25 miles and one furlong. Its breadth, at an average, will not exceed 2 miles.

The Isla, which takes its rise from Caan-Lochan, formerly a deer forest of the family of Airly, runs through the middle of the parish. This river abounds with trout of a tolerable size; there are also salmon to be found in it, though they are prevented from getting far up by a fall of water below the mill of Craig, measuring betwixt 70 and 80 feet perpendicular, called Reeky-Linn; from the smoke which constantly ascends from the wa-  
ter

ter. This fall makes a very grand appearance at all times, but more particularly when the river overflows its banks.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The soil is in general of a light nature, and full of stones. In the lower part of the parish, however, where improvements are carried on, it appears to be deep strong loam, producing good crops of corn and grass. In the upper part, lime stone is to be got in great abundance from three different quarries. But the expence of quarrying and burning prevents the inhabitants from reaping great benefit from it. Some of the more opulent of the tenants drive marle from the Loch of Kinnordy, about 9 miles distant, which manure turns out to very good account.

The air is very pure, and the people in general very healthy. The healthiness of the people, however, may be ascribed to their manner of living. They are not pent up in houses, nor employed in sedentary occupations like many others, but roam at large in the open air, tending flocks of sheep and cattle. Several instances of longevity are to be found in the parish; particularly one man in his 94th year, still vigorous and retaining all his faculties, another 82, and a third 76. During the summer months, it is very sultry, but frosts generally set in by the end of August, and the winters are commonly very severe.

The people, especially in the upper part of the parish, are late in beginning to sow, owing principally to the frosts which keep the ground long, particularly after a severe winter. It is often the latter end of March or beginning of April, before the seed-time is begun. This, of course, prevents the grain from ripening soon; so that it is frequently the middle, and often the end of November, before the crop is all got in.

The frost mists do much hurt here, particularly on the river side. They seem to manifest their noxious quality first on the potatoe stems. Some fields of barley have been rendered

almost useless by them. The barley takes a deadly whiteness after this happens, and the kernels when unhusked, immediately after the frost, are soft and watery, and in a short time grow shrivelled and dry. Oats, when frosted, acquire in a few days a bluish cast. These frosts prevail here mostly in the month of August.

*Population.*—On the 12th of July 1791, there were living in the parish 1018 souls; of whom 224 were under 10 years of age, 456 between 10 and 20, and 338 widowers and married.—The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was 1852 souls; so that the population has decreased considerably since that period.

No exact register of baptisms and marriages has been kept here for many years past; so that from what records belong to the parish, little material can be learned. From these records it appears that for 9 years preceding 1792, there were 236 baptised, and 93 couples married.

The greater part of the inhabitants have small farms, with a considerable extent of pasturage annexed to them. About 54 of them are small proprietors or portioners, and a great part of these occupy their lands themselves. There are just now in the parish 3 blacksmiths, 8 weavers, 7 taylor, and 4 wrights. What is remarkable, there is not a shoemaker in the parish. All the inhabitants are of the established church excepting 8 Non-jurors, 5 Catholics, and 1 Burgher Seceder.

The general character of the people is, that they are humane, and when they form an attachment to a person, will exert their utmost efforts to serve him. They are not indeed so industrious as could be wished. The summer months are mostly spent in providing fuel and tending the flocks; while the winter months are mostly consumed in burning this fuel. With respect to their morals, they are punctual in attending on public worship,

worship, and as decent in their behaviour in other respects, as their neighbours around them.

*Church and Poor.*—The value of the living is L. 55 : 11 : 1 $\frac{4}{8}$  sterling. The glebe and garden may be worth about L. 3 sterling. The king is patron of this living. The manse and church are very old.

The number of poor who receive alms from the kirk-session is about nine. The yearly sum expended for their relief will, not exceed L. 12 sterling. This sum is raised from the Sunday collections. What further support they stand in need of is supplied by charitable and well disposed persons.—The funds belonging to the poor do not exceed L. 40 sterling.—By some old records it appears, that in the year 1704, the Sunday collections did not exceed 3d. a week, now at an average they amount to 3s. 6d.—There are no travelling beggars belonging to the parish; but in the time of sheep shearing it is much infested with vagrants from adjacent parts of the country\*.

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3 D

*Rent*

\* The price of barley and oats is generally regulated by the Dundee market. Indeed the grain produced in this district is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. Oat meal generally sells at 15s. and barley meal at 10s. and 10s. 6d. per boll of 8 stones of 16 lb.—Beef, mutton, and pork, is no less than 3d. per lb. of 16 oz.—The price of a pig is 2s. 6d.—of a hen 8d.—of a duck 6d. and of a chicken 3d. Butter is sold at 6d. in summer, and when salted, at 8d. per lb. of 22 ounces.—The stone of cheese is generally 5s. but the price varies according to its richness and age. Ewe milk cheese is sometimes sold at 7s. per stone.

The wages of men-labourers are generally 1s. per day, from March to September, with maintenance. The women seldom hire by the day, except in the time of spinning wool, when they receive 3d. per day with maintenance.

The day-wages of a mason are 1s. 1d.—of a wright 1s.—and of a taylor 6d. with maintenance.

Farm-servants generally draw from L. 7 to L. 8 sterling *per annum*, with maintenance.—Women servants receive L. 3 sterling a year, along with some  
bounties,

*Rent and Produce.*—There is but a very small part of the parish inclosed. Indeed one of the heritors, sufficiently aware of the advantage and propriety of improving ground covered with heath, has inclosed a good many acres of muir ground, adjacent to his house, with fir and birch trees, which presently appear to be in a very thriving state. Would his neighbours follow his example, the country would not wear the bleak aspect it presently does.—The best arable land lets at about 20s. per acre, but to this is annexed the privilege of hill pasturage. The rent of the parish may be between L. 600 and 700 sterling. This, however, is varying every year. The heritors, as has been mentioned, are 54 in number, of whom about 32 reside in the parish. It is impossible to ascertain the number of acres contained in it, the arable ground bears but an insignificant proportion to that which is covered with heath. The plough mostly used in the upper part of the parish is the old Scotch plough, generally drawn by 4, sometimes by 6 horses, yoked a breast of one another;—what is peculiar, the driver always travels backwards. This mode, no doubt, has been adopted, on account of the weakness and small size of the horses, which are mostly of the Highland breed.—In the lower part, the English plough is for the most part used, and is drawn by 2 horses. One man holds and drives.

The vegetable produce is bear and oats, no wheat is sown; turnips, and potatoes are raised in the lower part of the parish; in the higher part of it turnips are but now introduced, and indeed it is impossible this crop can turn out to advantage, while the inhabitants allow their sheep to feed promiscuously  
after

bounties, which in value may amount to 6s. or 7s. sterling. About 40 years ago, the wages of a man-servant did not exceed L. 1 : 6 : 8 sterling a year with maintenance.

after the corns are put into the barn-yards. With respect to animal productions, the country abounds in black cattle; these are generally of a small size, but very durable; the largest will not exceed the weight of 18 or 20 stones of 16 lb. The number in the parish at present amounts to about 1696. The sheep, which are generally kept in the hilly part, are but of a small size; some of the inhabitants, however, go yearly to the south of Scotland, where they purchase numbers of black faced sheep, which turn out with them to good advantage. The precise number of sheep cannot be ascertained. The country abounds with muir fowl, and several gentlemen keep shooting quarters, which they regularly attend during the season. Here are hares and foxes in abundance. Ptarmigans are also to be found at a place called Caanefs, towards the head of the parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The roads are in very bad repair, and must continue in the same state till proper overseers are appointed to inspect them, and the road money of the parish appropriated to their repair. The bridges are only two in number (though the extent of water, from the head to the foot of the parish, is about 25 English miles.) Were a bridge built centrally between these two, which are 9 miles asunder, it would be a considerable advantage to the country at large, and free many individuals from inconveniencies they presently labour under. Indeed there are some funds for a bridge already, and subscriptions might be expected to complete the scheme, were there any public spirited person to set the work on foot.

Beside the parochial school, the salary of which is 100 merks, there is a school erected by the Society



for propagating Christian Knowledge at Folda. The teacher draws yearly from the Society L. 10 sterling. Both schools just now are in bad repair, and truly it is difficult to get these matters properly adjusted among such a number of heritors\*.

\* There are the remains of two castles, viz. the castle of Forter and the castle of Newtown. A great part of the walls of the former remain almost entire, but only the vestiges of the foundation of the latter are to be seen. Both belonged to the Ogilvies of Airly, and in 1641 were demolished by the Marquis of Argyle; an injury the family of Airly did not fail to resent.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XLIII.

## PARISH OF ALYTH,

(PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND  
MEARNS, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By the Rev. MR. COLIN SYMERS.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Alyth lies on the north side of Strathmore. It is about 12 miles long and 3 broad at an average; stretches from S. to N. towards the Grampian mountains, and is bounded by the parish of Meigle on the south, from which it is divided by the water of Isla,—by Ruthven and Airly on the east, from which it is likewise separated by the Isla in its course from the hills towards the S.

The parish is divided into two considerable districts by the hills of Alyth, Loyal and Barry. The southern district, which lies in the Strath, is about 4 miles long and 3 broad. The lower part along the water of Isla is extremely fertile, producing excellent crops of barley, oats, and wheat. The cultivation of grass, turnips, potatoes, and other parts of the new husbandry, is carried on with great success. Several of the proprietors have divided their estates into fields, inclosed with  
hedges

hedges and hedge-rows. The frequent inundations of the Isla, which sometimes rises suddenly in harvest to a great height, is often attended with great disappointment and loss to the husbandman. This was the case in 1789, and two or three instances more fatal have happened within these twenty years. These might serve as lessons to the tenants to drag their corns out of the water mark immediately when they are cut down, a practice too much neglected by them. Much of this mischief, arising from the present winding course of the Isla in its way through the valley, might be prevented by straightening its channel.

The tract of land towards the hills is equally fertile, and in most seasons produces heavy crops of corn and grass. Its fine exposure, lying opposite to the genial rays of the sun, is friendly to the quality of the grain, and its early ripening. The corns are seldom hurt by frosts, to which the low ground is more subject.—Crops of flax in the whole of this district are generally good, and the quantity sown has greatly increased. Three, and often four stones of flax, at the rate of 24 lib. avoirdupois to the stone, is no uncommon return after the peck of seed. There are three lint mills in this district, and all well employed. The farmers rear a considerable number of young cattle, and use turnips in this way more than in feeding cattle. They likewise rear a few horses, but not in sufficient numbers to serve themselves.

The farms are not too large, nor do they seem to be too high rented; none of them exceeding L. 140; and there are some small possessions, at L. 20 and L. 15. Good ground gives from 15s. to 21s. an acre. Marle is the manure commonly used, of which there is plenty, and of the best quality, at the distance of three or four miles. Considerable quantities of lime are brought from Dundee, the nearest sea port town. Its superior

rior quality, and the advanced price of marle, will soon make it more used.

The village of *Alyth* is situated in this district. Its name is of Gaelic extraction, and is expressive of its situation, being built on a flat near the foot of a hill. It was made a burgh of barony by a charter from James III. The whole of it belongs in superiority or property to the Earl of Airly, who has a large and valuable estate in this part of the parish, which has been long in the possession of that noble family. The situation of the village is healthy; it is well supplied with water, excellent springs are found on all sides, and a small river runs through the lower part of the town. Over it are two bridges, by which the inhabitants have easy intercourse; manufactures of different kinds might be carried on here to great advantage. There is a weekly market in the village, tolerably well supplied with butcher meat, poultry, butter, cheese, &c. and several annual fairs for black cattle and sheep are held here. The chief articles are yarn and brown linens, of which a great quantity is manufactured in the town, and district around it. The quantity of cloth stamped from the 1st November 1787, to the 1st November 1791, at an average, was 258,639 yards yearly, and the medium price L. 6939:10:3  $\frac{1}{4}$ . This branch of trade, though lately much improved and enlarged, is far from being carried on to that extent it would admit, and well deserves. Perhaps not one half of the yarn spun in this part of the country is manufactured in it. The distance from Dundee, (15 miles), where most of cloth is sent, is compensated by cheaper labour and living: the intercourse is made easy by the turnpike road betwixt Dundee and Meigle, which will be soon finished. And there is a plan in agitation for continuing this road from Meigle to *Alyth*, and erecting a bridge over the *Isla* in that line, which it is much to be wished may take place, as it would be a most essential benefit to the country.

The

The number of inhabitants in the village is almost doubled since 1774. At that time they amounted to 555; now they are increased to 1060. Several acres of ground were lately feued by the proprietor, on which a number of houses are built, and possessed chiefly by manufacturers. The land in the barony of Alyth near the village is let out in two or three acres, for the convenience of the inhabitants, and is rented from 30s. to 40s. the acre. The greatest disadvantage this part of the country labours under is want of fuel; the time spent in casting and winning peats, and the expence of bringing them home from a distance of 5 or 6 miles, are great inconveniences to the husbandman and the manufacturer, who begin to find it more for their interest to use coals, though there are none to be had nearer than Dundee.

In surveying this district, it takes away much from the pleasure, to observe a large common (called the Muir of Alyth) of several hundred acres, a great part of which is capable of improvement, and might be made to raise corn and grass; the rest of it is well adapted for planting. As it is now under submission, it is to be hoped a division will soon take place.

On the other side of the hill of Alyth there is an open country of considerable extent, and capable of much improvement. The soil in a great part of it is good, and the crops far from being deficient. When the ground is more cultivated, and drained where it is wet, there will be less reason to complain of the lateness of the crops; which cannot be so much owing to difference of climate, as to the advanced state of agriculture. Till lately, the old mode of farming was followed in all this district, viz. taking crops of oats and bear alternately from the in-field, and after three successive crops of oats from the out-field, letting it remain as long in ley. But now a better system of agriculture is introduced, and a spirit of industry promoted among the tenants. In a few years hence, when the thriving

thriving plantations are farther advanced, the farms properly divided and inclosed, and a rotation of crops observed according to the leases lately granted, the value of the property, and the appearance of this part of the country will be much increased and improved.— Beyond the hill of Bamff is the forest of Alyth, a large tract of heath ground, consisting of more than 6000 acres, which chiefly belonged to four proprietors who possessed it in common; but is now divided among them. The forest, which is skirted on the W. with arable ground, affords pasture for a considerable number of sheep and black cattle. The sheep are either of the Linton breed, or the small white faced kind raised in this part of the country. An excellent breed of wedders, brought from Linton annually when a year old, thrive well. They are commonly sold when four years old at 13s. or 14s. the head. Their wool is coarse; indeed none of the sheep here are remarkable for fine wool.—In the forest are very extensive mosses, which supply the country around with fuel. It abounds in game, especially muirfowl, and is much frequented in the shooting season. At the extremity of the parish there is a beautiful little country, surrounded with hills, and intersected by the black water or Erich, which in summer has a delightful appearance. That part of it connected with this parish called the Blacklunnans lies in the county of Angus.

*Rent and Population.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 8233:17:4 Scotch. There are 5 or 6 heritors who have considerable estates, besides several smaller proprietors, and a number of feuars. The family of Bamff, represented by Sir William Ramsay, Bart. have charters of the estate they now possess, since the reign of King Alexander II. A. D. 1232. Three of the considerable heritors reside part of the year in the parish, and most of the smaller ones.

The number of inhabitants in the whole parish is 2723 ; of whom 1060 are in the village, 943 in the lower district, and 720 in the upper district. The population of the parish is increased since the returns made to Dr. Webster, which were 2680. The increase is wholly in the village. The numbers in the country part of the parish having diminished more than 200 in the last 15 years. For five years preceding 1792, there were 413 individuals, 208 males and 205 females, baptized, and 123 couples married ; and for four preceding 1791, 196 were buried.

*Ecclesiastical State and Schools.*—The church is an old Gothic structure ; it has been frequently repaired, and is in tolerable good order. In times of Episcopacy it was a prebendary belonging to the bishop of Dunkeld.—The stipend of Alyth is 6 chalders, 11 bolls, 2 firloths, 1 peck, 1 lippie and a half victual, two thirds meal and one third bear, L. 39 : 17 : 4<sup>6</sup>, in money, and about L. 1 : 10 of small tythes. The glebe consists of six acres of good land.—The manse was lately repaired. The heritors have on all occasions been ready to grant every thing necessary to accommodate the minister. The crown and the family of Airly claim the patronage.

Alyth is an excellent station for a schoolmaster, being in the centre of a populous parish. The heritors have augmented the salary to 200 merks Scotch, and built a school and schoolmaster's house on a larger scale than usual. The salary, and perquisites of the session clerk's office, will amount to L. 9—The schoolmaster has likewise the interest of L. 40 sterling, bequeathed by the late incumbent Mr. Robertson for the education of a few children of his name. The school dues have been lately increased and regulated ; and, by the favour of the heritors, the schoolmaster enjoys some very considerable advantages.

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The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge have stationed one of their schoolmasters at Drumfork in Blacklunnans. The present schoolmaster, who is an old man, has retired with a salary of L. 7 sterling; his son who is appointed assistant has L. 9 sterling yearly. This institution is attended with singular advantage to that remote corner of the parish. Young people are taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and early instructed in the fundamental principles of religion. The number of scholars is usually from 60 to 80.

*Poor.*—The poor in this parish are not so numerous as formerly, and are always well supplied.—The heritors and session meet every half year, when a list of poor is taken, and their particular circumstances being duly considered, a suitable weekly pension is settled on each of them.—The funds for their support are the weekly collections, the interest of L. 161 sterling, at L. 4½ *per cent.* and the rent of some galleries in the church. As these do not amount to one half of the sum required, the parish is assessed to make up what is deficient; the heritors in the proportion of their valued rent pay one half of the assessment, the other half is paid by the tenants.

The inhabitants are sober and industrious, and regular attendants on public worship: With the improvement of their outward condition, they are more liberal and humane in their sentiments and dispositions. The fruits of industry appear in their dress and manner of living. Mean cottages are exchanged for more comfortable habitations, and those who before found it difficult, with all their labour, to procure the necessaries of life, now enjoy many of its comforts and conveniences.



Comparative View of the state of the funds for the support of the poor, and the number of paupers for fifteen years, from the 1st of January 1776, when this scheme commenced in the parish of Alyth, dividing the time into three periods.

	N <sup>o</sup> of poor.	Weekly pen- sion.			Session's sum.			Assessment.		
		L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
Medium of the first 5 years,	5 } 44 $\frac{1}{10}$	1	14	1 $\frac{1}{10}$	37	14	3	56	19	9 $\frac{7}{10}$
Do. of the second 5 years,	5 } 37 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	11	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	33	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. of the third 5 years,	5 } 27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	4	8 $\frac{2}{3}$	31	7	5 $\frac{1}{10}$	37	12	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	109 $\frac{1}{10}$	4	9	11 $\frac{7}{10}$	102	5	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	148	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Annual medium nearly,	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	10	0	34	2	0	39	7	6

From this state it appears that the number of poor is decreasing, and the expence diminishing. This is to be ascribed to the improving state of the parish, and an increasing spirit of industry among the people. The linen manufacture affords employment for old and young of both sexes, and the price of labour is greatly advanced. None are admitted on the poor's roll who have not been three years at least in the parish, before they fell into necessitous circumstances, and they sign a bond giving the kirk-session a right to the whole or as much of their effects at their death, as will reimburse the parish for money they received from the poor's funds. The session reserve the half of the weekly collections, which they give occasionally to poor families and individuals not on the roll. Begging is not allowed in the parish.

#### Miscellaneous

\* Servants wages have increased at least one third since 1773. Men servants hired at that time for 5 or 6 guineas, are now with difficulty engaged at

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Mount Blair is the most considerable hill in every respect in this parish. It is a very conspicuous point of land. The base is not less than five miles in circumference; its exact altitude is not ascertained. It affords good pasture for a great number of sheep, and abounds in lime stone. About three miles S. from mount Blair, on the west side of the forest of Alyth is the hill of Kingsfeat, about 1179 feet high above the level of the sea. The situation is very romantic, for the water of Ericht runs at its foot on the west, and the side of the hill for a considerable way up is covered with a beautiful natural wood\*.

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at 8 or 9. The wages of women servants have risen in proportion, from L. 2 to L. 3.—And L. 3 : 10 sterling. The prices of butcher meat are nearly doubled in that period. Beef and mutton in the cheaper season are seldom below 3d. the pound, and very often at 4d. Poultry and eggs are equally advanced in price.

\* Barty-hill is about a mile in circumference at the base, and 676 feet high. It is divided from the hill of Loyal by a hollow, commonly called a Glack. The hill is of a circular or oval form. On the summit there is an area about 60 yards long and 24 broad, surrounded with a mound of earth, at least 7 feet high, and 10 broad at the top. On this mountain are the remains of a rampart built of muir stones uncemented. And on the outside of the rampart there is a hollow about 50 yards in circumference, which seems to have been intended for a basin. The whole area within the rampart is in circumference about 168 yards. There is no vestige of an edifice to be traced on it. On the west and north borders of the area, are seen the marks of something like huts built of dry stones, which have served to shelter the besieged from the weapons of the assailants, and the inclemency of the air. The N. and W. sides of the hill are very steep and almost inaccessible. On the S. and E. where the declivity is more gentle, there is a broad and deep fosse, over which at the S. extremity is a narrow bridge, built of unpolished stones and vitrified. The entrance to the fort on the N. E. side has been well secured by a bulwark of stone. It evidently appears to have been designed for

The rivers Isla and Ericht, mentioned before, have their sources within a few miles of each other in the Grampian mountains, are well stored with trout of different kinds; and some seasons a considerable quantity of salmon are found in them.—The burn of Alyth originates among the mosses in the upper part of the parish; it is soon increased by the addition of some small streams. Besides the advantage of it to the village through part of which it runs, there are four corn and two lint mills on it, tolerably well supplied with water in all seasons.

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a temporary retreat in time of war, and well adapted for that purpose; as it must in antient times have been reckoned almost impregnable. The account handed down that Barry-hill was the place where was confined Queen Vanora or Guineva, the wife of the British king Arthur, who was taken prisoner in a battle between the forces of that monarch and those of the Scots and Picts, has so much the air of fiction, that it hardly deserves any credit.

In a ploughed field, on the S. side of Loyal, an artificial cavity has been lately discovered. It is in the form of a ditch, about six feet deep, and four broad, faced up on both sides with stone, and covered with large broad stones on the top. The tenant who occupies the ground uncovered part of it which he found full of ashes. Whether these are the ashes of sacrifices offered by our ancestors to their deities, or of those warriors who may have fallen in the defence or attack of the fortification on Barry-hill, to which it is contiguous, is matter of conjecture. The extremities of this cavern have not yet been explored.

On the N. side of the hill of Alyth is the farm of Bahwhyme, which was the living of a church-man before the reformation. It was exchanged for the lands of St. Ninians in the lower part of the parish, which belonged to a laic. The approbation of the Pope, and his charter of confirmation were thought necessary to give validity to the exchange of a mailing which within these few years did not produce above 100 Scotch in yearly rent. A strong proof of the very great influence his Holiness had at that time in the disposal of church benefices.

N U M B E R XLIV.

PARISH OF OLD CUMNOCK.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF  
GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. THOMAS MILLER, D. D.

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*Soil, Climate, &c.*

THE parish of Old Cumnock, from which that of New Cumnock was disjoined early in this century is of an oblong figure, partly flat, and partly hilly.—The soil in general is clayey, and at the bottom, a strong till. Part of it mossy; all the holms are of a light dry soil, formed of sand and gravel.—The air in general, as through all this higher part of the country, is moist, but not unhealthy, as may be collected from the number of aged persons, and from there being no prevalent distempers. An aversion to inoculation prevails here, and has not yet been removed by all the pains made use of; in consequence of this the small-pox occasionally makes havock among the children. But this must gradually lessen, as inoculation gains ground, though slowly, every year.

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We have several mineral springs, chiefly chalybeate, and many rivulets, all running into the water of Luggar, a stream which empties itself into the river of Air near Barckimming. — This stream abounds in trout, and some eels are found in it. On the confines of the parish, are three lochs or lakes, which may cover in all about 100 acres of land. Their depth is unknown, and they communicate each other. The water of the eastern one runs into Aith, while the western loch runs into the water of Luggar. The fish in these lochs are pike and eel.

*Hills and Minerals.*—The hills, (for the parish has no mountains), though partly covered with heath, are chiefly green, and abounding in a coarse species of grass called sprit. There are several volcanic appearances in them, on which are found stones of the Basaltic species; also a few figured stones; and in the beds of the rivulets, petrifications of shells and fish are thrown up from the strata. These are also found in an extensive lime quarry, belonging to the Earl of Dumfries, and one of its upper beds abounds with a species of coral. The lamina of lime stone in this quarry are of different qualities, and the lime stone in some places, being mixed with shells and spar, takes a very fine polish, and would make a pretty enough blue marble. Through this quarry, there runs a small vein of lead ore. This upon a late trial, being dressed and smelted at the works of Wanlockhead, was found to produce 65 lb. of lead from 100 cwt of ore. — Free stone abounds in different parts of the parish, and particularly in the vicinity of the village. The quarries are of easy access, and supply materials of the best kind for building. Many houses have been rebuilt, and a good many new houses have been lately erected from these quarries, in the village and vicinity. Coal is still more plentiful. A considerable part of the parish is supposed to stand upon it. One of mines has been worked for more than 30 or 40 years.

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And there are other mines now opening in the immediate neighbourhood of the village. The consumpt, though pretty general, is however inconsiderable. What is used by the villagers and round the country excepted, it is principally consumed in burning lime stone. Of this, as above said, there is an inexhaustible quantity in the parish. The present price of coals is as nearly as can be guessed, 2s. 6d. per ton. The lime in shells 2½d. per bushel, five of which are equal to eight Winchester bolls. And the lime stone, unburnt, 1s. 8d. and 2s. per ton. All at the coal hills, lime post and kilns; consequently exclusive of the expence of leading. The Earl of Dumfries has also in this parish a blind coal, which he attempted to export to Ireland. But the expence of a land carriage of about 16 miles to the port of Air, obliged him for the time to relinquish the design.

*Statistical Table.*

Length in English miles		—In the country part	
nearly	10	of the parish	845
Breadth	2	Of the former, males	374
Population, <i>anno</i> 1755	1336	————— Females	413
Ditto <i>anno</i> 1765	1305	Of the latter, males	400
In the village	580	————— Females	445
In the country	725	Males in all	774
Ditto 1791 1792	1632	Females	858
Average of births for 5		Under 10	410
years preceeding 1792	41	Between 10 and 20	318
Average of males	22	Between 20 and 50	601
———— of females	19	Between 50 and 70	243
Deaths, ditto	16	Between 70 and 80	45
Marriages, ditto	11	Between 80 and 90	14
Inhabitants in village and		Between 90 and 100	1
environs	787	Houses inhabited	282
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New ditto and rebuilt in	Shopkeepers	-	10
10 years - - - '80	Inkeepers and stblers	-	4
Families supposed	Carpenters	- -	9
Married persons - -	Cart and mill wrights	-	3
Widowers - - -	Coopers	- -	3
Widows - - -	Masons	- -	12
Children at an average	Smiths	- -	9
each marriage - -	Weavers beside apprenti-	-	-
Of the established church	ces	- -	28
1332	Shoemakers	- -	33
Seceders - - -	Taylors	- -	15
300	Stocking weavers	-	7
Twins in 10 years, of	Waukers	- -	2
which three in 1790	Tanner	- -	1
4	Gardener	- -	1
Proprietors residing	Millers	- -	3
4	Carriers	- -	5
----- non residing	Carters for coal and meal	-	8
2	Day labourers	-	35
Valued rent Sc. L. 3784:17:8	Skin and wool dealers	-	2
Supposed real rent nearly	Chelsea pensioners	-	4
(sterling) - L. 3000	Lint dressers	- -	3
Number of acres supposed	Butchers	- -	3
ed to amount to 10,000	Bakers	- -	2
Wheel carriages - -	Colliers and coal heavers	-	18
5	Male servants, domestic	-	-
Carts, mostly one horse u-	and farm	-	44
fed - - -	Female do. do.	-	72
150	Average number of poor	-	23
Horses - - -	Capital of their funds	L. 410	-
220	Annual expenditure	L. 50	-
Cattle old and young near-	Schoolmaster's salary a-	-	-
ly - - -	bout	- -	L. 12
1000			
Scores of sheep, about			
100			
Horses, over head, may			
be valued each at			
L. 12			
Cattle each at -			
L. 4			
Sheep per score of 21			
L. 10			
Clergymen - - -			
1			
Established schoolmaster			
1			
Surgeons - - -			
2			

Average number of scholars	- - 40	-----Mutton, from 4d. to 5d. do.
Of which taught Latin	11	-----Veal, 4d. per do.
His fees for		-----Lamb, 5d. per do.
----- English, <i>per annum</i>	- - 8s.	Pork per stone 5s.
Writing do.	- - 10s.	A fowl from 8d. to 1s.
Arithmetic do.	- 12s.	Eggs per dozen from 3d. to 4½d.
Latin, &c. do.	- 16s.	Butter and cheese 16s. per stone
Wages of		Common cheese, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. and 5s. per stone
----- Farm servants from L. 7 to L. 10 <i>per annum</i>		Sweet milk do. from 6s. to 8s. per stone
Women do. from L. 2 to L. 4		Meal at an average 11d. and 11½d. per peck
A man for harvest	25s.	Looms employed for muf- lins and cottons. - 39
A woman for do.	- 18s.	For woolen - 35
Domestic servants get nearly the same as farm servants		-----
A day labourer without meat	10d. to 15d.	Total 74
A mafon do.	1s. 10d.	6000 pair shoes and 100 pair boots manufactured <i>per annum</i> .
A carpenter do.	1s. 2d.	
A taylor with maintenance	6d.	
Prices of		
----- Beef from 4½d. to 6d. per lb. of 24 oz.		

The increase of 327 since *anno* 1765 is the more remarkable, because, if the numerous small farms now under grass, and let only from year to year, were let upon leases of 19 years, this circumstance would make a very considerable addition to the number of souls, proportionably heighten the general population, and shew how much, as with reason has been sup-



posed, it is upon the increase. — The lists of births, deaths and marriages, in the table, are taken from the parish registers, which, though kept with care, cannot be depended upon; owing to the obstinacy and ignorance of the people, and their aversion to have the births and deaths in their families duly inserted. The general average of births is supposed to amount to 51 annually, which is as 1 to 32 of the whole population. As to the average of deaths, for the reason above given, this cannot be ascertained, nor can the incumbent obtain means of ascertaining them with any accuracy. Of the twin births mentioned in the table, three happened anno 1790 when there was an uncommon number of such births in this, and in other countries. — A fact remarked at the time, but never attempted to be accounted for. The people, particularly those in the manufacturing line, and women servants, emigrate to Glasgow, Paisley, and Kilmarnock. And of late some of them have gone to Catrin and Muirkirk. But these emigrants have not materially affected the general population, to which the Earl of Dumfries, by the number of labourers he employs, gives all imaginable encouragement\*.

*Produce, &c.* — The greater part of Lord Dumfries's lands, which form the bulk of this parish, are presently out of leases, and let from year to year in grass. But if the arable ground

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\* There are no remarkable plants. But considerable plantations of Scotch fir, larch, elm, beech and plane trees; the natural woods consist mostly of birch and oak. The ash, mountain ash, alder, and the bird cherry abound also, but few of any size; the natural woods and plantations cover at least 400 acres. And it is said that Lord Dumfries draws *communibus annis*, about L. 200 by the sale of wood, which he replaces by very extensive new plantations. For he must have drawn hedges and ditches to the extent of about 40 miles, and stone dykes to half that length, since he came into possession of that estate.

was under culutre, notwithstanding the slovenly mode of agriculture too generally followed, it is apprehended the parish could not only supply itself with provisions, which for the most part it is supposed to do at present, but might furnish considerable quantities of meal, as it now does, of butter and cheese, and occasionally some barley (big), to the great works of Muirkirk and Catrin, both which are in its neighbourhood; the former at 10, and the latter at 5 miles distance. In most years the inhabitants bring meal from Dumfries-shire, and pot barley from Lothian. Part is consumed in the parish, and part is carried to the above mentioned works at Catrin and Muirkirk. Flax was of late only cultivated in this parish, and there are now lint mills all over the country. Its culture in consequence was increasing, but has of late been checked by the prevalent taste for, and use of cottons. Few grafs seeds are sown, except by the gentlemen who have the property and reside in the parish, who may have a few hundred acres under sown grafs.—For the reason already mentioned, the bulk of arable land is under pasture. Peas and oats are sown in March and April, and big in May, and reaped in September and October. The crop most attended to is potatoes, of which the people all over the country make great use. There are varieties of marble and clays. One porcelain, ochre, &c. as reported from an actual survey lately made. The wetness of the climate is one of the chief disadvantages.—The distance from markets is now happily removed by the works of Muirkirk and Catrin; the influence of which on this country in general, the parish shares in\*.

#### *Ecclesiastical*

\* As Airshire formed a part of the antient Gallovidiæ, throughout which the Gaelic was universally spoken, it may be expected that traces of it should be found here; and these are yet found in the names of many of the farms. As *Aubingibartts*, *Meltzocb*, *Barlonachan* &c. all which are supposed to be of Gaelic original,

*Ecclesiastical State, and Poor.*—The patronage of the parish is in the Earl of Dumfries. The value of the living including the glebe does not amount to L. 100.—The church was built in 1754, and the manse about 1750. The heritors are 6 in number, of the whom 4 reside in the parish.

The poor are supported in part from the interest of the capital belonging to them, and partly from the Sundays contributions, which are greatly aided by the liberality of the family of Dumfries, who regularly attend divine service, and are yet more liberal in their private charities to poor house-keepers. Of these an obscure and sequestered individual could speak, did he not know, that there are still those who “do good by stealth and blush to find it fame.” There is also here a charitable fund established about three years ago, under the name of the “Cumnock Social Depository,” which already amounts to L. 170, and which promises to increase and to be of proportional service to the sick labourer, manufacturer, &c. who become members of it. Institutions of this kind are gaining ground; and if encouraged, as they ought to be by landed interest, and carefully managed, must prove the means of lessening the parochial poor, and preventing the introduction of a poor’s rate, of which the English so justly complain\*.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* There is no regular market; but the prices of the articles generally slaughtered in their several seasons, and sold here, are as stated in the tables. It should only further be observed, that almost every kind of provisions, meal excepted, is doubled at least in its price within 15 or 20 years past. The wages for servants, as will be seen from the table, have also greatly risen. And their condition is certainly preferable to that of the day-labourer, who even with his advanced wages, and with the advantage of getting coal at a moderate rate, (at the rate of a cart containing 900 cwt weight for 2s. 2d). usually brings up his family in a very poor manner. His earnings are more abridged, in consequence of piece work being little known, though creeping in; which, with increasing industry, will enable the day-labourer to afford better fare to himself and family than they taste of. His work in general, of consequence, seems  
proportion-

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the parish lies the village of Cumnock at the confluence of the stream of Glisnock, and the water of Luggar. It gives the title of baron to the family of Dumfries.—The great roads from Air to Dumfries, from Air by Muirkirk to Edinburgh, from Glasgow by Galston, and Sorn to Dumfries, and from Glasgow by Kilmarnock to Dumfries, pass through this village. It is distant from Edinburgh 58, from Glasgow 36, from Dumfries 45, from Air 16, and from Kilmarnock 16 miles. Besides the advantage of the public roads, the parish is greatly benefited by many cross roads, running in different directions, to the extent of ten or twelve miles, which the Earl of Dumfries has made at his own private expence for the conveniency of his coal, lime, &c. and while they serve these works they greatly benefit the parish and country in general\*.

The

proportionally small to those acquainted with English labour, or even with that of the Lothians or Berwickshire.

\* On the lands of Borland are the vestiges of a chapel or religious house; and the farm is, to this day, named *chapel-house*. These lands were originally in a family of the name of Hamilton, from whom they passed by marriage into the Montgomerys, a branch of the Coysfield family; and having passed through different purchasers are now the property of the Earl of Dumfries.

In the vicinity of the village of Cumnock are the remains of a moat, where, as tradition says, the baron courts were held of old. It is almost entirely surrounded by the Luggar; and as its banks are steep and completely wooded there, the whole forms a very beautiful and picturesque scenery. The castle of Terrenzean lies also in this parish. It is now in ruins; has stood on an elevated bank above the Luggar, in a beautiful situation; was probably the mansion that belonged to the barony of Terrenzean, which successively passed from a branch of the Crawfords to the Boyds. Upon their forfeiture it fell to the Crown, who having successively made grants of it to different proprietors, it came at last into the family of Lowdon, from whom it was purchased by the Earl of Dumfries, whose property it now is. From this barony, the present countess of Lowdon is Baroness Terrenzean.

The people in general are above the middle size.—The manufactures in the village are weaving, shoemaking, tanning, dying &c. The manufacturers and tenantry in general have little or no stock worth mentioning; they are in consequence moderate in their expences, strangers to luxury, but with the country in general, acquiring a taste for dress, which, with other slight symptoms of progress in civilization, will probably in time be an incitement to their becoming more industrious. At present the great body that make up the inhabitants of the parish may be said to enjoy freedom to work or to be idle; strangers in general to intemperance, their living is chiefly supplied by the dairy; the manufacturers excepted, who with a few others, may be said to be better acquainted with a meat diet and with the use of Beer; which it were to be wished, could be substituted for the prevalent use of spirituous liquors. Education is little valued. And next to the occupations peculiar to their several lines of life, their leading object, is to converse and dispute about religious subjects and church government, concerning which there is a considerable diversity of opinion amongst them. When time shall have softened down the keenness and pertinacity generated by this diversity of religious opinions,—when it shall have rendered them tolerant and forbearing towards those they differ from, there will be wanting only a general spirit of industry to meliorate their condition, and to furnish them with the real and solid comforts of life.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XLV.

## PARISH OF TARBAT.

(PRESBYTERY OF TAIN, SYNOD OF ROSS.)

*By the Rev. MR. GEORGE BALFOUR.**Situation, Name, and Extent.*

**T**HE whole of the parish of Tarbat belonged formerly to the county of Ross; but, in the year 1693, Cromarty having been erected into a separate jurisdiction, and the property of the Earl of Cromarty in different parishes being transferred to the erected county, the barony of Tarbat, as a part of his estate, was included in that arrangement; and the parish is now almost equally divided between the shires of Ross and Cromarty.—It is situated at the eastern extremity of the country, with the sea on every side, except on the W. and S. W. where it is bounded by the parish of Fearn. On the S. and S. E. it has the Moray Firth.—At the E. and N. E. another branch of the sea breaks in betwixt Ross and Sutherland, and bounds this parish on the N.——The sea, after passing Tarbat-Ness, turns in to the land, and forms a capacious bay, at the S. E. corner of which lies the harbour of Portmaholmack. Im-

dately above the harbour, the land rises to a considerable height, extends eastward into the sea 3 miles in length, and is not more than half a mile in breadth at the neck which joins the head-land to the body of the parish.—From these local circumstances the parish has its name.—*Tarbat*, being a Gaelic word, expressive of the peninsular situation of the place, and its having the appearance, when viewed at a distance, of a body stretched out in the sea and nearly surrounded by it. *Tar* signifying a Belly or Prominence, and *Bait*, drowned or immersed in water.—The parish is in length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles; in breadth it does not in any part exceed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles; in circumference it is  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and of that measurement 15 miles belong to the sea coast.

*Surface, Soil, &c.*—There are no high mountains or high hills in the parish. Geanies has the most elevated situation of any place belonging to it. There, a rocky precipice to the S. rises more than 20 feet above the level of the sea, and the fields on the N. and N. W. descend with a considerable declivity, a degree of which continues all the way to the north shore, though in most parts so gradual as to be scarce perceptible. There are in some other parts, a few rising grounds, which have a similar effect, but, in general, the fields are nearly level, or have no inequality but what is rather useful than otherwise.—There is a variety of soil; some of a loamy quality; some light, with a mixture of sand, or lying upon it; and a part of it, deep, with a bottom of hard gravel. There are no lakes or rivers in the parish, but there are a number of small lochs or natural ponds, which become dry in summer; and fresh water springs are to be found in every corner, particularly in parts near the sea. One of them at Portmaholmack is remarkable for the lightness of its water. At a short distance is another, within flood-mark, which discharges the salt water at ebb, and becomes then

then free of any brackish taste. It gives the colour of iron to the stones around it, and from this, and some other properties, is supposed to pass through an iron ore. There are different other mineral springs in the parish, having the same qualities.—Small quantities of salt are found in the summer months, concentered by the heat of the sun, from water left by high tides, in hollow parts among the rocks. The situation of the parish, in an open part of the country, and lying on the sea, gives it a most extensive prospect. There are particular stations from which may be seen a part of eight counties, with a long range of coast, from Cullen to Fort-George, on the S. E. and S. and from Dunbeath and the Ord of Caithness, to the Doun of Creech in Sutherland, on the north.

There are two public roads in the parish running parallel. The one leads straight from Tarbat-Nefs to the ferry of Cromarty, and is called the rock-head road, from its being carried along the top of a bank, rising above the sea, and rocky in some parts. The other road passes by the church, through the middle of the parish, and leads to the ferry of Invergordon. There are cross roads also, one of which leads to Tain, the head burgh of the county, where a weekly market is held, to which the inhabitants resort. In this and every parish throughout the country, the roads are made most convenient for travellers, from the particular attention given to that branch of police. The work has hitherto been performed by statute labour, and the people have been regularly called upon, for repairing the roads already made, or making new ones, where found necessary. But a plan has lately been proposed, and approved, to have the statute labour commuted, it being left optional to pay a certain rate of money, or to perform the service in person, in terms of the statute.



*Measurement, Manure, Natural Productions, &c.*—There is no general map of the parish, but, according to separate plans made of the different estates, it contains 5081 acres; of which, 2998 are arable, 66 out-field, 643 pasture, 1135 muir, 82 moss, and 166 planted.—The muir ground, which bears so great a proportion to the arable, notwithstanding the appearance of poverty in its present neglected state, might, by inclosing, mixing the different soils by trenching, and laying on lime, be turned into good arable ground, and brought to yield profitable crops; of this, there is sufficient proof from what is done by the cottars in those spots on which they sit down; and an experiment on a larger scale has been made lately, and with success, by Mr. Macleod of Geanies, on a piece of this kind of ground of about 40 acres, which are now improved into fields of corn and grass. The muir grounds, where not fit to be improved for those purposes, might be rendered useful, by inclosing and planting them with fir and other timber so much wanted in this place, which there is every reason to think would grow here as in other parts near the sea. The thriving plantations begun some years ago by Mr. Macleod of Geanies on his waste ground, and to which he is making yearly additions, may, it is to be hoped, call the attention of the other gentlemen of property in the parish to this object.

The arable ground yields barley, pease, oats and rye. Half is generally laid down with barley, or bear, and the ground is prepared by covering it alternately with sea weed and dung, with a mixture of black earth and gravel, this last being found useful to give firmness to the soil rendered open by the frequent use of sea weed.

In different parts near the sea, are banks of shells, which to the naked eye, have the appearance of coarse dark coloured sand. Mr. Wight, in his progress through the country, viewed those banks, and recommended the use of the shells as a manure

manure. They were tried, but the trial not succeeding, probably through a failure in the management, a second attempt has not yet been made.—At the bottom of some of the mosses, marle has been discovered. That found at a place called Meikle Tarrel is of the richest quality, and has been used for some years past by the farmer there, much to his advantage. Mr. Macleod of Geanies has also considerable quantities of rock and pit marle on different parts of his property. In two farms, some of the fields lie on a stratum of stone of a red colour, which when dug up, is soon dissolved by the sun and weather, and when spread on the ground, is found to have a powerful effect in meliorating the soil and crops.—On a few of the farms, oats are the principal crop; pease were sown in large quantities, and the returns were profitable, but that part of the crop has now failed for many years. Potatoes have happily come to supply the deficiency. There is not a farm, or small croft, a part of which is not laid out in cultivating this useful root. It would be difficult to ascertain the extent of ground employed for this purpose, or the quantities raised yearly, but both must be very considerable, as they are used in every family, and constitute the principal support of some of them, during nine months of the year.

The sowing of grafs and turnip seeds, is another improvement in agriculture which begins to take place in the parish. Mr. Macleod of Geanies set also the example in this, by laying large fields under green crops. Having his ground inclosed gives him great advantage for this, and every other improvement in farming; but the farmers have become sensible of the benefit of sowing grafs in the open fields; and of late, considerable quantities of clover and rye-grafs have been laid down in this manner, which there is reason to think will become a more general practice.

The number of farms in the parish, including those occupied by

by principal farmers and their subtenants, is 59. The number of ploughs is 94, commonly drawn by 6 or 8 oxen, and a few on the smaller farms, by 2 horses and 2 oxen.—The quantity of barley sown yearly, is calculated to be 774 bolls; of oats 1056 bolls; and of pease and rye 290 bolls.

*Rent.*—The valuation of the parish, as it stands in the cess books, amounts to L. 4421 : 10 : 10 Scotch. The real rent, as paid in barley, and from a few farms, partly in barley, and partly in oat meal, amounts to 2352 bolls, which, converted at 12s. the boll, is equal in money to L. 1411 : 4s sterling.—There is a money rent besides, of L. 340 : 4 : 10 sterling, which, added to the former, makes the whole rent to L. 1751 : 8 : 10 sterling.—Oat meal is now always received and paid away by weight, and 9 stoncs is the common standard of the country for a boll, and where meal is mixed, as in the rent paid from mills, 12½ stoncs are put to a boll.—One farmer pays his rent in money, at a conversion of 10s. the boll, another farmer pays the half of it at a conversion of 11s. Some of the farms where the soil is richest, are let at the rent of 30s. the acre of arable ground; some of them pay from 20s. to 26s. or from 15s. to 20s. and other farms are set at 10s. and under; but at an average, the rent may be calculated at 11s. 9d. the acre of arable ground. The muir and pasture lands are not comprehended in this estimate, these are considered as pendicles of the farm, but being open and common to every one, throughout a great part of the year, the farmer can count very little on his profits from them.

The parish produces much more corn than is sufficient for the support of the inhabitants. The victual rents are sold yearly, to be carried to other parts of the kingdom, or used in the country, by distillers, and those living in towns, or the Highlands.

*Cattle,*

*Cattle, Horses, and Sheep.*—There are in the parish 1176 black cattle, including milch cows, &c. 573 horses, 2080 sheep. Only a few of the black cattle are reared here, the greatest part being purchased at the different fairs held in this county, and in Sutherland, in October and November. After some years work, when they begin to fail in their strength, they are sold to the drover, or butcher, sometimes at a higher price than that for which they were first bought. The horses bred in the country are mostly of a small size, but hardy and fit for the drudgery to which they are first put. Many of the farmers in this and other parishes of the low country, now repair to the markets in Moray and buy larger horses, which cost from L. 6 to L. 13—The sheep are also of a diminutive kind, but by being pastured on the shore-grounds become fat, and fetch a good price. A larger breed has been lately introduced into the Highlands, and a few of them are brought down to this and other parts of the low country\*.

#### *Boats,*

\* The expence of a married servant, including meal for maintenance, his fees and other allowances, may be fairly estimated at L. 10 *per annum*. The unmarried servants are commonly maintained in the farmer's house, and the stated fees and other perquisites may be rated at L. 4 yearly for a man, and half that sum for a female servant.

In this and other parts of the country, the harvest is generally cut down by a fixed number of reapers, in proportion to the extent of the farm. They are hired for the season, and paid either in corn, or money, as they chuse. A man has 20s. or the value of it, 15s. is the common allowance given to a woman reaper. They are either maintained in the family by their employers, or have some additional allowances for their maintenance. It has now become more frequently the practice to call a number of reapers as the corn ripens, to dispatch the work and prevent loss by the weather. They are paid at the rate of 6d. or 8d. per day.

The ordinary hire of a labourer for farmer work is 8d. per day, and for garden work, cutting peats and mowing grass, 1s.—Ditches, dykes and trenching are paid by measurement, and cost as follows; ditches 2d. single stones dykes 2d. doubled do. 3½d. mud fences 3½d. the yard; trenching L. 4 sterling the acre.

*Boats, Fisheries, and Harbours.*—There are 12 boats belonging to the parish, of that number two are mostly employed in carrying freights. Some of them belong to people who fish occasionally, and require no more than two or three hands to work them. There are five fisher-towns on different parts of the coast. The proprietors of the ground furnish a new boat every seven years, to be upheld by the crew, and are entitled to a fifth part of the fish caught, or of their gains of whatever kind; but these dues are now mostly converted into money. The larger boats pay annually L. 4 sterling and the smaller L. 3—Every species of gray fish is to be found on the coast, and a great variety of shell-fish. From a trial made at an expence of the gentlemen of property in the parish, it appeared, that, with the necessary tackle, ling, holybut and turbot might be had in abundance. Some old people remember a cod fishing at Portmaholmack, where the beaches for drying the cod are still to be seen.—This year 1792 a lobster fishing was begun, and carried on very successfully, partly by Messrs. Selby and Cresswell of London, but mostly by a respectable society, under the firm of the Northumberland fishing company. In the course of the season, from March to July, more than 50,000 lobsters were caught at Tarbat-Nefs, and near it; and from first to last, 28 vessels touched at the point to receive the lobsters, and carry them to market. The charters of one property in the parish convey a right to a salmon fishing, but if any such did ever actually exist, it has been so long discontinued, that there is no remembrance of it. However, salmon are sometimes seen springing out of the water, near the shore; but there being no rivers to invite their stay, it is probable they only take a short rest here, in proceeding to, or returning from the rivers and lochs in the Highlands, where they leave their spawn.

The variety of fish upon the coast, occasions it to be frequented

ted by seals, porpoises and whales. A large one of the spermaceti kind was in the year 1756 stranded on the rocks to the west of Portmaholmack. It measured 63 feet in length, and yielded a great quantity of spermaceti and blubber. The otter is sometimes surprised at land in his lurking places, and is valued for his skin\*.

There are upon the different sides of the parish six harbours, and a number of small creeks. Of the harbours, Portmaholmack is the only one fit to receive vessels of any considerable burden, the rest being merely landing places for open boats.—There was a stone pier built there, at the expence of the first Earl of Cromarty, which now, through time and neglect, lies in ruins. The want of this pier has, within these forty years, occasioned the total loss of three vessels, and as many more were, from the same cause, stranded on the shallows in the frith, and not got off without much damage and expence. From a survey lately made, it appears, that at full sea, with a spring tide, there are thirteen feet of water at the pier head, and 9 feet with a neap tide. Ships driven by easterly

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terly

\* Of land animals, the fox has his den amongst the rocks, and lives mostly on shell-fish, though sometimes he makes excursions in search of game, and to commit depredations on the farmer's poultry.—The hares are numerous in the parish, and remarked for their swiftness; when the snow lies on the ground, they retire to the shores as a place of warmth and shelter.—Of game birds, partridges are in great numbers in the parish, though kept down by the hawk and kite, and other birds of prey, as well as the sportsman.—The green plover or lapwing comes early in the spring, and quits the country again in the months of July and August.—The swallow and cnckow come in the summer, and disappear in the middle of harvest; when these birds take their departure, numerous flocks of curlews, mountain plovers, wild geese and swans return with their young ones from the hills and lochs, where they had hatched and reared them in the summer months. The various kinds of the wild duck do not remove from this place, but are inhabitants of the marshes and shores, during the whole year.

terly storms could with ease pass Tarbat-Nefs and lie here in safety, the situation of the harbour giving it shelter from every wind which might hurt.

There is not in the N. part of Scotland, and what is called the low country, a place better calculated than Portmaholmack, if so well, for a fishing station, from the convenience of its harbour, its nearness to the sea where the fish is to be found, proper ground adjoining whereon to erect houses, and plenty of excellent free-stone at hand to build them.

From the increase of trade, and the establishment of manufactures in this, and the neighbouring county, vessels have occasion to proceed more frequently than formerly through the frith, to Tain, Dornoch, and other parts on the coast, which adds to the importance of Portmaholmack, as a place for those vessels to run into when overtaken by storms. The late Sir John Gordon, who was then the proprietor, had an intention of asking the aid of government, for repairing and enlarging the pier, and plans of the work, and estimates of the expence were made out. Further progress in the affair was prevented by the death of that worthy gentleman; but the reasons still exist in their full force; nor could a few hundred pounds of the public money be laid out on a work more useful and more necessary\*.

#### *Population*

\* There are five caves on the coast, the entry to one of which is so low, that to get in, one must creep on all fours; within there is a spacious apartment, having around it a natural bench of stone. The entry to another resembles a stately porch, which stands at the distance of several feet from the rocks, and from this entry there is a covered way to the body of the cave, which runs a considerable length, and has three apartments, one behind another arched at the top like a vault, through which the water oozes, and in time of frost hangs from the roof in a number of icicles.

At the northmost point of Tarbat, is a creek accessible to a boat at high-water. There is a tradition of a fort, built here on a small mote within the creek.

## Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	1584	Fishermen	- -	41
-----in 1792	1370	Millers and wrights		11
Males	- - 638	Weavers	- -	12
Females	- - 732	Shoemakers	-	12
Under 6 years of age	198	Taylors	- -	11
Males	- - 97	Smiths	- -	5
Females	- - 101	Masons	- -	2
Between 70 and 80	14	Heritors resident	-	1
Between 80 and 90	- 8	----- non-resident		4
Between 90 and 100	1	Marriages from 1st Oc-		
Families or houses	- 300	tober 1784 to 1st of		
Widowers and widows	72	August 1792	-	89
Farmers	- - 59	Births do.	- -	328
Male servants	- 140	Deaths do.	- -	248
Female do.	- - 118			
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creek, having the sea on each side. No vestiges remain of the building, both the mote and a narrow neck or causeway which led to it from the land being now covered with grass; but it is easy to trace the foundation of a wall of considerable extent, which defended it on the land side. The creek retains the name of Port-Chasteil, or Castlehaven, and from it, the first Earl of Cromarty, assumed one his titles of nobility, and transferred that name to the old family seat, *Tarbat*, which is now in the maps of this part of Scotland marked Castlehaven. This fort might be intended to repel the Danes and Norwegians, who formerly so often infested the coast, or as a place of security from the predatory incursions of the natives in those uncivilized times, when it was customary for the head of one clan with his followers, to break into the territories of another, with every act of hostility.

The parishes of Nigg, Fearn and Tarbat lie in a direct line betwixt Dunfeath, or Dunheath-Nefs at the west, and Tarbat-Nefs, where Port-Chasteil lies, at the east, and both forts, from their situation, would easily protect these and the other adjacent parishes, which, from their fertility, were most liable to be attacked by plunderers. And the etymology of the Gaelic word *Eiber Dower*, or *Eddir dha Mbuir*, is exactly descriptive of the situation of the fort at Tarbat-Nefs, which stood on a narrow point betwixt two seas. If this ac-

count



One cause of the decrease of the number of inhabitants is uniting different farms into one, a practice undoubtedly inimical to population; another cause is the loss of some fishermen at sea, the removal of others from the parish, and that some crews were suffered die out, without having their places supplied. But what chiefly contributes to the decrease of the inhabitants, is a yearly emigration to the south of young people who never return.

There is now living in the parish a female dwarf, aged betwixt 30 and 40, who measures only 34 inches; in height there is no other deformity about her.

*Diseases, Climate, and Fuel.*—There are no diseases peculiar to the parish from climate or any other cause; but there have been instances of more than ordinary mortality from epidemical distempers spreading over the country, and making their way hither. The fevers now most common are of the nervous and putrid kinds. A species of the latter is distinguished by the name of the yellow fever, so termed, because as soon as the patient expires the body becomes of that colour. The small-pox is the disease which has proved most fatal to the rising generation, its effects were particularly calamitous in 1756, when it carried off 75 children. In 1768 it cut off 46, and 38 since the month of October last (1791). Some families at  
those

count shall be rejected, it will be difficult, by tradition or any other way, to find a place wherein to fix the castle of *Eiber Dever*.

There were in the parish six of those houses called castles, which towards the end of the last and the beginning of this century were inhabited by ancient and respectable families. One of them belonged to the Sinclairs of Dunbeath.—The ruins of another stand a monument of the taste and grandeur of former times. The old name was Tarbat Castle, and Ballone, from a marsh behind it. It stands above the sea, and upon the very limits of the property, as if intended to prevent incroachments.

those different periods lost their whole children. Inoculation when tried failed only in one instance, and there are families in the place, in which there was not an instance of recovery until this method was taken; notwithstanding which, the people still retain a strong prejudice against it, and seem deaf to all arguments used to show its lawfulness and expediency, as a mean which providence has blessed for saving thousands of lives.

The air here is very pure, there is little rain in summer, because there are no mountains to condense or break the clouds; during that season, the breezes from the east serve to allay the heat and refresh the spirits through the day, and bring dews, which promote vegetation, in the night.

The parish labours under a considerable disadvantage, from the scarcity of peats and other fuel. The privilege of the scanty mosses in the parish is restricted to a few families living on the properties to which they belong, and the far greater part of the inhabitants are left to make the best shift they can for this necessary article of life, and put to a great expence of time and money in purchasing and getting it carried home. A circumstance hurtful to the farmer, by taking him off the work of his farm, and which renders the condition of the poorer sort very uncomfortable during the winter and spring seasons, and proves in general a great check to industry. They begin now to use coals from Newcastle, and find this the easiest way of supplying themselves; and for some time past a cargo from that place of 5 or 600 barrels, is annually delivered in the harbour of Portmaholmack, at 1s. 11d. or 2s. each. They could be had much lower, but for the high duty laid upon coals carried to the north of the Red-Head.

*Ecclesiastical State, Schools, and Poor.*—Tarbat was one of the  
menial

menſal churches belonging to the Biſhop of Roſs. The Biſhop was patron, and had what remained of the tiends, after the ſhare allowed by him to the perſon employed to perform the duties of the paſtoral office. At the revolution the King became patron, and the Earl of Cromarty obtained from Queen Anne a gift of the patronage, which has now devolved upon Mrs Urquhart of New-hall.—The church was built in 1756, and the manſe in 1707—By a decret of locality *anno* 1708, the ſtipend was modified at nine chalders, payable equally in bear and oat meal, with the vicarage or ſmall tithes.—There was a new decret *anno* 1781, by which no alteration was made in the viſtual, but 300 merks Scotch, of money ſtipend were appointed, and the vicarage tithes made over to the heritors. The living at the ordinary converſion may be eſtimated at L. 90 ſterling, including a ſmall glebe of four acres. From the ſtate of the free tiends, there is a large fund for an augmentation. The eſtate of Tarbat, which is nearly the half of the pariſh, pays no ſhare of the viſtual ſtipend. The reaſon of that exemption when the former decret paſſed, was a long tack of the tiends obtained from King William by the firſt Earl of Cromarty, which is now run out.

There is a parochial ſchool near the church, and a convenient houſe lately built for teacher and ſcholars. The ſalary is L. 5 ſterling in money from the heritors, and 8 bolls of barley from the farmers, and this with the other emoluments may be eſtimated at L. 16 *per annum*.—There are no diſſenters in the pariſh, except three families who have lately come from a part of the country in which a ſeceding meeting houſe is eſtablished; but they occaſionally attend the eſtablished church.—Gaelic being the common language of the people, the greater part of religious ſervice on Sundays is performed in that language. Many of the inhabitants are taught to read  
English,

English, and some who cannot read, understand a little of it in common conversation; but in general, they prefer Gaelic\*.

The number of poor standing at present on the parish roll is 110. Few of these are mendicants. Widows, fatherless children, and orphans left destitute, servants and labourers laid aside with age or sickness are received into the number, and have a small pittance given them at an annual distribution made of the money arising from the ordinary collections in church on Sundays, and from the parish mortcloths and bells, amounting commonly to about L. 16 or L. 17 sterling.—Extraordinary collections amounting, to 2, 3, or L. 4 sterling, are sometimes made for the relief of persons in circumstances of peculiar distress. There is no other fund for the poor but a charitable donation by the first Earl of Cromarty, from a part of his property in the parish, which bears the name of the mortified lands, and is exempted from the payment of cess and other public burdens. The charity paid from these lands is 36 bolls barley; 12½ bolls of which belong to this parish, and the remaining part to the parishes of Fodderty, Kilmuir and Loggie Easter.—It was intended for the relief of decayed farmers and others in indigent circumstances, living on the estates which

\* There were three chapels in different parts of the parish; a part of the walls of one of them remains, which was built, as is said, by——Dunbar of Tarbat, and is still pointed out, by the name of Dunbar's chapel. Of another, which was situated on the shore to the east of the old castle of Tarbat, there is nothing left but some rubbish, and stones piled up, or used as a wall to a piece of ground laid out for a garden, in trenching of which human bones are frequently thrown up. Near it, there is a plentiful spring of water, which continues to bear the name of *Tobair Mbuir*, or Mary's Well. The rock above is covered with ivy, and at the foot of it, a small cave or grotto is shewn as the abode of the priest. The Gaelic name of the place, *Teampul Eraich*, the place at which the people assembled for worship, preserves the memory of what it once was.

which belonged to the noble donor, in this, and the other parishes now mentioned, in 1686\*.

*Miscellaneous*

\* The spring of the year 1782 falls to be noticed for a scarcity of provender, and the ruin of many families, both in the Highlands and low country, by the loss of their cattle, as the consequence of that scarcity. It was occasioned by a rainy and late harvest, and a long continued frost and snow during the winter and part of the spring, and at last rose to such a height, that in the working season, neither straw nor hay could be had for any money. This parish shared in the common calamity, and some farmers were necessitated to quit their farms and reduced to poverty.

But these losses were forgotten in the miseries that followed them in the year 1783, from the failure of the crop of the preceding year, and a real want of bread for the use of man. The want commenced early in the Highland parts of the country, and in January of that year (1783) many came down to this and other parishes of the low country, in search of provisions for their families; as the season advanced, their wants, and numbers increased, and multitudes from the heights of both Ross and Sutherland might be daily seen traversing the different parishes, supplicating supplies of meal or corn, in any quantity, for their money; and a pitiable case it was, to see persons young and otherwise vigorous, in this condition, having hunger and distress of mind painted in their countenances. The price of corn rose from 15s. to 20s. and 21s. and at length to 26s. 28s. and 30s. the boll. The late Admiral Sir John Ross and some other gentlemen of property in the county, touched with the general distress, ordered corn brought from other places to be given out amongst their people in small quantities, according to their families, to be paid when they should be in better condition. Upwards of 12,000 bolls were imported from the east country to Inverness by means of Messrs Falls of Dunbar and others, and scattered over the different northern counties; and his Majesty's paternal care, and the attention of his ministers, should be remembered with gratitude, in sending at different times cargoes of barley, pease and flour to be distributed amongst the indigent in several parishes, at the discretion of the ministers and elders. But for those supplies, disorder and rapine would have prevailed, and the poor, rendered desperate by famine like so many hungry wolves, would have broke loose, and laid hands on whatever they could find. The aid of government, then afforded this parish, amounted to 36 bolls, which were distributed at different times amongst householders in straits, to the number of 415, and proved a most seasonable relief.

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*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are only two public houses in the parish, and these little frequented but by strangers. Industry is not confined to the work of the farmer without doors, but within also, the mistresses of the house and the other females are employed in preparing webs from the wool and lint raised on the farm, partly for family use, and partly for sale, and there is scarce a house inhabited by the inferior class of people, in which does not go on spinning of hemp or flax, given out by persons employed for the manufactures of sail cloth and linen yarn established at Cromarty and Inverness. The expence of supporting a family has, within these forty years, risen to more than double what it was before that period. Meal of every kind draws nearly three times the money for which it could have been purchased, and fish has risen in a still higher proportion. A shilling is paid for what till very lately could have been got for a penny. The increase of the expence of clothing is still more considerable, and more heavily felt by persons in the middle and lower ranks of life, who, to appear decent, and comply with the fashion of the times, must have

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recourse

This will be a memorable era in the history of this country, and it is already marked by the people, in their calendar, with the epithet of the *Black Year*. One agreeable circumstance attended so much misery, that not a single person died merely of famine, though diseases followed, which cut off many, whose constitution had been enfeebled by what they suffered at that period. The case was different during a scarcity which prevailed in this country in the summer of the year 1741. Many were then found dead on the highways and in the fields; and others, through long fasting, expired as soon as they tasted food. But the planting of potatoes in the field was not at that time known in this country; in place of importation, the rents paid in corn were a great part of them carried out of the country, till the mob put a stop to this, by breaking up a sloop laden with oat meal for Greenock; and the calamity, however heavily felt in this corner, was not so general as to draw the notice of government or bring public aid.

recourse to the shop, and distribute the greatest part of their income and earnings among the merchants, for fineries in drefs not known to their fathers\*.

The lands of the parish hold of the crown. The district to the east of Portmaholmack was of old called the forest of the Earl of Ross, and continues to pay L. 40 Scotch of crown rent; a sum which, though now a mere trifle, might, in those times when the boll of corn was converted at half a merk Scotch, be the real rent of a tract of ground which at present yields the proprietor near L. 400 sterling yearly.

There are lands in the parish which held of the bishop of Ross and Abbot of Fearn. Some of the lands most contiguous to the parish of Fearn, are by the country people called by the name of the *Abbeachd*, i. e. Abbey lands, and it is probable, made a part of the revenue with which the abbacy was endowed by its founder *Ferchard* Earl of Ross. They are still restricted to the mills of Fearn, and the people occupying them obliged to carry their corns thither to be grinded. One gentleman, Mr. Macleod of Geanies, lately bought off that vassalage, and has erected mills on his own property, to accommodate himself and his people.

The most material defects in the management of farms seem to be, 1<sup>st</sup>, suffering the grounds to run out by constant tillage, and

\* Corn, the staple commodity of this part of the country, has risen considerably within these 40 years, but not in an equal proportion with other things. Barley and oat-meal, which before 1750 were often sold by contract at 8s. and 9s. the boll, bring now frequently from 12s. to 14s. But cattle, great and small, have advanced in their price, in the proportion of 3 to 1. A sheep which before the 1746 never went beyond 2s. 6d. fetches now from 6s. to 8s. and if of a larger size, from 10s. to 14s. and a milch cow, or ox for work, for which 35s. or 40s. would have been then reckoned a high price, cannot now be bought for less than L. 4 or L. 5 sterling.

and not recruiting or keeping them clean, by fallowing or resting; 2d, employing a superfluous number of working cattle and servants, which runs away with the greatest part of the profits. But there is reason to expect, that the modern methods of husbandry may soon be introduced universally into the country, as they are already adopted by gentlemen of property and the more wealthy and knowing class of farmers.

At Tarbat-Nefs, and around it, and in almost every corner of the parish, there is an inexhaustible fund of free stone, easily wrought, durable and of a beautiful colour.



## NUMBER XLVI.

## PARISH OF CRANSHAW'S.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND  
TIVIOTDALE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

*By the Rev. MR. GEORGE DRUMMOND.*

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*Name, and Situation.*

**T**HERE is no certain account, nor even any conjecture which has the least appearance of probability, with regard to the origin of the name of this parish.—Part of the parish of Longformacus intersects it in the middle; so that one half, and indeed the largest half of this district, lies at the distance of 4 or 5 miles from the church. An inconvenience which attends many parishes in this part of the country.

*Population.*—There are only 164 inhabitants in the parish, of whom 84 are males and 80 females. The population of this, and many of the neighbouring parishes, has of late considerably diminished. The only reason that can be assigned for this diminution is the monopoly of farms. About 50 or 60 years ago there were above 16 farmers in the parish; the whole is now in the possession of 3 only. The return to Dr. Webster in 1754 was 214 souls.

*Climate,*

*Climate, Rivers, &c.*—The elevated situation of the parish, being in the middle of Lammermuir hills, renders the air sharp and cold; it is however pure and healthy; and during the summer months the climate is tolerably mild and temperate. Though in all the different seasons there are frequent fogs, yet as they are generally confined to the tops of the hills, the health of the inhabitants is seldom injured by them\*.

The Whiteadder or Whitewater runs along the N. and E. sides of the parish.—The river Dye also runs through part of this district. They are inconsiderable streams, but abound with trout of an excellent quality. The banks of both were formerly covered with natural wood, which rendered the appearance of the country in summer most delightfully romantic; but now there is not a tree or even a shrub to be found on them.

There are no manufacturers of any kind in the parish. Its inland situation and great distance from proper fuel, are unfavourable to their establishment. The generality of the inhabitants are therefore employed in agriculture. There are 2 masons, 4 joiners, 2 weavers, 1 blacksmith, and 1 taylor, chiefly employed in working to the people of the parish and neighbourhood, seldom manufacturing any articles for sale. The inhabitants in general are frugal, sober and industrious, free from dissipation, and not addicted to drinking, or any other species of intemperance. As a proof of their industry and sobriety, it deserves to be mentioned that for more than 20 years

\* There are few epidemical distempers in this part of the country. The most prevalent disorder is the rheumatism, probably owing to the changeableness of the weather, and the coldness and dampness of the houses. Fevers are not frequent. And the ague, which prevails so much among the common people in the lower parts of Berwickshire, is almost unknown here. The people in general live to a considerable age. Among the small number of inhabitants this parish contains, there are at present 6 persons above 70 years of age, two of whom are above 80.

years preceding 1788, there was only one person upon the poor's roll, and since that time there have been only two on that list.

*Agriculture.*—As the greatest part of the parish consists of high hills, covered with heath or bent, the lands in general are more adapted to the breeding of cattle and sheep than the raising of grain. There are, however, on all the different farms, a considerable quantity of arable ground, which is very serviceable to the tenants, as it supplies their families with corn, and provides fodder for their cattle in winter. The soil, being light and dry, is suitable for raising of turnips and fown grafs. Of late the farmers have availed themselves of the advantages arising from this kind of soil, and have already carried this species of improvement to a considerable height. Their principal dependance being on cattle and sheep, renders the culture of turnips and fown grafs an object of great importance; not only as being the best food for these animals, but sometimes the only food that can be got for the sheep, for in severe winters the snow is commonly so deep as to prevent their getting any nourishment either from the grafs or heath. Before the introduction of the turnip husbandry, and the raising of clover and rye-grafs, the farmers were frequently obliged in the winter season to drive their sheep into the low country, and purchase hay for them. This was not only attended with great inconvenience and expence, but sometimes also with the loss of a considerable part of their flocks, owing to the difficulty of driving them through the deep snow, and the weak and reduced condition in which the animals generally were before their owners had recourse to this expedient.

The introduction of the use of lime as a manure has been of great benefit to the arable grounds in the neighbourhood. Very considerable crops of oats, barley and pease have by means thereof

thereof been raised from land which in its natural state was of little or no value. And it has not only the effect of occasioning a more luxuriant and plentiful, but also a much earlier crop; a circumstance of great importance in a hilly country like this, where the harvest is commonly late, and the grain in danger of being injured by the frost before it comes to maturity. Another advantage resulting from it is, that it is peculiarly favourable to the growth of clover.\* Nay, in this cold climate, it is absolutely essential to its vegetation. For it has been found by various trials, that even on the best and most fertile spots in this part of the country, it is impossible to raise this useful plant without the aid of lime; whereas, by employing this manure, the worst of the arable land may be made to produce it. And it is a circumstance worthy of observation, that so great is the efficacy of lime for promoting its vegetation, that, by laying a quantity of it on the surface of the most uncultivated ground, it causes white clover to spring spontaneously. This circumstance is the more remarkable, as there have been many accidental instances of this effect of lime in the midst of the wildest moors, by the breaking down or overturning of the carts employed in carrying it: And that too, at so great distance from any other lands where this plant usually grows, as renders it difficult to account how the seed could have been conveyed; and yet repeated experience has shewn that lime laid on such land, whether by design or accident, has uniformly had the effect of destroying the heath or bent, and occasioning the vegetation of white clover, in great abundance.

It is proper, however, to observe, that notwithstanding the tendency which lime has to meliorate the soil, yet a considerable part of the arable ground in this and the neighbouring parishes has been much injured by the improper use of it, or rather

ther by the injudicious management of the land after laying that useful manure upon it. For although, of all the calcareous manures, lime is unquestionably the best, yet as it acts rather as a stimulus than a substantial manure, and causes the land to make its greatest exertions in the way of vegetation, it has a tendency to exhaust the soil, if not cropped with caution. When it was first employed in the cultivation of the lands of this parish, little attention was paid to this circumstance. The difficulty of driving lime at the distance of 16 or 17 miles through very bad roads, induced the farmers to take as many crops as the land would yield, to refund them for their expence and trouble. And by these means after taking eight or nine crops of oats successively, it was commonly left in a state of total sterility, incapable of producing either grass or corn. This pernicious practice is now in a great measure laid aside; and the generality of the farmers discover equal skill and caution both in the mode of managing and cropping the lands which they improve with lime, and also in the means which they use for recovering what had formerly been impoverished by over-cropping.

*Horses, Cattle, and Sheep.*—There are about 30 horses, 200 black cattle, and 3500 sheep in the parish. The horses are all kept for the purposes of husbandry. There are few bred in the parish, and none at all for sale. The cattle are but of a small kind; are bred for sale, and bring from L. 4:10 to L. 5:5 a head when three years old. The sheep, which are of the small black faced kind, are sold lean after they are three years old. The average price for some years past is from 9 to 10 guineas the score. The farmers seem to think that this kind of sheep is most suitable to the pasture, and have on that account made no attempts to improve the breed. They carry a coarse  
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kind of wool; it is all laid with tar, and has for some years past sold from 9s. to 10s. 6d. per stone \*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is scarcely L. 50 a year. The stipend is only L. 36:19:5 The glebe consists of about fifteen English acres, most of it tolerably good land. It has of late been much injured by the inundations of the Whitewater, which has considerably diminished its value. The church was built in 1739. The manse some years earlier. They have both been lately repaired. The patron is Charles Watson Esqr. of Saughton †.

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\* The wages of male servants, who get their board in the house, are from L. 6 to L. 7 a year, and female servants from L. 3 to L. 4. Servants who have families, and keep houses of their own, receive a certain quantity of meal or grain, have so many sheep grazed, are allowed to keep a cow, have their fuel brought home, and several other perquisites; the value of which may amount to about L. 13 or L. 14. The wages of a labourer by the day is 1s. in summer, and 10d. in winter; except in hay time and harvest, when they receive considerably more. The wages of women, for weeding turnips, potatoes, &c. is 5d. per day.

† In different parts of the parish are traces of several antient encampments, though none of them appear to have been of any considerable extent. They are so much effaced, as to render it difficult to distinguish of what kind they have been.—Cranshaws castle, the property of Mr. Watson of Saughton, is an oblong square of 40 feet by 24. The walls are 45 feet high, and it has a battlement on the top. It is a very antient building, and before the union of the two kingdoms, had been used as a place of defence, to which the inhabitants of this part of the country were accustomed to retreat, upon sudden incursions of the English borderers. There are in many of the neighbouring parishes the remains and ruins of similar edifices, but this is the only one in this part of the country that is still entire. It has been lately repaired by its present proprietor, and is occupied by him as a dwelling house, when he visits this part of his estate.

On a hill, on the west side of the parish, are two heaps of stones of an immense size, each containing, as is supposed, many thousand carts-load. A tradition

As the planting and raising of wood is of the greatest importance to the country in general, so it would in this and the neighbouring parishes be particularly beneficial to landholders and tenants, not only as being the best mode of employing waste land, but likewise from the shelter it could afford, if judiciously laid out, in surrounding the valuable fields that are already, or may yet be, improved for raising corn and hay. But the greatest advantage arising from it would be the shelter it would afford to the flocks of sheep in winter. Many farmers in this part of the country have in one night lost a third, and sometimes near the half, of their sheep by a heavy fall of snow. The efficacy of planting for preventing losses of this kind is well known to all store farmers. The shortness, however, of leases in general gives little encouragement to the tenant to raise wood for this purpose at his own expence, because before he could derive much benefit from it, his lease would expire. It may therefore be suggested as an object worthy the attention of proprietors in this part of the country, as they must ultimately be the gainers by an improvement of this kind, not only on account of its greatly enhancing the value of their farms, from the security which it would afford to the tenant for the safety of his sheep in winter, but likewise from the value of the wood itself; the soil, as appears from experiments that have already been made, being very favourable to the raising of different kinds of timber.

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tradition has long prevailed, that they had been collected together to commemorate the death of two twin brothers who fell in battle, when they were commanding opposite armies, and from thence the hill on which these piles are erected, obtained the name of Twinlaw. Upon a tradition of this kind, unsupported by accounts from history little dependence can be put, especially as it is entirely silent with regard to the quality of the persons, and the time when the transaction happened. It is probable, however, that something memorable had happened at that place; as it was customary for the ancients to adopt this mode of transmitting to posterity the remembrance of events they considered important or remarkable.

NUMBER XLVII.

PARISH OF SANQUHAR.

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

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM RANKEN.*

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*Towns, and Manufactures.*

**I**N the objects of our research, when we cannot arrive at intuitive clearness or absolute certainty, we must rest satisfied with the highest attainable probability. The modern name of this parish is Sanquhar; but it approaches almost to certainty, that the antient was Sanch-Car (or Caer) from the Celtic; the first syllable signifying in that language Ratifier with the touch, and the last, a town\*. It is highly probable, admitting this etymology, that the name has a striking allusion to the antient formulary of consecration, which was rehearsed, or rather sung, and thereupon the presiding person of the popular assembly touched with a wand, a sacred bough, or sceptre,

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\* See a learned attempt to retrieve the antient Celtic by the analytic method, or reduction to radicals.



tre, either the thing itself, or whatever was to represent the thing, the person, or the act of the assembly. This ceremony was followed by that of the ratifying touch, or with a touch giving solidity or integrity to the public resolution.—Sanquhar was erected into a burgh of barony in 1484, prior to which period, it had been a burgh of the same kind, from time immemorial. At the instance of Robert Crichton, Lord of Sanquhar, it was erected into a royalty, in 1596, by King James VI. It stands 27 miles distant from Dumfries in the southern, and 33 miles from Ayr in the western direction, being both ways nearly equidistant from the sea. It has only one principal street, and is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile in length. It is governed by a provost, a dean of Guild, three bailies, a treasurer, and eleven counsellors. The gross revenue of the burgh, at present, scarcely amounts to L. 50 *per annum*. It has indeed, besides, a commony of considerable extent, which, from its being in a rude uncultivated state, is worth only about L. 10 *per annum*.—Sanquhar is apparently increasing in population; but as no register has been kept, it is impossible to ascertain with what degree of rapidity. Knitting of stockings was formerly a considerable branch of manufacture in the burgh, by which a number of the lower class were decently supported. To invigorate the spirit of industry, and to reward its exertions, the late patriotic Duke of Queensberry, and the trustees for the encouragement of manufactures, gave annually a premium of L. 40 each, to be divided in part to those employed in this branch in Sanquhar; and in part, to those employed in any other useful manufactures within the bounds of the presbytery. But upon the breaking out of the American war, which, for a time, shut up the commercial intercourse with this country, this branch received a fatal blow, because the stockings manufactured here, were chiefly exported to Virginia. They were mostly of a coarse quality; though some of them were

so fine as to be drawn through a ring for the finger, and so much admired, that they have been worn by the present heir apparent to the Crown. To give an idea of the importance and extent of this branch, one person in Sanquhar for a number of years, sent to a single house in Glasgow 4800 pair of stockings annually. This manufacture is still carried on, but feebly, and on a much narrower scale than formerly.

*Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*—The parish stretches from N. to S. about 15 miles, and from E. to W. about 9 or 10. Its figure is very irregular. It was originally of great extent, and was much enlarged, about the year 1730, by the annexation of a very considerable part of Kirk-bridge, which was suppressed about that period. It may, with propriety, be stiled the eye of the county, from its standing near the head of it, to which there is a gradual elevation from the sea, on the southern direction, of almost 3000 feet.—The general face of the parish is extremely rugged and uneven, and may be called an Highland country. Within it is part of that high tract, known by the name of the Lowthers or Lothiers, generally reckoned amongst the highest land in Scotland. These hills are bleak and barren on the surface, but contain immense riches in their bowels. Besides these, more than one half of the parish consists of high hills, some of which are green, others covered with heath. Some rise gradually from the base, others with uncommon boldness and majesty; some are of a conical, others of an elliptical form. From their summits in the summer months, there is a prospect, that dazzles and overpowers the eye. The soil, at the foot of these hills, is partly moss, and partly clay, but in many places, when oats are sown, the want of a southern exposure and the spongy nature of the ground occasion a late and precarious harvest. The exhalations which arise from the rivers, and from the wet and marshy grounds, fall down in  
hoar

hoar frosts, and are very pernicious to every kind of grain, before it comes to a proper consistency. Were the climate, however, answerable to the soil, there is no doubt, that excellent crops might be raised in many places, which the husbandman has never yet attempted to cultivate. The S. W. end of the parish is of a light gravelish soil, which in dry seasons produces only a moderate crop, but with gentle showers in April and May yields abundantly; and has this advantage above every other part of the parish, that the crop is earlier ripe, and earlier in the barn-yard. About the center of the parish the soil is deeper, particularly the holm land on the bank of the Nith, which though it cannot be called a rich loam, produces excellent crops, with the assistance of lime or dung. It is but of late years that the farmers generally began to use the former for the improvement of their land, to which they seem to have been induced by observing its good effects on the farms of some individuals, who had made the experiment before them. Reasoning may drive men to silence, but it is only the experience of a new and better system of farming, that will lead them from the old. The lime used in this parish is brought from Corson Con, a hill which is the boundary betwixt this county and Ayrshire, at the distance of 10 and 12 miles, and the price at the quarry is 3d. per Winchester bushel. A single horse and cart generally brings 12 or 14 bushels, which is a sufficient load, as the road is in some places steep, and not in the best repair. The land, in general, is much better adapted to the breeding and feeding of sheep and black cattle, than to raising of grain. The grain commonly sown is oats, barley, or rather bear, some few pease and turnips. Rye-grass seeds and clover are not sown, but only upon some spots of the best land around the burgh, and near the banks of the Nith. Potatoes are generally planted, and form a very considerable part of the subsistence of the poor, there being but a very inconsiderable part of the land under tillage.

tillage. The whole grain raised in the parish is not sufficient to supply the inhabitants one half of the year, as there is not, at an average, more than 600 or 700 acres under the plough. There is an annual supply of meal imported from Dumfries market, and the lower parts of the county\*.

*Population.*—No register having been kept of the population of the parish, must render this part of the history very defective †. The population in 1755, as returned to Dr. Webster, was 1998 souls. From an enumeration made by the present incumbent in 1786, there were found to be 2600, young

\* From the description already given of the extent and general face of the parish, it is evident, that there must be great diversities of climate. This is so much the case, that in winter, people in the E. and N. ends of the parish are often diverting themselves with the curling stone, while the farmers in the south end and center are ploughing their land:—Though this may seem to carry in it the air of romance, this is easily dispelled by this single addition, that there is at least an elevation of 1000 feet from the center to the eastern extremity of the parish. Notwithstanding this diversity of climate, there are no peculiar diseases. The most frequent are complaints in the stomach, slow fevers, the rheumatism, and nervous disorders. And these are more frequent in the burgh than in the country part of the parish. Agues seldom appear. The small-pox formerly used to carry off great numbers of children, as well as of adult persons. But the prejudices of the people against inoculation are now, in a great measure, eradicated, and this mode begins generally to be adopted and as generally with success.

† Soon after the ordination of the present incumbent, he desired the school-master to begin a register for births, and proposed, for his encouragement, to collect sixpence from every parent who came to obtain baptism for a child. This being an innovation, the multitude disliked it, on account of the sixpence, and many refused to register the names of their children for that reason. But by persevering, and pointing out the propriety of the plan, those of the established church now register universally. The seceders, however, do not insert the names of their children in the public register.

young and old.—The increase is evident, and must be attributed principally to the success of the lead and coal mines, to pendicles of farms being sublet by the tenants to such as are employed in leading coals to Wadlock-head, and Leadhills, and to the infant establishment of a carpet manufactory. The success attending the inoculation of children, and the improved mode of living and cleanliness among the people, are likewise among the causes of the increased population. The annual average of births is 50, exclusive of the populous village of Wanlock-head (which contains about the third of the inhabitants of the parish), and of the children of Seceders. The annual average of births in this village, and of Seceders, may at least be calculated to be 20, making the sum total of births annually in the parish 70.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—The whole parish (excepting some small properties near the burgh) is divided betwixt the Duke of Queensberry and Lord Elliock, the former having by far the greatest share. The total rental of the parish, exclusive of the burgh, some spots of land about it, and what may arise from Wanlock-head mines, is about L. 2500 *per annum*.

The number of sheep is computed to be 18000 or 20000; of horses 170; and of black cattle 760.—The short black-faced sheep, the old residents of this country, are found by experience best suited to this particular district. Attempts have been made to introduce the white-faced long bodied sheep from the east country, and the Bakewell breed, but without success. The intelligent store-master saw and lamented, that though he could introduce these kinds of sheep, he could not bring the soil and climate necessary to make them thrive. The common sense of mankind admits this general principle, that it is contrary to the nature of every tribe of animals, to bring them from a better to a worse soil. And with respect to the white-faced sheep, in particular, the delicacy of their nature, the coarse-

ness of the pasture and the height of the walk are insuperable difficulties to their succeeding, not merely in the opinion, but in the experience of the store-masters. It may with propriety be added under this head, that the rains which are drawn out of the Atlantic, being formed into clouds, and driven thus far by the W. and S. W. winds, are attracted and broken by the high hills in the parish. And as these are the points from whence the most frequent and the strongest winds blow, so, from the elevation of the hills, there are here more frequent and heavy rains than in that part of the country which lies more towards the east. These heavy rains wash off part of the soil, and are injurious to sheep, in general, and particularly to the white-faced sort, which are found from the trials that have been made, to pine away into a meagre, silly race, exciting the pity and disappointing the hopes of the store-master. And as the native sheep of these high lands are in general very healthy, and fatten on their natural pasture to 10 and 12, and even 14 lb. per quarter, it is not likely that any new experiments to change them for a different breed will hastily be made, as every experiment of this kind is attended with risque. It is the general practice of the country to salve or smear the sheep, which the store-masters univervally allow both improves the quality and increases the quantity of the wool. It serves to make the wool adhere more closely to the body of the sheep, and fortifies them against the pernicious influence of the storms of the winter. It serves also as a defence against the attacks of vermin. When this is omitted, as it has been, by way of experiment, with a few sheep, in good condition and on the best pasture, the animals indeed survived, but the wool grew so coarse and shaggy, that it might with more propriety be called hair. The climate and height of the walk seem to regulate the quantity of salve necessary for the preservation and defence of the sheep. It is applied in larger

portions to the sheep of this parish and neighbourhood than to those in most other places, where the land lies lower, better sheltered, and the climate warmer. It was formerly an error of the store-masters to overstock their farms. This now begins to be rectified, though in some degree it still prevails. It also begins to be the practice of some of these masters to wash their sheep before shearing; but it is a problem not yet solved, whether the additional price which they receive for wool made lighter by washing, will be equivalent or more than what they were accustomed to receive for wool unwashed and full of salve. The average prices of sheep may be thus stated. Three year old widders sell from L. 11 to L. 12 per score. Heavy ewes, which generally go off in the spring to the vicinity of Edinburgh to be fattened for the market, from L. 8 to L. 9 per score. And when they are kept to the latter end of the season; viz. about Michaelmas, from L. 6 to L. 7 per score. Lambs from L. 4 : 10 to L. 5 per do. The medium price of wool, for some years past, may be stated at L. 3 : 5s. per pack; 6, 7, or 8 fleeces go to the stone, and if washed 8 or 9\*.

#### Rivers,

\* As the price of provisions, especially of grain, meal and potatoes, depends in a great measure, upon the plenty and scarcity of these articles, they are not fixed by any particular standard. The price of meal is from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per stone. Of barley from 2s. 4d. to 3s. Winchester bushel. Oats from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per do. Beef and mutton, in the beginning of the season 4d. afterwards 3½d. and 3d. per lib. Hens from 6d. to 8d. a piece; eggs from 2½d. to 3½d. per dozen. A beef cow from L. 6 to L. 7. The price varies in proportion to the fatness and weight.—The wages of men-servants about the year 1760 were L. 2 : 10s. *per annum*, and L. 3 was the maximum. The wages of female servants about the same period were L. 1 : 15s, and L. 1 : 10s. *per annum*. Now the former are from L. 7 to L. 8 and L. 9; the latter from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*. The wages of handycraftsmen, of every description, are likewise increased in the same proportion. If the wages of servants ought to keep pace with

*Rivers, and Fisheries.*—The Nirth bisects the parish from the upper to the lower extremity. It runs about 18 or 20 miles before it reaches Sanquhar, takes various serpentine directions, and at last empties itself into Solway firth. It appears in dry summer weather only a small rivulet, but, when rains fall abundantly, it swells into an object of grandeur and terror, and by the rapidity of its current furiously tears up its banks, and sweeps them away. They who are situated near this river often sustain great injury from it, when in its majesty, and like an usurper, it never restores what it violently takes away. The Killo, Crawick, Yochin, Mennoch and Wanlock are rivulets of considerable magnitude. The Nith abounds in salmon, though few of them reach so high as Sanquhar, owing to the many obstructions they meet with by the way. All the rivulets yield very fine trout in the season, though not in great abundance, the Wanlock only excepted, in which no fish can live by reason of the pernicious qualities of the lead ore, which is washed in it. There are four bridges in the parish, one over the Nith, two over Mennoch, and one over Crawick.

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*Poor,*

with the influx of wealth, the improvement of land, and the introduction of manufactures, a principle which seems founded in reason and equity, and if the influx of wealth depends in a great measure on the improvements of land and the flourishing state of manufactures, there is here no just proportion betwixt the wages of servants, and these two sources of wealth; the former having risen to an enormous pitch, while the latter are only in a state of infancy. Admitting the principle, however, on the ground of equity, that servants wages ought to rise in proportion to the wealth of a country, the same principle ought certainly to extend universally to all other descriptions of men in the various departments of life. This appears necessary to the very existence and preservation of civil society, that the various orders of men may not justle one another, but keep their proper ranks.



*Poor, and Schools.*—The poor naturally belonging to the parish, who receive occasional supplies, are not very numerous in proportion to the inhabitants. The number on the roll is 35. There has as yet been no occasion for a legal assessment to support them. They are maintained by the public collections at the church, by the interest of a small fund saved out of the former contributions, by an annual gratuity from the Duke of Queensberry, by money arising from penalties, mort-cloths, &c. The people willingly contribute to the relief of their own poor, and are by no means deficient in charity. But there is no particular district of the country more infested than this with shoals of foreign beggars. And as there is no certain criterion by which to distinguish the seeming from the real object of charity, it often happens that those belonging to the former tribe, by sly address, and by telling some strange tale of woe, impose upon the simple, and obtain that which ought to be applied to the relief of the native poor, and having obtained it, riot in the spoils. It would be worthy of the wisdom of those who sit at the helm, and direct the police of the country, to adopt some effectual regulations for the suppression of this growing evil.—There is an established public school in the town of Sanquhar, and, which is a singular felicity, furnished with an excellent teacher, well qualified in every respect, to instruct the youth in the art of penmanship, arithmetic and all the necessary branches of classical education. The salary and other emoluments amount to about L. 40 *per annum*. Writing and arithmetic are taught at 2s. and Latin and Greek at 2s. 6d. per quarter. The character and abilities of the teacher render Sanquhar an eligible spot for the education of those who are destined to fill the higher ranks of life. Besides the public, there is also in Sanquhar a private school, in which reading, writing and arithmetic are taught, but it has no fixed salary. There are at a medium, about 60 scholars

lars at the public, and about 30 at the private school. There is likewise a school at Wanlock-head\*.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is remarkable for nothing but its antiquity, size, and disproportion. —It is in a most ruinous condition. There are no records, nor so much as any tradition when it was first built. From some stones of Gothic architecture in the walls, it appears to be of remote antiquity. It is certain that it was a place for worship, in the times of Popery, as the choir is still entire. There is a figure of a man, as large as the life, near the entrance to it, cut out in stone, which vulgar tradition calls the saint of the choir. The manse was built about the year 1755. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The stipend is L. 105 : 11 : 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  besides the glebe.—The great extent of the parish renders the charge very laborious for the minister, and very inconvenient for a number of the people. There is an ordained clergyman who preaches and dispenses the ordinances of religion to the miners of Wanlock-head. The people, in general, are of the established religion. There are, however, a few Seceders of the Antiburgher profession in the parish, and fewer still of the M<sup>c</sup>Millanites. The first have a minister and an house for worship in the town; the last have a minister who preaches occasionally in the fields near Wanlock-head.

*Minerals.*—Coals is found in abundance in this district, and in the adjacent parish of Kirkconnel, which supplies a wide tract

\* Were the appointments of schoolmasters throughout the kingdom any way adequate to the importance of their trust, there would be men of liberal education to superintend the instruction of youth, and what would tend more than this to the civilization of society, and to the forming a sure basis for more general respectability of character, especially in the humbler walks of life?

tract of country. It is wrought in the Duke of Queensberry's property. There is a fire or steam engine lately erected on a new construction, for draining the mines, the invention of Mr. William Symington, a young man of great mechanical powers. For this engine, he has obtained a patent from government. This must be of singular advantage, as it will enable the manager of the coal works to carry on his operations to a greater extent, and will furnish the community with the best coals, which are found to lie deepest. The strata in the barony of Sanquhar are 6 miles in length, on each side of the Nith, and on a medium half a mile of breadth. The range of the coal seam is about N. W. and S. E. bounded on each side by the common blue rock of the country. And when clear of steps and dykes, which frequently occur at 30 yards distance, dips one foot in twelve, to the N. E. by N. The whole of the coaleries belong to his Grace the Duke of Queensberry, excepting what are in the town common, and in some spots of land belonging to a few small heritors in Sanquhar and its vicinity. There are about 40 people employed in the works, and for any thing known to the contrary, they have been wrought for centuries past, though not successfully as of late years. The rent to his Grace does not exceed L. 50 *per annum*, but as a considerable quantity of coals are used in his mines, and in other parts of his estate, the tacksmen is bound to sell them at 2s. 11d. per ton, on the coal-hill. There has not yet been discovered more than two seams of workable coal, one about 4 feet thick, the other 3 feet 8 inches. In some places the last seam has been wrought at the depth of 23 fathoms from the surface; in others, not more than 14 yards, as the same coal is thrown up by a large dyke, which ranges S. E. and N. W. in some places 12, and in others 36 feet thick. It stands nearly perpendicular, has always a great quantity of white spar in it; and lead ore has been found in cutting through

through it. This dyke may be distinctly traced at the surface for a mile in length. There are, indeed, dykes met with running in different directions, through the coal strata, some of which are evidently formed by fire, consisting mostly of vitrified matter. The situation of the coal on each side of these kinds of dykes, gives the strongest reason to believe that they are the production of fire, for wherever the coal comes in contact with them, it is so much burnt and impregnated with sulphur, as to render it useless. The other kinds of dykes that are met with appear to have been chasms formed in the strata, many of them of no inconsiderable width. They are filled with the fragments of the different strata in which these chasms form sections, and with a part of the surface on their sides falling in. These fragments, &c. are found to be strongly cemented or concreted by mineral substances, of which iron seems to be the principal. In lately cutting through one of these dykes, there was found among the cemented fragments of sand stone, argillaceous rock, &c. a part of a tree which from its bark appeared to have been birch. The bark being broke, it was found, that it contained sand stone. From a combination of circumstances there is reason to believe, that in the long process of time, the wood being entirely consumed, while the bark was left, the water in the chasm had conveyed into it a silicious sand, which concreted in the shape of the tree. In beds of stratified matter which cover the coals, there are found various sorts of sea shells, and in some of the strata visible impressions of vegetable bodies, among which it is not unfrequent to meet with fern and other curious productions; some of which have been selected, and are preserved in the cabinets of naturalists. In the mines have also been found some small beds of fullers earth. Lime-stone was unknown in the parish, till very lately it has been discovered on the skirts of Auchentaggart hill. A small trial has been made of it where

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it crops out, by which the stratum of calcareous matter has been found, as yet, to be only about 3 feet thick, consisting of irregular masses of exceeding fine lime-stone, bedded in a mixture of argillaceous earth and shells, in which the latter predominate. Many of the shells are as entire as at the time when the fish existed in them. They are mostly of the cockle species. The generality of the masses of lime-stone found in this stratum are of a whitish colour, and of a very close texture. Upon the pavement of this stratum, however, there sometimes occur pretty large masses of blue lime-stone, in plates of a circular form, on the surface of which are often found large cockles, perfectly distinct, and adhering firmly to the general mass. These plates of lime-stone seem to be rounded by attrition, as are also the angles of the whitish coloured lime-stone. The pavement of this calcareous stratum is a blue argillaceous rock, and the incumbent stratum forming its roof, is a coarse free stone about 3 feet thick, which forms the pavement of a coal seam of good quality, only 8 inches thick. In removing a part of an argillaceous bed which forms the roof of this coal, there was found petrified wood, which from its cortaneous appearance, much resembles broom. In the vicinity of this calcareous stratum, is a seam of coal of a singular kind, about 40 inches thick, (coaliers, from its giving a bright light, call it a candle coal), of a close texture, which contains a considerable quantity of sulphur and iron. When burnt in a common fire, it produces a much greater quantity of ashes than common coal, and the ashes are of a very red colour, resembling the ochre of iron. When burnt in a furnace of considerable size, the iron melts and runs through the grate in a fluid state combined with the sulphur, and forming a kind of regulus of iron. But the sulphureous fumes which issue from it in most furnaces are so destructive to the workmen, as to render it, in many cases, of little consequence.

*Manufactures.*

*Manufactures.*—Sanquhar seems naturally formed for the establishment of woollen manufactures; and nothing perhaps, would more immediately conduce to the internal wealth and prosperity of this part of the kingdom. Nor is it unlikely, that the spirit of commerce and manufactures, which now begins to pervade the island, will in a short time display its lively and beneficial effects in this quarter. No situation can be more happily adopted for fostering a spirit of this kind. Almost in the very centre of a country, the staple commodities of which are sheep and wool, touching the head of Galloway on the one hand, bordering on Ayrshire, the head of Clydesdale, and contiguous to Annandale and Tweeddale on the other. There is abundance of coal and water, so essential to the spirit of manufactures; an easy communication to Edinburgh, Dumfries and Ayr, by excellent roads, and the cheapest land-carriage to these places, perhaps in Scotland, particularly from the two former, owing to the lead exported to the one, and coal to the other. There are two different branches of carpet manufacture begun within these few years, and want nothing but men of property and public spirit to carry them forward on a large scale, for the benefit of this and the surrounding counties. These two branches are established on the banks of Crawick, an unrivalled situation, where there is plenty of water and descent to drive weighty machinery, if necessary, and in the close vicinity of coal. In one of these branches 5 weavers are employed, 2 draw boys, and a pirn winner, 2 women twisting yarn, and one in what is called bobbinning it, after it is dyed. These weavers throw off, in the course of one year, about 12,000 yards, the medium price of which is 2s. 5d. per yard. Besides, this branch employs 8 weavers in town and country, for manufacturing of stuffs, serges, plaidens, flannels, &c. The other branch employs nearly the same number of weavers, boys and women, and the yarn is manu-

factured in the same manner. In the first branch a very important improvement is, of late, introduced; a carpet can be wrought consisting of 88 different parts, which is much more than can be done in most other places in Scotland. What can tend more directly than manufactures to raise this country to such a pitch of elevation, as, at least, to keep fight of the sister kingdom? And to see the genius, power and interest of her native sons combine in a noble effort, must warm every heart possessed of the smallest spark of patriotism\*.

*Miscellaneous*

\* The great road from Dumfries to Ayr runs through the town of Sanquhar. The late Duke of Queensberry first cut out this line of road through his estate, for, at least, the space of 22 miles, at the expence of L. 1500. He also cut out the cross road from this along the Mennoch to the utmost boundary of the country, that leads to Edinburgh, which cost L. 600. He likewise made the road leading to the lime rock at Corsoncon, which cost his Grace L. 300. These, among many other instances of his patriotic spirit, endear his memory to this part of the country, and are illustrious examples worthy the imitation of all great and good men. The road along Mennoch to Wanlock-head, being in a deep sequestered glen, in many places cut out of the rock, the bold acclivity and verdure of the hills on each side, the purling of the limpid stream below, and the music of the birds from the brushwood, render it the admiration of strangers, beautifully romantic and delightful to the traveller. The statute-labour was converted by act of Parliament at 12s. per 100 merks in 1777. Toll-bars are now erected on the road leading from Dumfries to Ayr, and its direction, in many places, has of late been altered evidently for the better, by which it is rendered more level and easy for carriages of every description. There is no doubt of the expediency and utility of turpik roads, though people habituated to antient customs dislike every kind of innovation; but by experience teaching them that a single horse can draw one third more to Dumfries than formerly, and with at least equal facility, they are not only reconciled to, but highly approve of them. There is a new line of road suggested, by a cross cut through this country to the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and from thence to Galloway; which, if carried into execution, would open a much shorter and easier communication from Ireland and that country to Edinburgh. The advantages of this are so many and obvious, as to supersede the necessity of any specification.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people of Sanquhar enjoy a competent measure of the advantages of life. There is plenty of coal, of fine springs of water, and of lime; a species of coarse marble, and free stone quarries, excellent for the purposes of building; a fair twice in the year, for buying and selling black cattle; and a market for butcher meat, throughout the year. There is a post office in Sanquhar, the annual revenue of which is about L. 112. There are a fulling, a corn, and two barley mills in the parish.—The chief disadvantage, perhaps, is the non residence of the principal heritor. The whole parish, except the estate of Elliock, is naked and uninclosed. On Elliock is a fine natural wood, which fringes and adorns the banks of the Nith for two miles in length. The present respectable proprietor of that estate, has also planted a good deal of various kinds of wood, Scotch larch, and silver fir, New England pine, balm of Gilead fir, oak, elm, birch, beech, ash, mountain ash, &c. all well inclosed, and in a thriving condition. Inclosing of the arable land, would be of general advantage to the parish, draining the wet grounds, and planting on the skirts of the hills would both adorn and shelter the country.—The language generally spoken is a mixture of Scotch and English, with less provincial peculiarity than in most other counties in Scotland. The names of places seem almost universally derived from the Gaelic; Elliock signifies a little rock, Auchentaggart, Priest-field, &c. &c.

No part of the country can afford better entertainment to the sportsman. There are abundance of grouse, partridges, and some black game. The last are more rarely to be met with than formerly, owing in part, perhaps, to the woods being cut, but chiefly to the devastation of poachers, who favoured by a wide range of uninhabited country, load themselves with booty, and frequently escape with impunity. A covey, or rather part of a covey of ptarmigans, among common grouse, a



few years ago, was discovered upon the hills, which was considered as a curiosity. The birds of prey, of song and of the migratory species are those which are abundantly common in the south of Scotland. The bull-finch is found in Ellick woods. The wild quadrupeds, besides hares, are otters, badgers, weazels, wild cats, pole-cats, and some foxes; which last, it is said, are not so numerous as formerly, owing to the industrious exertions of the sheep farmers to exterminate this destructive race. There is only one chalybeate spring known in the parish, but its virtues have not yet been explored\*.

Mr. Robert Crichton of Ellick in this parish, was a lawyer of eminence, Advocate to Queen Mary and King James VI. and a Lord of Session. He had two sons called James and Robert.

\* The old castle of Sanquhar, standing a small distance south of the burgh, once the residence of the family of Crichton, deserves to be mentioned. It has been a building of considerable magnitude and extent.—It is said to have been for some time in possession of the English in the reign of Edward Ist, and to have been recaptured by Sir William Douglas of Douglasdale, who put the garrison to the sword. The whole barony belonged to the Crichtons, but the family of Queensberry having a mortgage upon some part of the estate, purchased this barony, in the latter end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century. Prior to its being in possession of the Crichtons, it belonged to the family of Ross of Ryehill. A stone was found some time ago, with the following inscription.—“ Here lies the good Sir John Ross of Ryehill.—Here lies the good, good Sir John Ross.—Here also lies the good, good, good Sir John Ross.” Near the residence of the Rosses, there seems to have been a large pile of buildings perhaps the Hospital of Senewar, a religious foundation, though this cannot be ascertained. Several of the stones of a Gothic figure are built into the walls and windows of the houses, where this edifice once stood. There is also a large font, or rock basin. Human bones have been found in digging and ploughing up the field in which it stands; and a key of enormous size was found, not above twenty years ago, much consumed with rust. It is now lost. Betwixt the ancient seat of the Rosses and the Nith, is a large artificial mound of earth of a circular form, probably the place for the baron to hear causes, and to distribute justice.

Robert. The former went abroad when young, turned out a most accomplished character, both in learning and in all sort of exercises, and was commonly known by the name of the Admirable Crichton. — The second son, Robert, was known by the name of Sir Robert Crichton of Cluny, an estate his father had acquired in Perthshire, and where he resided. In the year 1592 he sold Elliock to the family of Dalziel, afterwards Earls of Carnwath. The Hon. James Veitch, present proprietor of Elliock, is one of the senators of the college of justice.

The condition of the people, like that of others in parallel circumstances, may be called a middle state betwixt barbarism and refinement. They have arrived at a considerable degree of civilization, and possess the abilities of making still farther improvement. They are, with a few exceptions, which are to be found in every age and in every society, an industrious, rational and religious set of people, regular in attendance upon divine ordinances, and pay a proper regard to the duties of social life. They are neither very rich, nor very poor, and possess a competent share of the comforts, but none of the luxuries of life. It must, indeed, be acknowledged that the frequent collision of political influence in the burgh, is an enemy to their peace, and tends to relax every social, moral and religious obligation, and as these are relaxed, corruption spreads its baneful influence. No doubt, the substitution of dram instead of ale-houses, has the same pernicious tendency. The almost continual flux and reflux of vagrants through Sanguhar, which is a thorough-fare for both ends of the kingdom, acts also as a strong corrosive on the morals of the people. But upon the whole, their character is respectable, hospitable to strangers, humane to the distressed, active in their station, decent in their apparel, and generally contented with the allotments of providence. Agriculture, and especially the pastoral life, are favourable to that integrity and simplicity of manners which characterize them.

NUMBER

## N U M B E R XLVIII.

## PARISH OF CUMBERNAULD.

(PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW  
AND AIR, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM STUART.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

CUMBERNAULD is of Celtic derivation; *cumar* in that language signifying a meeting of streams; and there is a remarkable collection of springs and streams, flowing in all directions, part running into the Forth and part into the Clyde, within the bounds of this parish, which extends 7 miles in length, and 4 in breadth. The surface has a romantic appearance, being beautifully variegated by small hills and dales. The highest part of the parish is Fanny-side-muir, a very deep moss, bearing nothing but heath, well stocked with muir-fowl. On the south side are two lochs, about a mile long, and a quarter of a mile broad. The remainder of the parish is mostly arable ground, chiefly a heavy clay, though some farms are of a light early soil; the climate is sharp and cold in the winter season, but in summer it is generally tolerably

ably agreeable, especially about the village of Cumbernauld, which lies in a hollow, almost surrounded with the policy or pleasure ground belonging to Cumbernauld house, a fine seat of Lord Elphinstone.—This parish and that of Kirkintilloch formerly constituted one parish, called Lenzie.

*Natural Productions*.—There is abundance of coal in the north part of the parish, but none of it is wrought at present: there is also a good deal of peats. Seven lime quarries are wrought in different parts of the parish: Much of the lime is carried by the great canal to Glasgow and other places; and there is abundance of whin, moor, and free stone. The chief vegetable productions are oats, a considerable quantity of bear, a few pease and beans, a good deal of flax and potatoes, a small quantity of wheat, and a few turnips.

*Population, Ecclesiastical State, &c.*—According to Dr. Webster, the total number of inhabitants in this parish in 1755 amounted to 2303, at present the number is reduced to about 1600. There are about 56 births and 14 marriages in the year. The church was built in 1659, Lord Elphinstone is patron. In the parish are two meeting houses, one of that sect of Seceders called Burghers, the other of the Antiburghers. There is a school-house and garden in Cumbernauld village, where above 80 scholars are annually educated. The funds for the maintenance of the poor arise chiefly from weekly collections at the church doors.

*Miscellaneous Observations*.—The roads are kept in repair by assessment. A new turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glasgow was lately carried through this parish, passing by the village of Cumbernauld, near which a large commodious inn

was

was erected at the expence of L. 1000. Considerable remains of the celebrated Roman wall, called Graham's Dyke, are to be seen in the north part of the parish, as also vestiges of the military road running parallel to it. Many curious antiquities have been found near them, particularly at Castlecary; and on the rock at Croyhill, the marks of fire are still visible, said to have been applied by the Romans for the purpose of softening the stone, which is excessively hard. The great canal betwixt the Forth and Clyde passes through the north part of the parish, near the dyke. In the neighbourhood of Castlecary is a pretty high water fall.

NUMBER

## NUMBER XLIX.

## PARISH OF NEW-MACHAR.

(PRESBYTERY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM SRONACH.**Name, Extent, &c.*

THE antient name of this parish was the Upper Parochin of Saint Machar. In some registers it is Upper Machar; and the modern name is New Machar.—The name had its origin from St. Machar, to whom the cathedral in Old Aberdeen, or rather the kirk, called the kirk of Kirktown, where the cathedral was afterwards built, was dedicated, and this parish was part of the Deanery of St. Machar. Ramsay Bishop of Aberdeen, in 1247, appointed a chaplain and a clerk at the chapel of Monycabbuck in this parish, about a mile S. W. from the present church, to preach to the parishioners there. In the year 1639, a church was built, where the present now stands; and in year 1641, the minister at the chapel of Monycabbuck, was removed to it. There are some remains of the chapel; and the ground around it is still used for burying.—The most considerable part of this parish is in the county of Aberdeen; but about one fifth of it, called the lands

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Straloch,

Straloch, lying N. from the church, is in the shire of Banff, although surrounded by the county of Aberdeen. About a mile from the church, these lands are separated from the rest of the parish, by the parishes of Udny and Fintray which meet together.—The extent of the parish is about 9 miles in length, and about 2½ in breadth; part of it lies on each side of the post road leading from Aberdeen to Old Meldrum.

The general appearance of the country is pretty flat. The soil varies in different parts. In some places it is mossy, cold and wet, in others, dry, and tolerably fertile.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—On account of the mosses, and a good deal of marshy ground, the air is frequently moist, but does not seem to be unhealthy, from many instances of longevity, as will afterwards appear.—This may probably be accounted for in the following manner. From the rising ground on the E. and W. sides of the parish, a strong current of air blows from N. to S. or from S. to N. which has the happy effect of dispelling the fogs and noxious vapours, which could not fail, were they not thus dissipated, to be pernicious to the health of the inhabitants.—The most prevalent distempers for some years past, have been putrid fevers and sore throats; owing in all probability to frequent rains, and the want of snow during the winter, to purify the air.

There are four mineral springs. The water of some of them upon experiment, has been found to be of a good quality. One of them is much used, and is found beneficial in scorbutic complaints.

There is a beautiful lake called Bishop's Loch, antiently Loch Goull; within it, the Bishops of Aberdeen had their lodging, before the chantry was erected. Upon a rising ground within the loch, the remains of the building are still to be seen. At the west end, is part of a ditch where the  
draw

draw-bridge was, by which they passed to and from the lodging. It is said that the lake was compassed about with tall trees, but none of them remain. The rising ground where the lodging was, another piece of rising ground in the E. end of the loch, and part of the circumjacent grounds are planted, by the proprietor, with thriving young trees. In the Loch is abundance of pike, but no other kind of fish is found in it.—There is also a rivulet, which has its origin about a mile above the N. end of the parish, runs through it southward; affords as much water as supplies 4 corn mills; after which it falls into the river Don. There are some trout in it, but of a small size.

*Minerals, and Cattle.*—There is a considerable quantity of moor, and other stones to be found near the surface of the ground, fit for building houses, and for inclosing land, and they are in general obtained at a small expence. There are also stones to be found by quarrying, but lime-stone is very scarce; and where it is found, the expence incurred by quarrying and burning is so high, that they who have tried it, have given it up, because they can purchase lime at Aberdeen at a much cheaper rate\*.

There are some cattle bred in this parish of a good size, beautiful shape, and considerable value. Of this description there are however comparatively few, being in possession of

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\* In the end of November and beginning of December last, many of the country people observed very uncommon phenomena in the air, (which they call dragons), of a red fiery colour, appearing in the N. and flying rapidly towards the E. from which they concluded, and their conjectures were right, a course of loud winds, and boisterous weather would follow.

The quadrupeds, are such as are common to other parts of this country. Birds of the migratory kind, are the cuckow, rail, green plover, and swallow. They generally make their appearance in the end of March, and retire in the month of September.



the 3 residing heritors, and a few of their principal tenants.— These gentlemen pay particular attention to this pleasing and advantageous object; oxen reared by them, from 4 to 8 years old, are sold at from L. 10 to L. 17; and when fattened will draw from the butcher from L. 18 to L. 25. The cows are also well formed, and sell at from L. 9 to L. 12 sterling.—As the greatest part of the possessions rented in this parish are small, the tenants can neither afford to raise, nor support cattle of this description.—The high price at which veal sells in the Aberdeen market, and the constant demand for that article, induces the country people to dispose of their calves when 5 or 6 weeks old, by which the breed of cattle is much injured, and very few more are raised, than what are absolutely necessary for the purposes of agriculture.

*Population Table.*

Return to Dr. Webster	Large farmers	-	60
in 1755 - - 1191	Average of their families	-	9
Number of souls in 1782 1000	Blacksmiths	- -	5
Do. in December 1790 1030	Weavers	- -	4
Males - - 458	Shoemakers	- -	6
Females - - 572	Wrights and millers	-	12
Annual average of births	Taylors	- -	4
since 1782 - - 20	Of the established church	1016	
----- of deaths,	Seceders	- -	8
do. - - - 17	Episcopalians	- -	6
----- of marri-	Batchelors, having houses	-	6
ages do. - - 12	Average number of chil-		
Under 10 - - 254	dren produced by each		
From 10 to 20 - 124	marriage - - -	- -	4
From 20 to 50 - 371	Uninhabited houses	-	4
From 50 to 70 - 200	Cattle	- -	1200
Above 70 - - 81	Horses	- -	300
			Sheep

Sheep	-	-	300	Whereof drawn by 2 horses	6
Hogs	-	-	20	_____by 2 hor-	
Resident heritors	-		3	and 4 black cattle, some	
Non-resident do.	-		4	of them cows	47
Chaises	-	-	2	Rent per acre of the best land	
Ploughs	-	-	68	13s. 4d.	
Whereof drawn by 10 oxen each	-	-	3	_____pasture land	6s. 8d.
_____by 8 oxen			1	_____inferior land	3s. 6d.
_____by 4 oxen			5	Average rent of the large farms	L. 25
_____by 2 oxen and 2 horses	-		3	_____of farms of the second class	L. 9
_____by 4 horses			3		

*Produce.*--Two of the farmers pay from L. 70 to L. 90 sterling of yearly rent. All the rest of the parishioners have small possessions, and, a few tradesmen and day labourers excepted, live by the plough.

The vegetables produced in the parish are natural and artificial grasses, oats, barley, pease, flax, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, kail, &c.—The parish generally supplies itself with provisions, and exports oats, barley, and a few cattle, sheep and hogs. There are not above 5 acres employed in raising flax. But from the encouragement which the trustees are giving for raising flax, and for building lint mills, it is to be hoped that this useful article will soon be more generally cultivated.—For many years, the women in this, and some other parishes in this county, have been employed in knitting stockings; but from the invention of stocking looms, the price of womens work being much reduced, they have begun to direct their attention to spinning, in which they will find their account.

Oats and pease are sown in the month of March; barley in May,

May, with which the crop grafs is generally laid down after turnips or fallow; and turnips are sown, from the 1st to the 20th of June. The hay crop is cut in July; barley in the end of August, and oats and pease about the middle of September.—There are about 300 acres of wood, some of it full grown, but the greatest part of it was planted within the last 30 years and is very thriving.

*Advantages and Disadvantages, &c.*—It is an advantage to the parish that it is situated within the distance of 10 miles from Aberdeen, where there is a constant demand, ready market, and a reasonable price for every article which the farms produce.—As the brewers at Aberdeen, import a great deal of barley, the demand for that article, is by that means lessened.—The parish hath the advantage of a good public road passing through its center, which enables the inhabitants to bring coals, &c. at a moderate expence from Aberdeen. It is also pretty well supplied with moss, which affords peats and turfs for fuel. On the other hand, it may be mentioned, that its vicinity to the large and populous city of Aberdeen, renders every article sold within the parish, very high priced to those who must buy; and that the country people are so much in the way of attending the weekly market, that they generally lose one day in the week, in order to dispose of an article, which when sold, will scarcely bring them 1s. 6d. never considering the loss of time and labour\*.

#### Rent,

\* The common people speak the Scotch language, and in what is commonly called, and well known by the name of, the Aberdonian Dialect — Some of the names of places are said to be derived from the Gaelic, although most have their names from local situation.—As *Straloch*, a strath where a loch of water has been. *Cunningar*, where rabbits abounded. *Sewile End*, a farm at the end of a marsh. *Higblands*, a farm on a rising ground. *Manycabuck*, said to be a corruption of many roe-bucks, a place once frequented by deer. *King-seat*, so called, from a large stone in form of a chair, where it is said, one of the kings of Scotland had stopped on a journey.

*Rent, Stipend, Poor.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3254 Scotch; and the real rent is supposed to be L. 1500 Sterling.

The living is L. 39 : 8 : 10½ Sterling, including communion element money, 24 bolls oat meal at 8 stone per boll, 24 bolls of bear, and 13 acres of glebe including garden.

The manse was built in the year 1781. And a new church on a very good plan was erected in 1791.

The number of poor receiving alms is only 12 at present; but it may be observed that in 1782 and 83, seasons of dearth and scarcity, about 25 received quarterly supplies, besides interim supplies which were given to several poor families.—At that time the kirk session applied L. 15 Sterling of the money settled on interest for the poor, which, together with the weekly collections made at the church, was applied in purchasing pease, which were converted into meal, and distributed every week among the poor, in proportion to the numbers in their families.—They also received from government 12 bolls of pease, which were managed as above mentioned, and after that purchased 23 bolls more at a moderate price, also sent by government, which the session sold to the most indigent families, for their relief. The heritors also bought a considerable quantity of pease, for the support of their tenants, and by this means no person suffered through want.

The annual amount of collections for the poor at the church is about L. 17, and the interest of L. 75 at 4½ per cent. L. 3 : 7 : 6. making in all L. 20 : 7 : 6. \*

#### *Fuel.*

\* The present price of beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork are from 3d to 4d per lb.—a pig 3s—a goose 3s—a duck 8d.—a hen 8d.—a turkey 4s.—a pair of chickens 6d.—butter 10d per lb.—cheese 5s per stone,—barley, at an average for the last 10 years, 16s per boll; oats do. 14s,—meal, i.e. farm meal, at 8 stone per boll, 13s 4d. malt 17s 4d per boll.—Flesh, butter, and cheese are sold

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used is peat and turf, obtained from mosses, in general within its bounds. But the mosses are greatly exhausted, and some of the gentlemen burn coals in their houses.—The expence of casting, drying, and leading peat and turf is very great, and consumes much of that time in summer, which might be profitably employed on the farm. — Were it not for the heavy duty affecting coals brought coast ways, which keeps the price of that article high, and is a great bar to manufactures; for coals commonly sell at 4s per boll at Aberdeen in summer, and in winter at a higher price, the boll being 36 stone Amsterdam weight; it is generally believed, that families residing at such a distance as ours from a sea port, would be cheaper served with coals than the fuel commonly made use of. — The expence however of furnishing fuel, hath not been accurately ascertained\*.

*Condition*

Sold in retail, 16 lb. Amsterdam to the stone; but in wholesale they are weighed by the long hundred, 112 lb. Averdupois to the cwt. or 28 lb. to the stone. Also 8 stone Amsterdam for weighing the boll of meal.

The prices of provisions in the year 1576, according to a table said to have been extracted from the records of the city of Aberdeen.—Bear and meal 10s per boll,—oats 5s. do.—marts 11. 10s. each,—a sheep 5s.—poultry 1s. per dozen;—a swine from 7s. to 10s.—a goose 1s.—salmon 4l. per barrel—mair fowls 4s. per dozen,—capons 5s. do. All Scotch money.

A day labourer in husbandry, without victuals, receives of wages 8d. per day.—In harvest and for casting peats 1s.—a carpenter or common wright 1s.—a mason 1s. 8d.—a taylor with his victuals, 6d.

\* The expence of a married labourer cannot be now exactly known, but it may be remarked, that, with the accommodation of a house, and as much ground as can maintain a cow, and raise vegetables to his family, for which he pays a moderate rent, together with his own earnings, and those of his wife, if they are sober and industrious, he is enabled to bring up a family without being a burden on the community. The incumbent cannot recollect any of this description coming upon the poor's funds, unless reduced by the unavoidable distresses of bad health, bodily infirmity, or old age.

Male

*Condition of the People*—The people are tolerably industrious. And from the spirit which prevails among the residing heritors for improving their lands, it may reasonably be expected, that by their example, and by encouraging good tenants, they will excite a turn for industry among their people.

The parishioners are not much inclined to a military life. Only 5 have enlisted in the army, during the last 9 years.—Two have gone to a sea-faring life during the same period.

The circumstances of the people do not admit of their being expensive or luxurious, nor do they seem to be so inclined.—Landed property has undergone some changes during the present century, and has generally been sold at from 25 to 30 years purchase.—The people, though not in affluent circumstances, enjoy in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and seem contented with their situation.

It is not easy to point out the best means by which the condition of the people could be ameliorated, although it is evident that many stand in need of it.—The heavy duty payable on malt, is a great bar to their comfort, and has the unhappy tendency of leading many in the lower stations in life to the use of foreign spirituous liquors, which are in general much adulterated, and never fail to hurt both their health and morals.—The coal tax is also felt, and complained of by many, as a great addition to the price of that necessary article.

The attention which begins to be paid by gentlemen to the improvement of their estates, their granting longer leases to their tenants, under proper conditions and restrictions, their emancipating them from that servitude, under which they in

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former

Male servants in husbandry in general receive 5l per annum, including victuals and lodging,—female servants about 2l 10s of wages,—domestic servants from 15l to 20 sterling, and females from 4l to 5, with the accommodation above mentioned.

former times groaned, and the satisfaction of having their rents punctually paid, will all contribute to mutual comfort and advantage, and finally, will diffuse a spirit of industry, inspire gratitude,—and give to the lower class a sort of independance natural to the creatures of God, and to free born citizens.

*Roads.*—During the summer, the roads are in good repair. But as the soil of which they are made, is in general of deep spouting clay, they become very bad in winter, and the number of carriages of all kinds which pass along, break them much before they attain to a proper degree of firmness.—The post road leading from south to north, was originally formed by military, and is now kept in repair by means of the statute labour, exacted in kind, *i. e.* 3 days work of each man in summer, from the age of 15 to 60 years, and 3 in autumn, but when they perform five days in summer, it is accepted in full.—The Justices of the peace within this district who take the trouble of directing the business, appoint a proper overseer to attend the labourers, who are called out to the work by an advertisement read the preceding sabbath at the different churches, by the precentor, immediately after divine service is concluded; and the person thus appointed, is authorised to accept of 3d per day, as a composition from those who do not attend.—The money thus collected from absents, is applied to the payment of men, hired at 9d per day, &c. to work upon the roads.—By men thus employed, more work is performed, and to much better purpose than by the people who ought to do it, who in general, are not sensible of the great advantage of good roads, go to the labour with reluctance, and perform it in an aukward and slovenly manner.—There are no turnpikes; although it is thought they would be of advantage, yet it is doubtful if this part of the country could bear the expence.

*Miscellaneous*

*Miscellaneous Articles.*—The farms of the heritors are inclosed. But the rest of the parish (three farms excepted,) is open.—The people however, as they begin to have spots in turnips and sown grafs, are led to see the necessity for, and benefit of, inclosures.

There is a parochial school hard by the church; the salary and perquisites of the schoolmaster amount to about 15l per annum. The number of scholars is in winter about 40, in summer from 15 to 20.

There are six ale houses, all close to the road between Aberdeen and Old Meldrum, frequented by carriers and travellers, but rarely visited by the parishioners.—A few years ago they frequently had malt feasts, i. e. the farmers from whom the country brewers bought their malt or barley, convened when the price of the malt became due, and spent part of it very cheerfully, to encourage their customers; but this practice is now done away, as they cannot afford to brew at home, and find it cheaper to take their ale from the breweries at Aberdeen or Old Meldrum.—Thus the money spent in this way among themselves in a draught of comfortable ale, is frequently laid out in the gin shop at Aberdeen, when the people attend the weekly market.—But this is by no means the practice of the generality, who are sober, temperate, and decent in their behaviour.—New and elegant houses were built within the three last years at Elrick and Straloch.—These, with a few new farm houses, are all the changes which have happened in this way since the year 1782.—The greatest part of the farms are managed by the families of the tenants, and a few hired servants.

Cottagers are employed by the residing heritors, and a few of the principal tenants only.—Indeed it is difficult to find persons of this description as labourers within the parish, as in those seasons of the year, when they are most in request, they  
are



are generally engaged in managing their little spots of ground, providing fuel, &c.—On this account such of the gentlemen, and even principal tenants, as have occasion for constant labourers, make terms with them, when they let their small possessions; and it may be observed, that such labourers, under good masters, live more comfortably than the middling tenants do.

The tenants in this parish, and the under tenants, are bound to some personal services.—They are obliged to carry lime, sand, timber and slates, for building and repairing the church, manse, minister's offices, and the heritors houses; and it is but fair to remark, that with such discretion have these prestations been exacted, that although the buildings already mentioned have been lately executed, the heritors have paid so much regard to the interest of their tenants, that, for their own houses they have carried all the materials, and have paid a sum of money to the workmen engaged for the new church, to carry all the materials wanted.—In some estates in the parish, the tenants are bound to two or three days in the harvest, and some days at casting and leading peats.—Some of the under tenants are bound in this way to the principal tacksmen.

There is no post-office within this parish, the nearest to it are those at Aberdeen and Old-Meldrum; the distance from that at Aberdeen is 10 miles, from Old-Meldrum 8. The interior parts of the country, from this circumstance, labour under disadvantages.

NUMBER

N U M B E R L.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND  
STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. CHRISTOPHER TAIT,

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**K**INCARDINE is of Gaelic original, and said by some to signify the head of the shore, which countenances an opinion entertained by many, and supported by several presumptions, that the Carfe, upon the edge of which the church stands, was antiently a continuation of the Firth of Forth.—The figure of the parish is triangular. On the S. it is divided from the parishes of St. Ninians, Gargunnoch and Kippen; by the Forth;—on the E. and N. it is separated from Lecropt and Kilmadock, by the Teath.—The extent of the parish, from the confluence of these streams, to the S. W. extremity on the side of the Forth is reckoned to be 10 miles; and from the same point to the N. W. extremity on the side of the Teath 12 miles. The western boundary, measures about 7 miles.—A part of the parish of Kilmadock, about three miles in breadth, intersects this district about half a mile west from the  
the

the church, and cuts off about a mile from the west end of it \*.

Kincardine is situated in the widest part of the valley called the Strath of Monteath, which is bounded in the N. and W. by a part of the Grampian mountains. Among these Ben-Lomond on the W. Ben-Lady on the N. W. Ben-Vorlich and Stoontachrone on the N. are the most conspicuous.—On the S. the valley is bounded by a chain of hills, commencing near Bannockburn, and stretching S. W. towards Dumbarton. On the E. are the Ochills, which are separated from the Grampian mountains, by Srath Allan, and from the S. hills by the carse of Stirling, in which stand the detached rocks of Abbey craig, Stirling capped with the castle, and Craig Forth. These altogether afford such a variety of striking objects, so well disposed, as very rarely to be equalled.

There has not been any measurement made of the whole parish; but it is computed to contain somewhat more than 6000 acres. The soil is distinguished ordinarily into Carse and dry-field.—The Carse, containing about 4000 acres, lies along the Forth, and the dry-field, containing about 2000 acres, along the Teath.—Only one half of the Carse is arable, the remainder being covered by the mosses of Kincardine and Flanders. Its general appearance is that of a dead flat.—And its soil is a rich blue clay, beyond any depth that has been examined, excepting one corner, where a bed of gravel rises near the surface, as it approaches the Teath, and dips towards the Forth at the rate of one foot in the hundred.—There are many thin beds of shells, particularly of oysters, at different depths in the Carse, and one of considerable thickness at the bridge of Goody, which is in that part of Kilmadock, that  
intersects

\* There is a chapel of ease at Norriestown for the inhabitants of this section, and for the contiguous parts of the parishes of Kilmadock and Port.

intersects this parish.—There are no stones of any kind in the soil of the carse, nor are there any appearances of rock, excepting in the eminences of Craig Forth, the hill of Dript, and the Nadd, and for a small extent of the bed of the river at the cruives of Craig Forth, and again at the bridge of Dript. The flatness of the Carse, its being so little above the level of the sea, the nature of the soil, which is slesch, become dry, intermixed with sea shells, together with the appearance of some of its banks in this neighbourhood, consisting of sand, in which the marks of undulations are still evident wherever the surface is removed, render it highly probable, that the soil of the Carse has been accumulated by the sea; and that antiently the Firth of Forth has received the river twenty miles nearer its source, than it now does.

The dry-field rises gently from the Carse on one side, and from the Teath on the other.—The soil is a light loam. Many nodules of whin stone, and some few of plumbcake-stone, are still found on the unimproved parts, and are a great obstruction to good tillage. In the improved grounds they have been blown with powder, at a considerable expence, and removed.—The bottom is generally till.

It is estimated that more rain, by 6 inches yearly, falls here, than in the east coasts of Scotland. On the other hand, there is less snow, than in those countries. The heath on the moor of Kincardine is scarcely ever covered by snow\*.

#### Rivers,

\* Rheumatisms prevail much among persons of middle age, and strangers are still more apt to be attacked with them than the natives. Slow fevers and fluxes are frequent in the end of autumn. They seem to be owing chiefly to the superabundance of moisture, that proving often a very rainy season, and they are rendered more lingering, and more infectious, by great inattention to cleanliness.

There are no instances of extraordinary longevity in the parish; but there are several of persons arriving at a good age. One of the present Elders is 85; another

*Rivers, and Fisheries, &c.*—The Goody, a small river, is the only one that has its course through the parish. The Forth, before mentioned, is composed of two streams, that unite a little way above the bridge of Aberfoil, and form the Avondow, or black river; when it enters the parish of Port, it takes the name of Forth, which is said to be synonymous with Avon.—The Teath, is also composed of two branches, which join near the village of Callander, and take the name of Teath.—Although this name be lost upon its junction with the Forth, the Teath is a much more beautiful river than the other, and discharges double the quantity of water.—The Forth and Goody are of a dark colour, with a muddy bottom; the fish in both are of the same kind, viz. pike, perch and eel.—In the Teath are salmon, sea-trout, various species of fresh water trouts, muscles and a few perch.—The salmon is the only fish carried to market, and for fishing which any rent is drawn, and even this is very trifling.—Their prices are regulated by those of Stirling market, which are very variable, but upon the whole, are supposed to be more than double of what they were 10 years ago\*.

The

another 84, and the wife of the latter 91; there is also a more singular felicity in the lot of this pair, than their long life; they have been married 58 years; their family, including children, grand children, and servants, consists of 13 persons; at an average, it is reckoned to have consisted of 10 persons, yet, in that long period, no member of the family has died.

\* Pearls are sometimes found in the muscles, but not in such numbers, or of such value, as to induce the proprietors of the water to exact a rent for the privilege of fishing them.—This circumstance has perhaps contributed to prevent the fishing from becoming as valuable as it is capable of, for it is supposed that a considerable number of years are required for perfecting the pearls, but the fishing being free, whenever any pearls of value are found, the havock among the muscles does not cease, until they are almost extirpated. This was the case about 20 years ago, since which time there has been no fishing until very lately, when some pearls of a good size were found.

The Forth ceases to be navigable at the cruives of Craigforth, about 300 yards below its junction with the Teath, in consequence of a rock stretching across the channel, and a wall raised upon it to prevent salmon from passing the cruives. Below them the tide rises five feet at high spring tides, but does not surmount the wall\*.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has undergone considerable variations in the course of this century, but, upon the whole, it has increased considerably.—It is said to have increased greatly from 1730 to 1750. From that period, to 1772, it seems to have decreased; since the last date it has acquired more than it lost in the former periods. The increase of population betwixt 1730 and 1750 is attributed partly to the additions made to the villages of Thornhill and Norriestown and partly to increasing the number of the farms, by making new ones on the out-fields, or those parts of the farms that were too remote from the farm houses for dung being carried to them, and which therefore formerly were alternately in leas, or under oats.—The decrease from 1750 to 1772, is imputed to the demolition of several farm houses and cottages, in consequence of 500 acres having been inclosed, and either kept in grass, or in the natural possession of the proprietor. The increase of the third period, is owing partly to the additions made to the villages already mentioned; but chiefly to the establishment of the moss tenants (or lairds as they are called) in the mooses of Kincardine and Flanders.

By a very accurate list, taken in 1746, of the men from 14  
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\* The following migratory birds appear here in winter; wild geese, and sometimes swans, woodcocks, field-fares, hooded crows, some few of these breed in the low country.—Before, or during, high east winds in the spring, gulls sometimes visit the place for a few days. The number of wild geese is greatly diminished since the moss came to be inhabited.

years of age to 60, that were not engaged in the rebellion, their number amounted to 490. There was a garrison kept by the rebels in Down castle, which is separated from this parish only by the river Teath. This circumstance renders it probable that the 50th man, or 10 in whole, would be engaged in the rebellion, consequently, that the number of men then in the parish, above and below 60 years of age, was 500, and that the number of souls was 2000. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, however, was only 1250.—The number at present is 2068.

The number of baptisms, at a medium of seven years from the commencement of the register in 1696, was annually	-	-	-	-	-	33
Of seven years after 1731,	-	-	-	-	-	46
Of seven years after 1746,	-	-	-	-	-	44
Of seven years after 1770,	-	-	-	-	-	40
Of the seven years preceeding 1792,	-	-	-	-	-	48
But according to the computation of the keeper of the register, there are about 6 baptisms yearly not registered, consequently, the annual average during the last period is	-	-	-	-	-	54
The number of parishioners married at an average of the three last years of last century was yearly	-	-	-	-	-	13
Of 1731, —32, and —33	-	-	-	-	-	23
Of 1749, —50, and —51	-	-	-	-	-	26
Of 1770, —71, and —72	-	-	-	-	-	19
Of 1784, —85, and —86	-	-	-	-	-	36

A reason, that may be assigned for the number of marriages not increasing of late, in proportion to the supposed increase of population, is, that the great part of the moss tenants were married before they settled in this parish.

The

The number of burials, at an average of seven years, is 12 yearly.—The number of heritors is 22; of these 9 reside.

Norriestown and Thornhill are the only villages in the parish; they are now joined, and stand along the summit of a rising ground, on both sides of the road from Stirling to the fort of Innerfnaid. The inhabitants of both amount to 626. The greater part of these, and a few cottagers in other parts of the parish, are labourers or handycraftsmen.—Tanning is the only trade of any consequence carried on in Thornhill; it does not employ above 20 hands.—There are also a few of the parishioners employed at the Adelphi cotton work, which lies in that part of Kilmadock that intersects this parish, and employs about 900 people. At this work, it is said, the finest cotton yarn made in Scotland is spun.—There are 66 tenants, and 126 moss tenants within the parish.\*

*Ecclesiastical State, &c.*—There are two clergymen, viz. the minister of the parish, and the minister of the Chapel of Ease at Norriestown.

The stipend of the former is L. 45 in money, 16 bolls of bear, and 64 of meal. The glebe consists of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres.—The fund for the maintenance of the minister of the Chapel of Ease was formed partly of contributions by the people of the district,

3 P 2

for

\* The number of students, particularly in divinity, was formerly very considerable. About 18 years ago there were 18 clergymen (including every denomination) who were natives of this parish. They are now reduced to 4; and there are only two students.—The great increase of the expence of education, and the emoluments in that profession being nearly stationary, while, in almost every other line of life, they are encreasing with astonishing rapidity, are evidently the causes of this alteration.—A cotton spinner, in the second year after leaving the plough, gains annually a sum equal to the average of the stipends of the church of Scotland, which are the recompence held forth for an expensive education of fifteen years at least, and for many more perhaps of expectation.



for whose benefit it was erected, and partly of collections made in five synods by the authority of the General Assembly 1730. This fund is under the management of the presbytery of Dunblane, who are subject to the control of the General Assembly. Part of the money was applied to purchase lands in the neighbourhood, and a part of these, rented formerly at L. 8:6:8 is appropriated for a glebe, and a house was built upon it in 1774. The present stipend is L. 30 sterling and 40 bolls of meal or bear.—The King has presented the present minister of the parish and his two immediate predecessors; but the patronage is supposed to be in the number of those given to Mr Drummond, the representative of the family of Perth, by the late act of Parliament for restoring the forfeited estates. By an act of the ministers and heritors of those parishes, from which the congregation at the chapel is formed, dated 1750, confirmed by the presbytery of Dunblane and the General Assembly, the chaplain at Norriestown was declared to be assistant to the minister of Kincardine, who had also the power of nomination to the office given him, which was exercised until 1771. The General Assembly of that year, upon a petition of the congregation, allowed the vacancy, that had then taken place, to be supplied by the majority of the examinable persons. The last vacancy was supplied in the same manner, with the consent of the minister of Kincardine.

About a third of the parishioners are separatists of different denominations; the Burgher Seceders are the most numerous class; it prevails much on the S. E. point of the parish, that being in the neighbourhood of Stirling, where that sect have had their most numerous congregation; Ebenezer Erskine being one of the ministers of that town at the commencement of the Secession.—The Antiburgher Seceders, and adherents of the Presbytery of Relief are next to them in number.

There

There are a few Cameronians and some Episcopalians, and also 4 families of Roman Catholics who came lately from the Highlands.——The people of this parish are regular in performing all the external duties of religion, and are in general sober, industrious, and frugal. Among several of them, however, the effects of the distillery of malt spirits, that was carried on to a great extent in Thornhill, before the act restricting it to stills of a very large capacity was passed, are still discernible, in that want of veracity, and of respect for the law, that propensity to intemperance, to fraud and pilfering, which the superabundance of spirituous liquors, and the habits of defrauding Government have so strong a tendency to produce.——The present law respecting the distillery, by establishing a composition for the excise duties, has, however, very wisely removed the temptations to fraud.

The total annual amount of the emoluments of the parish schoolmaster does not (exclusive of a house and garden) exceed L. 25 sterling.—There are besides five private schools, which in winter are well attended, but in summer almost deserted, the children being then engaged in keeping cows and other rural employments. The number of scholars attending them in winter exceeds 300\*.

*Poor.*—In 1775, in consequence of an act of quarter sessions of the country for restraining the poor from begging, and obliging their respective parishes to maintain them, this parish, with a few others in the neighbourhood, assessed themselves for the maintenance of the poor, who had formerly been

\* There is only one ale house in the country part of the parish. In Thornhill there are seven. They produce very pernicious effects there, as they do every where else, where they are kept for any other purpose than for the accommodation of travellers, or of people on business; especially when the innkeepers are low persons,

been in the practice of begging, and they have done so from time to time, since that period.—But at the last meeting of the heritors and the kirk-session, it was carried to drop the plan, whenever the money already levied should be exhausted, which it will in a few weeks.—The first and highest assessment was 1 rs. 6d. upon each hundred pound of valued rent.—The number of poor upon the roll in 1775 was 12, it has now decreased to 3.—The weekly allowance varies from 6d. to 1s. 8d. for each person.—The sessions funds (including the proportion of the collections at the chapel ordinarily given to the poor of this parish) amount to L. 24 yearly \*.

*Language,*

\* It will I believe appear singular, that a poor's rate has been established in a parish, and given up without occasioning much complaint or much hardship to the poor. It has been done perhaps a little prematurely; but things were in such a train, that a short time longer might have made them ripe for it.

As whatever tends to diminish the number of persons dependent upon public charity, promotes the prosperity of the country, sobriety, and, of course, domestic comfort, among the labouring poor, I shall mention what I think the causes of such an uncommon occurrence.

It is no doubt partly owing to the constant employment and higher wages that are given to handy craftsmen and labourers; but these circumstances, unless combined with other causes, might perhaps have produced an opposite effect.

Less money, it has been observed, is saved in general by those whose revenue is certain and unvariable, than by persons whose gains are uncertain: And high prices of labour, if proper attention be not paid to the management of the poor, has frequently the effect of heightening the poor's rates.

The labourer and mechanic, if certain of constant employment, when in health and vigour, and secure of being supported by the parish in sickness or old age, is but too apt to accustom himself to a mode of living correspondent to his wages, and when he needs supply from the parish, he expects it to be adequate to the habits of expence he has acquired, and is clamorous if he is disappointed; and the less deserving he is of favour, the more clamorous he is.—This is evidently one cause of the height of the poor's rates, where they have been

*Language.*—The Scotch language is spoken ordinarily. But as for many years past, a considerable proportion of the servants here have been natives of the highlands, and of late above a hundred families from these countries have settled

been long established.—They being almost uniformly high where the price of labour is high.

While therefore the more regular employment and the higher wages, that are now given to labourers and handicraftsmen, are justly considered as the principal causes of the diminution of the poor; I hazard the opinion, that the salutary effect of these was owing greatly to the mode of managing their poor adopted by this parish.

When it was determined that the poor should be restrained from begging, this parish very wisely resolved to preserve the distinction betwixt those who had begged, and those who had lived at home, and received supply from the session; these last being in general industrious, and free from the vices that prevail too often among the begging poor.

The begging poor alone were put on the parish fund, and previous to this being done they were obliged to give an assignation of all their effects to the parish.

The intention of this assignation was, not only to prevent any from pretending poverty, but also to put it in the power of the managers to regulate the funeral expences of such of the poor as died.

People of that rank have their pride and their prejudices, as well as their superiors, and it was wisely determined to make use of these on that occasion, and to affix such a degree of discredit upon those maintained from the poor's rate, as to prevent, as much as possible, the establishment of it operating as an encouragement of idleness, or a want of œconomy.

The wisdom of this management has appeared in its effects. The aversion of the poor to a funeral, from which any part of the usual expence has been retrenched, has prevented several persons from claiming to be put upon the roll.—The desire of what is called a decent funeral, i. e. one to which all the inhabitants of the district are invited, and at which every part of the usual entertainment is given, is one of the strongest in that rank of people. The expence of it amounts nearly to 2*l*. This sum therefore every person in mean circumstances is anxious to lay up, and he will not spare it unless reduced to the greatest extremity.

The

settled in the parish, principally in the mofs. The Gaelic is the only language spoken by some of the inhabitants, and many more of them understand it better than the Scotch.

The names of places are partly of Gaelic original, as *Talgarth*, *Garthoch*, *Arnive*, and partly of Scotch, as *Bankhead*, *Westwood* \*.

*Roads, Bridges.*—Great part of the public roads have been made anew, and bridges built where wanted, within the last 20 years.

The bridge of Dript over the Forth, on the road to Stirling, is the only considerable one. It was built by subscription.—The other bridges, as also the roads, were executed by the statute labour, or by allowance from the county fund for roads and bridges.—Both are now in pretty good condition; therefore, although the quantity of carriage upon them is increased beyond all comparison, there is good reason to conclude, that the statute labour, especially if compounded for at an adequate price, will be sufficient to keep them in repair.

It does not appear that turnpikes would apply well to the roads of this parish; for if lime for manure was exempted from toll, the expence of collections would amount to a considerable share of the sum levied.

At

The session generally allow this sum for the funeral of such of the poor as have been maintained from their fund, if the value of the effects of the deceased do not fall very much short of it. And the desire of securing this has induced some, who had a large share of the vices of the begging poor, and who might otherwise have been clamorous for a high allowance from the parish, to rest satisfied with such occasional supply as the session thought fit to give them.

\* Doctor Robert Wallace, late one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and author of the candid and ingenious essays on the population of ancient nations, &c. son of Mr Matthew Wallace minister of this parish, was born here in 1696.

At any rate, as there is no great thoroughfare, that expence must be paid principally by this and the two adjoining parishes; consequently, if the statute labour shall be found inadequate to the support of the roads, it will be wise in these parishes to assess themselves, in proportion to their respective interests, in whatever sums may be required further for this purpose.

The most obvious disadvantage under which this parish, and particularly the carse part of it, labours, is the difficulty of communication with the neighbouring country.

This is owing, on the one side, to the mosses, and on the other to the want of fords in the rivers that abound in the parish, and the paucity of bridges over them. Another disadvantage is, that there is no public worship, nor religious instruction in the Gaelic language, within the reach of those Highlanders, that, to the number of 90 families, have lately settled in the moss of Kincardine, several of whom have not such a knowledge of the English as to be able to understand either prayers or sermons in it.

The Society for propagating Christian Knowledge was established, principally, for communicating religious instruction to the Scotch highlanders, and L. 1000 is given annually by his Majesty for the same purpose, which is under the management of the General Assembly. The people of this parish, however, have hitherto received no benefit from either of these funds, as an opinion prevails that, both by the rules of the Society, and the terms of the donation, the advantages of them are restricted to those persons speaking the Gaelic language, who continue to reside in the Highlands\*.

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*Alterations.*

Henry Home, Esqr. of Kaimes, one of the senators of the college of justice, and author of many eminent works in philosophy, criticism, and agriculture, was buried here in December 1782.

\* An application to the society by seventy of the families who are settled in the centre part of the parish, for a schoolmaster was refused upon this ground.

It

*Alterations.*—It is the opinion of the most intelligent persons of all ranks, that the population of this part of the country has increased greatly in the space of the last 30 years. And that it is unquestionable that during the last 25 years the country in general, and this parish in particular, have made a great progress in wealth, in agriculture, and those improvements connected with it.

The rent is increased at least one half, and the value of land is nearly double.—One tenant bestows as much in manure for his farm as three did at that time, and horses and implements of husbandry are become far more valuable.—At that time there were only two bridges over the Forth, viz. one at Stirling, and another at Aberfoyle, now three more are built

It may be a difficult matter to effectuate an alteration of the rules of the Society, but surely there is reason to hope, that the great change in the circumstances of the Highlands that has taken place, will either occasion an alteration in the terms of his Majesty's donation, or that the General Assembly will adhere rather to the spirit, than the letter of it; and now that, from the introduction of sheep into the Highlands, and other causes, a great number of the native Highlanders have been removed and supplanted by south country graziers and shepherds; such of them as have preferred settling in the low country to emigrating to America, ought to be considered as better deserving, as well as standing more in need of relief from his Majesty's bounty, than if they were still permitted to dwell within the boundaries described in his donation.—For, when living there, however remote from their parish church, they were still under the charge of a clergyman who understood their language.—But when removed to the low country, they are not only far distant from Gaelic places of worship, but they have not any clergyman that understands their language who is particularly interested in their instruction.

As those natives of the Highlands, who have been removed to the low country, are more in need of relief from the Society, or from his Majesty's bounty, so, on the other hand, the present inhabitants of the Highlands are far from being so much in need of it as their predecessors were.

The great extent of the Highland parishes, which was one reason for the institution of the Society, and for his Majesty's donation, no doubt remains as formerly. But the number of the parishioners is greatly diminished.

built betwixt these.—Then there was only one bridge over the Forth, viz. at Down; three have been built since that period.—During that space also the greater part of the public roads have received a better direction, and are well made, and bridges have been built over the rivulets.

Extensive plantations have also been made, and one half of the parish inclosed.—Before the period above mentioned, the greater part of the farm houses were miserable huts built of sod, few of the holes called windows had a bit of glass in them; and commonly there was no other partition in the house than that formed by two beds set across it, so as to leave a passage betwixt, upon which there was generally a door.—Now above three fourths of the houses in the east end of the parish are rebuilt substantially of stone or brick. All have glazed windows, some are covered with blue slates, and the offices with tile.—The houses of one half of the moss tenants are at present in a better state than those of the most substantial farmers, excepting half a dozen, were formerly.—There is also some improvement upon the mode of living of every rank, and a still greater upon their dress.—They have become a little more attentive to cleanliness than they were formerly, but there is still too much room for improvement in this article with respect to their persons, and still more with respect to their houses\*.

3 Q 2

*Improvements.*

\* The course of the Forth above Stirling was surveyed, with the view of connecting it with the Clyde. When the preference was given to the canal now executed at the mouth of the Carron, a scheme was formed for making the Forth navigable, as far as the bridge of Gartmore, by vessels drawing only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet of water, for transporting, for the use of the country upon its banks, lime from Lord Elgin's kilns, and Aberfoil, and coals from the side of Devon, where a canal was to be made.—The distance from the mouth of the Forth to the bridge is 27 miles, if measured in a straight line, and 49 by the course of the river. The tide flows to the cruives of Craigforth, distant from the  
mouth



*Improvements.*—The mosses of Kincardine and Flanders, which cover more than 2000 acres of the Carse ground in this parish, are in a situation similar to that of the mosses of Frosk and Dunmore, betwixt the Forth and Carron. They are also evidently

mouth of the river, 7 miles measuring in a straight line, and 16 by the windings of its channel.—Vessels drawing nine feet water may in the driest seasons navigate the river, in neap tides, as far as Manour, or half the distance to Craigforth. Betwixt those two places there are some shallows, over which vessels, drawing more than five feet water, cannot pass at neap tides, when the water was low.—At the bottom of the stream, below the bridge of Gartmore, the surface of the river, when in its lowest state, is nearly 30 feet higher than that below Craigforth in neap tides.—The difference is in general much less, and especially where there is any fresh in the river. The common depth of the rivers is from 8 to 10 feet, but there are shallows in several parts of it, upon some of which there are at times only two feet of water.—From the termination of the tide-way at Craigforth, to the bottom of the stream below the bridge of Gartmore, there are only three falls perceptible in the river: One of 8 feet at Craigforth; another of 3 feet, at the ford of Frew; the third of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet, at the bridge of Cardross.—It was proposed to erect two locks, at Kildean below Craigforth, each six feet in height; to make a canal, across a peninsula, from that place to the southwest point of Craigforth hill, and to raise a dam there, four feet in height, across the channel of the river, which it was supposed would raise the surface of it nearly that height, as far as the ford of Frew.—A dam five feet high erected below the mouth of the Goody, which is below the Frew, it was supposed, would make that river navigable 4 miles above Thornhill, and give dead water in the Forth, near to the head of the ford at Cardross.—Another dam and lock of the same height at that ford, it was supposed would give a sufficient depth of water near to the bridge at Gartmore, and, when there was any fresh in the river, would allow vessels to pass into the dead water above the bridge.

The expence of making this navigation in the Forth, from Kildean to the bridge of Gartmore, and in the Goody, 4 miles above Thornhill, was estimated at L. 5830 exclusive of the price of nine and a half acres of ground required for the canal at Kildean, and the temporary damage that would be sustained by as much more ground.

As the principal obstructions to the execution of this plan are greatly diminished, or no longer exist, it is to be hoped that it will be resumed.

dently of the same nature, and have had the same origin.—Kincardine moss is wholly in this parish. About 25 years ago, it consisted of 1800 acres. Flanders moss is more than three times that extent. Part is in this parish, and part in the parishes of Kilmadock, Kippen, and Port.—The mosses are evidently superinduced over the soil of the Carse; being so much above it as their own thickness; they are therefore not liable to be flooded by water, and, as there is only one spring discovered in them, the wetness is owing wholly to the qualities of the moss or bog-earth.—All these have been considered as capable of improvement, but any progress made in reclaiming them was so slow, that a person of great property has, within these last 20 years, expressed frequently his wish, that the first, at least, had rather been a piece of water.—They are now, however, in higher estimation, in consequence of the improvements that have been made, particularly on that of Kincardine.—There were different methods in use formerly for improving the moss, which in general were confined to the spread-field, that is, the waste moss, which being unfit for peat, had been cast behind the peat cutters, and its surface being smoothed, and drains cut in it, the peats were laid upon it to be dried.—It was already drained so far as to bear cattle in dry weather. Some persons ploughed, and when it became dry, set fire to it. By repeating this operation, as often as their convenience or the season permitted, such a quantity of ashes was procured, as being incorporated with the remaining bog-earth, produced a coarse grass.—Where the moss was thin, it was sometimes consumed so far by this operation, that the plough might reach the clay, in this case the moss was said to be gained, *i. e.* made arable.—Where the moss was too thick to be gained by ploughing and burning, it was a common practice to carry part to the contiguous ground, which, being exhausted by producing several crops

crops of oats in succession, and at a distance from the dunghill, the only manure almost then used, was lying waste, or covered very thinly with grass, its natural produce. Here it was dried and burnt; and the ashes being ploughed in, the ground was cropped with oats, until it would produce no more.— A third method of reclaiming the mofs was to dig ditches, or goats, as they are called, at such distances, and of such depths, that the clay dug from them was sufficient to cover the intermediate spaces of mofs to the depth desired.—The clay, when dug, was thrown at such distances from the ditch, that so much mofs was left on each side of it uncovered, as was thought sufficient to fill it again to a level with the bottom of the stratum of clay laid upon the surface. The first of these methods required only a little labour of the farmer and his cattle, at a time, when by the mode of husbandry then practised, there was little other employment for them.—The returns it produced were proportionably trifling, unless where the mofs was so shallow as to be nearly consumed by this operation.—The second method required more labour, and produced more valuable returns, viz. three and sometimes more crops of oats; but, as the soil was touched in some degree by the mofs being burnt once upon it, when the half burnt mofs had been ploughed into it, it became more susceptible of damage from the fire every time the operation was repeated. And, this being the only one the farmer thought of, for making those grounds productive, it was repeated as often as he could. When long persisted in, this management reduced the surface nearly to a *caput mortuum*, for which the only remedy yet found, is by very deep ploughing, or by goating, which was described as the third method of reclaiming mofs, to bring up a considerable quantity of fresh clay.—The goating of the mofs was the most expensive method, but it made the most substantial improvement, especially if any considerable quantity of clay

clay was raised, as, in that case, it formed a new soil, which, compressing the moss by its weight, its sponginess produced no bad effects.

Moss improved in this manner, after producing some crops of grain, has continued for 40 years to be good pasturage. The grass is coarse indeed, but it would have been finer if due attention had been paid to keep the drains open.

As those methods could be used to advantage on the spread-field only, which is about one third of the thickness of the moss in its natural state, consequently no very extensive improvements could be made by them, when such were aimed at, the practice of floating off the moss by water was adopted.

On the moss of Kincardine alone there are 126 families, containing 640 souls, employed in this work.—The water is partly collected upon the moss itself, and partly brought upon it, by two channels raised by embanking, from the dry-field which lies higher than the moss\*.

Since 1770, about 280 acres of the moss of Kincardine have been reclaimed by the moss tenants before mentioned, and the farmers of the contiguous grounds.

The depth of the high moss, or that from which no peat has been cut, is from 8 to 14 feet; that of the spread-field is from 2 to 6 feet.—The depth of waste moss, which constitutes the principal part of the spread-field, is in general in the proportion of 4 to 8 of that part of the moss which is fit for peat.—The expence of clearing an acre of the high moss is from L. 10 to L. 12 and of the spread-field from L. 3 to L. 6 †.

#### *Agriculture.*

\* In one instance, water is raised from the Teath to the height of 18 feet, by a Persian wheel, and conveyed about 300 yards in a pipe of 18 inches diameter, which discharges it into an aqueduct that reaches the moss at the distance of 800 yards.

† The encouragements given for removing the moss are different with different

*Agriculture.*—About one half of the Carse is still covered by the mosses of Kincardine and Flanders before described.—The other

different proprietors. The most common method is to let a portion, commonly from 6 to 8 acres, to a moss tenant or laird, as, in contempt, he is generally stiled, for 36 years.—In money and timber for building his hut he receives from the proprietor to the amount of L. 3 or L. 4 sterling.—No rent is exacted for the first 7 years: On the eighth he pays a merk Scotch, advancing a merk each year, until the 20th year: For this, and the remaining 18 years, he pays at the rate of 12s. yearly for each acre cleared, and 2s. 6d. per acre for what is not cleared.—This last obligation is considered merely as a spur to the tenant to reclaim the ground; for the moss, in its original state, is not worth 3d. per acre.

At the end of the lease, all buildings that have been erected upon the possession belong to the proprietor; and the tenant is not entitled to any compensation for them, or his improvements.—Some proprietors, of more liberal and enlarged views, pay to the tenant from L. 3 to L. 12 for each acre reclaimed, according to the depth of the moss, or bog-earth removed from it.—In some cases, this is paid when the work is executed; in others, it is paid at the end of the lease. In the first case, the tenant pays from 12s. to 16s. of rent per acre, in the second case he pays no rent.—At whatever of these periods payment is made to the tenant, much more encouragement and ability is afforded to him, to persevere in reclaiming the ground, than is done by the terms of the leases first described.—For as a great part of the moss tenants depend upon their labour for the maintenance of themselves and their families; during the first years of their lease, when they have little ground cleared, and have their house to build, they can afford to bestow only a small part of labour towards improving their possessions. But about the 12th year of the lease, when commonly the tenant has got from two to three acres cleared, the produce thereof maintains his family, and, by the sale of his peats, he procures money for purchasing cloaths and manure, he can then bestow all his labour, not required for the culture of these three acres, in preparing his peats, and other methods of removing the moss.

Now, at this period, the ardour of the tenant, upon a lease of tenor first described, to reclaim the high moss is greatly checked.—It costs him labour worth L. 10 or L. 12 or from 17 to 20 years purchase, to clear it, and he is to possess it, free of rent, only for 6 years: Whatever part of this sum is not recovered before the end of these six years, may be considered as lost to him.

other half is employed chiefly in raising oats, barley and beans. These in some farms occupy nearly equal portions; but in general the proportion of oats is greatest, a few pease are frequently mixed with the beans, and sometimes, although rarely, they are sown by themselves.—Wheat, as appears from the reddenda of the abbey of Cambuskenneth, and from some old rentals, had been cultivated to a greater extent, in the carses east from Stirling, antiently, than it was a few years ago.—But its culture, except on two farms, has been but lately introduced into this parish. This is also the case with broad clover, but both, and especially the last, are gaining ground fast, as every farmer has some acres of it for green feeding, and some have begun to sow it for hay.—The whole of the dry-field almost is arable. Of such parts of it as are let in farms, nearly three fifths are in tillage, and of this, three fourths, at an average, are employed in raising oats; the remainder is employed in the culture of barley, lint, and as many potatoes

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him.—If this be the case, during the latter years of the first term of 19 years, folly alone can prompt him to continue his operations, during the second term; as he then pays, at the rate of 12s. per acre, immediately when the ground is reclaimed.—When to this rent is added, the interest of the money, or the value of the labour bestowed on clearing the ground, it costs him 22s or 24s. yearly, exclusive of the loss of the principal. It may therefore be concluded that it is evidently against his interest upon such a lease to employ himself, in removing moss, after one third of the lease is expired.—But, when he is paid in proportion to the quantity of ground reclaimed, it is for his interest to continue his operations, to the last hour of his lease, as the interest of the value of the labour bestowed, in no case, exceeds a very moderate rent for the ground, and he receives his capital at the end of the lease.—It is also the interest of the landlord to give the tenant such encouragement for reclaiming his ground, rather than to have it lie waste until the end of his lease; for if he pay the tenant at the end of his first term of 19 years, he gets at least 5 per cent. for his money during the remainder of the lease; and, at the end of the lease, he may be supposed to draw at least 10 per cent for a possession of that small extent, with a suitable house and offices upon it.

as can supply the inhabitants of the parish. The last constitute a large proportion of the food of the families of the farmers in winter, and a still larger of those of the labourers and tradesmen.—The proportion of the ground employed in raising oats is yearly diminishing.—Formerly the distinction betwixt infield and outfield was universal, and on the infield one crop of barley was followed commonly by two crops of oats. The outfield was alternately three years in ley, and three years in tillage, and oats alone were sown on it.—But this slovenly method of distinguishing grounds into outfield and infield is fast wearing out; some farmers have gone so far even as to reverse that management which formerly was reckoned good; and instead of taking two crops of oats and one of barley, they take two of barley and one of oats. This can succeed only on such grounds as are well cultivated, and where sown grass is introduced into the rotation.—This mode of management is after the ground has been one, two, or even three years under grass, to lay dung on the surface in the beginning of winter, and plough it in immediately, harrow in spring, until the ground furrow is so much broken, that the ground appears quite smooth, and plough it for sowing the barley in the beginning of May.—The produce, in this management, far surpasses any that has been known on these grounds, in any other mode of cropping; a field of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres was sown with  $3\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of barley, and produced 52 bolls. The second crop is oats, the third barley and grass seeds.—The culture of flax was tried to some extent some years ago for sale, but it is now confined in a great measure, to what is used in the farmer's family.—Turnips are little cultivated, although dryfield is well adapted for them, and their culture secures an essential part of good husbandry, as so much rain falls ordinarily in harvest, as will ever prevent pease from being cultivated to advantage.—The small extent of the farms, the want of a sufficient number of subdivisions

subdivisions of the inclosures, and of a house for the cattle that are to be fed upon the turnips, distinct from the common byre, seem to be the chief obstacles to their culture.—Perhaps the small extent of the carse farms is also an obstacle to the production of any considerable quantity of wheat or hay, as also to the summer fallowing to any great extent.—The size of the farms is so much adapted to the present custom of executing all the labour in the spring, that the division of the labour into different seasons, which is one great benefit of the introduction of wheat and hay, would not enable the farmer to lessen the number of his servants and horses.—Notwithstanding of this, however, summer fallowing bids fair to become a general practice in the carse, as it is highly beneficial to a clay soil, and allows the lime to be applied to the best advantage.—Great quantities of lime for manure are brought from Sauchie, five miles distant from the E. point of the parish, and also from the Earl of Elgin's works on the Forth.

The price of a heaped bushel, wheat measure, of shells, or unslacked lime is 4d. and of the carriage to Kincardine from 2d½, to 4d.—In the dryfield 110 bushels are allowed, at an average, to the acre. In the carse double that quantity, and sometimes 240 bushels, are allowed.—The use of lime as a manure is of an old date here, but it was never carried to any valuable height, until in consequence of the building of a bridge over the Forth at Dript, about 20 years ago, carts could be used conveniently for its carriage; before this event it was carried chiefly on horses backs.—The demand is increasing annually, and for several years past, has much exceeded the supply.

There is no ground almost kept in the carse for pasturage, excepting what is liable to be overflowed by the rivers—This is pastured by the milk cows, but a considerable part of their food even in summer is broad clover, given then in the byre. The horses are fed almost entirely on it in summer, being never

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ver almost allowed to pasture, excepting a little on the stubbles.

Even in the dry-field there is not much good pasturage, excepting upon the farms of a few of the more intelligent and active farmers.—The others apply such parts only of their out-field grounds to pasturage as have been exhausted by producing crops of oats, and upon which not a handful of grass seeds have been thrown, and these continuing only three years in grass, of course the crops must be very poor.—It is therefore a general practice of the farmers of the dry-field, as well as of those of the carse, to send their young cattle, in summer to the hill grounds, upon both sides of the Strath, to be grazed.

The rate of pasturage varies from 3s to 7s a head, according to the goodness of the pasture, and the age of the cattle \*.

The Carse farms, 24 in number, contain, 50 acres, and rent at L. 45 at an average. The farms in the dry-field, 24 in number, contain each 60 acres at an average, and the rent about 12s. per acre.—In the new leases 20s. per acre is the rent of the Carse farms, and 14s. of those of the dry-field. The rent has advanced nearly two fifths, in the course of the last 20 years.—There is a bounding fence about every farm almost in the Carse in the east part of the parish, but few are subdivided. The dry-field farms there are nearly all inclosed and subdivided.

There are few inclosures in the Carse in the west part of the parish; but a considerable part of the dry-field there is inclosed

\* The carse farmers keep at an average five work horses, two of which they wish to be brood mares, and each produces commonly a foal every second year.—As the horses are hard wrought, although they should escape disease or accident, they are sold commonly at the age of fifteen; therefore the farmer does not complain, although his mares should do little more than keep up his stock of horses.

Five cows are kept at an average, and the quye calves only are reared, but the farmer reckons upon selling one cow annually, and having another to become dry about mid-summer, and to be fed for a mart for the family.—The proportion of horses kept in the dryfield is less, and that of cows greater, but the economy is similar.

ed and subdivided.—Besides the grounds now described as in the possession of the farmers, there are about 700 acres inclosed and improved grass ground, that are either in the natural possession of the proprietor, or let in single inclosures from year to year, at the rate of 18s. per acre, at a medium.

All the sheep kept in the parish are in these inclosures. The ordinary mode of managing them is, to buy ewes big with young in the beginning of winter, and to sell the lamb to the butcher, when of a proper age, and the ewe when fat\*.

*Miscellaneous*

\* Almost all the labouring servants are unmarried, and live in the farm houses. There are two men, a boy and a women servant employed by almost every farmer; but, if he has children grown up, they supply the place of servants. The farmer himself works and fares in the same manner nearly as his servants do. Commonly they all eat at the same table. By the farmers there are few labourers employed, except in harvest, or the hurry of spring work; threshing is performed before breakfast in the winter and spring seasons, and, in the short days, chiefly by candle light. All the grain, excepting a few beans, is threshed by the time the barley is sown.

Thirlage was formerly universal, for what was called grindable victual, *i. e.* for all the oats, not used upon the farm for seed or the horses, and whatever barley or beans were consumed in the family; but now several of the proprietors of the mills transact with their own tenants for exemption from thirlage. Nevertheless, no farmer almost ever sells oats, he has them all manufactured, and sells the meal.

The yearly wages of men servants from 30 to 40 years ago were L. 2 : 10; ten years later they were L. 5. Now the foreman in the Carse has frequently L. 6 : 9. The second man L. 7. Lads of sixteen who twenty years ago got L. 2 now get L. 5. In the dry-field, the wages of men servants are generally 30s. lower than in the carse. Women servants have L. 2 : 10 or L. 3.—The wages of labourers, 30 years ago, were 4d. per day in winter, and 5d. in summer: About that time they were raised to 5d. in winter, and 6d. in summer.—They were further entitled to two pecks of meal weekly at 8d. per peck, which was somewhat below the market price.—About 15 years ago, they received half a merk Scotch in winter, and 8d. in summer; now 9d. per day from Martinmas to Candlemas, and 1s. during the rest of the year, and also victuals when cutting hay or employed in harvest. At other times, when the labourer

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It may be noticed as a defect, with respect to the interests of the country at large, in the oeconomy of the farmers of this parish and neighbourhood, that they employ only unmarried men as servants. The effect of which is, that fewer marry than would, if they had a prospect of obtaining employment, amidst their relations and companions, in that species of labour to which they have been bred, equally well after marriage as before it. And also, that, of those who marry, some leave the parish, and others become moils tenants, at the hazard of enduring greater hardships for

hourer gets victuals, 4d. per day has been in use for some time past to be deducted. Formerly this practice was reckoned favourable to the employer, but now, from the change in the way of living, it is reckoned to be rather against him.—Cutting hay costs 20d. per acre; shearing corn, 5s. 6d. per ditto.—The wages of harvest work are, to men 1s. per day and victuals, to women 8d. and victuals.—The men, if engaged during the harvest, receives L. 1 : 15 if only during the time of cutting L. 1 : 8. The women get L. 1 : 1.—The wages for taylors, 25 years ago, were 2d. per day and victuals; 15 years since 4d; now 8d. and 10d. with victuals.—The wages for mafons are 2s. for carpenters 18d. per day.—Cotton spinners earn from 8s. to L. 1 : 15 per week. One man, who left the plough about a year ago, earns L. 1 : 11 : 6 weekly. Women, at the cotton work, earn from 3s. to 7s. per week, children, from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week.

There are different societies formed among the workmen, each of which has a fund for the relief of the sick. Each of these societies gives 3s. per week to such of their members as are unable to work, but not confined to bed, and 6s. to such of them as are in the latter case.—The same person may be, and frequently is, a member of two of those societies, and thus receives 12s. per week in sickness.—The condition of the labourers and handicraftsmen, it may be collected from what is already said, is much improved, especially in the course of the last 12 years. They have constant employment, and their expence of living, although greater than formerly, is not increased in proportion to the advance of wages.—When in health, they maintain themselves and families in a manner, that, being compared to that to which they were accustomed in their early days, appears to them very comfortable. Few of them need any charitable supply, and some save money.

for some time, if they have not saved money, than if they left the parish.

The implements of husbandry are greatly improved of late years. There are scarcely any of the old Scotch ploughs used now in the parish. About fourteen years ago, Small's plough was introduced among the farmers, and a factory of them established within the parish. This has occasioned a considerable diminution of the expence of the labour; before that time, there were always three or four horses used in each, and of course a driver was employed.—Now even those, who have not adopted this plough, use generally two horses only, and commonly have no drivers.

One horse carts only are used; two horse carts have been tried, but have been given up from the experience, that two horses, when each has his cart, will draw a much heavier load, than they could do, if yoked in one cart \*.

### Threshing

\* Those who lived in parts of the country that have been long acquainted with more enlightened and more spirited modes of agriculture, may think themselves authorized, by the circumstances now mentioned, to conclude that this part of the country is very far behind every thing relative to husbandry but it is merely doing justice to the farmers of this neighbourhood to observe, that, although the small extent of the farms throws agriculture necessarily into the hands of persons of smaller stock, and less enlarged views, than it is in those countries where the greater extent of the farms gives employment to persons of better education, and who have opportunities of being acquainted with the improvements making in different parts; the farmers here have of late years made a very great progress to a better stile of husbandry; and those who are inclined to despise them, may find something worthy of their imitation in the care they bestow for the preservation of their implements in husbandry. Even the most inconsiderable and slovenly tenant has a cart or wood house, in which the carts, ploughs, &c. are stored, when not in use, while among the intelligent and wealthy farmers in Berwickshire and the Lothians, few have such an accommodation, and from want of it, their implements of husbandry, purchased at a great expence, being exposed, when unemployed, to all the extremes of drought and moisture, suffer little less from this bad management, than from use.

Threshing machines are coming fast into use. One of these threshes eight threaves or sixteen flocks in the hour, and may be wrought by one good horse. It threshes perfectly clean, and by these means is reckoned to obtain one boll more in twenty, than is done by the flail. The expence of the machinery is less than 20*l*.—There are two persons employed in constructing these machines, within a mile of the place\*.

About ten acres are covered with a natural oak wood. About 40 acres were begun to be planted with different species of forest trees about the year 1715. The larch has thrived particularly well. Six trees of this species had been planted in 1735, in some openings that had been left in the grove, behind the house of Blairdrummond, that was planted in 1715, and they now overtop greatly all the other trees.—One of them was cut lately, it measured 66 feet in length, and contained 134 feet of wood, reckoned equally good in quality as foreign fir. The five trees remaining contain 550 feet of wood.—About 70 acres have been planted in the course of the last 25 years.

It will not be doubted that the larch occupies a considerable share. It is found to be the best method to plant it without any mixture of other trees, or at least without any dependence upon them for shelter, for, as it grows so much quicker than any, even of the fir or pine species, it is liable to bend towards the N. E. unless sheltered by others.

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\* Wheat is sown commonly in the last week of August, and the two first of September, beans sometimes in February, but generally in the last half of March, and first half of April, barley in the last week of April, and the first week of May.

The barley and wheat harvest begins ordinarily in the middle of August, and that of oats and beans about the beginning of September.

As these plantations have been made chiefly for the purpose of embellishment, they add much to the beauty of the country; they also add considerably to its value. The 30 acres of old plantation, together with the dropping trees in the lawn at Blairdrummond, have been surveyed, and the greater part of the trees measured, and they are valued at 5000l.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 4800 Scotch, and the real rent about L. 3500 Sterling.

There has been very little land sold in the parish for many years past; the price of it has been about 40 years purchase.—The price of barley at an average of 23 years, is 15s 6d per boll of Stirling measure, and the price of oat meal 14s per boll, or eight stone Dutch weight.—The price of beef and mutton in winter is 4d per lb. Dutch weight, in summer 3d, of a hen 1s, a duck 10d, a chicken 4½, milk 2d. per Scotch pint, cheese 3d per lb.—Twenty years ago, the price of beef and mutton was only 2d. or 1½ per lb. a hen cost 7d, a duck 6d. a chicken 2d.—A cart of peat costs 6d. in the moss; a cart of coals consisting of 7 or 8 cwt. costs 1s. 7d½. at Bannockburn, ten miles distant. The carriage to this place 2s. 6d. to Thornhill 3s.

## NUMBER LI.

## PARISH OF LIBERTON •

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD  
OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

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*Situation, Stipend, &c.*

**I**N this parish are three villages of the name of Liberton, Kirk Liberton, Nether Liberton, and Upper and Over Liberton. The former, about two miles south of Edinburgh, situated on a rising sloping ground, has a noble prospect, and is nearly in the centre of the parish. In this village is the church, an antient building. The patrons are the crown, and Mr. Wauchope of Niddry Marshal, *per vices*. The stipend is 21 bolls  $14\frac{1}{2}$  pecks of wheat, 50 bolls of barley, 63 bolls of oats, and L. 23 : 11 :  $3\frac{4}{5}$  in money. There has been no augmentation since the year 1700; at that time an addition was granted of L. 10, which had the appellation of prebends fee. Nothing is allowed for communion elements. The glebe is very inconsiderable, and more than half of it is almost a mile from the manse. In 1630, the total of the tithes of

• Abridged from the copious account of the parish, by the late Rev. Thomas Whyte of Stockbriggs, published in the first volume of the transactions of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland, page 292 to 388.

of Liberton amounted to 52 chalders, 3 bolls, and 3 firlots of victual; their real valuation at present must be ten times as much. The schoolmaster of Liberton has a salary of about 200 merks, besides 40 merks as session clerk, and 52 merks as the interest of a mortification. Besides the public, there are private schools in different places of the parish, for teaching English, arithmetic and writing.

*Extent, and Population.*—The parish is large, containing 62 ploughgates of land, which, at the ordinary computation of 45 acres to a ploughgate, give a total of 4140 statute acres of arable ground. It is more populous than any other country parish in the Presbytery of Edinburgh, that of St. Cuthberts excepted, containing 3457 souls, whereof 755 reside in Gilmerton. On an average of 20 years preceeding 1786, there were 130 baptised, 25 couples married, and 102 buried. For 20 years preceeding 1725, the annual average of baptisms was 117, of marriages 20 couples, and of burials 106. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was 2793 souls, and the inhabitants seem still to be on the increase, on account of the lime works, and the colliery at Gilmerton.

*Charitable Funds.*—For many years past, the collections at the church doors have amounted at a medium to L. 42 *per annum*, the mortcloths to L. 22, the rents of houses gardens and seats in the church belonging to the poor, to L. 21 : 7 : 4, amounting in whole to L. 85 : 7 : 4; all which is expended each year. Besides these, L. 5, the interest of a legacy, is yearly distributed to the distressed and languishing; and L. 40 is bestowed every Christmas, by the direction of those who have landed property, on certain poor labourers, whose work is mostly without doors, and who, on that account, may be prevented from working by the severity or in-



clemency of the season. By the destination of the donor, none are to have more than L. 5 and none less than 50s. *per annum*. The magistrates of Edinburgh are trustees of this charity, which was the donation of Commodore Alexander Horn, a native of this parish. In the memorably severe year 1783, the poor were supported by the accumulations of a legacy bequeathed by Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, formerly his Majesty's advocate for Scotland, in 1713.

*Minerals, Occupations of the People.*—At Gilmerton there are above 20 seams of coal, from 2½ to 10 feet thick; four or five of these seams are working. The lime-stone quarries at that place yield 70,000 bolls of lime, and employ 35 men, annually; and two other quarries, in the parish, have yielded above 30,000 bolls of lime *per annum*.—There is no place where the poorer sort, who are able or inclined to work, meet with more encouragement than here. Not to mention the draw kiln at Bourdeaux; not to mention the colleries; not to mention those who are employed in the public roads, or those whom the farmers are obliged continually to employ, the quarries, the lime kilns, afford work to great numbers. Many also earn their bread by driving of carts, and they live decently, and become independent. There are no fewer than 131 persons in the parish, who, with their families, depend mainly on the driving of carts. They have of late entered into a society, and observe an annual procession. There are not nearly so many in any other line; there being only 30 farmers, 12 smiths, 14 masons, 17 weavers, and 12 taylors. A great many of the females are employed in washing of clothes, and find their advantage in it.

*Rivulets, Rent, &c.*—There are two rivulets in the parish, which, small as they are, supply no less than eight mills, besides

sides the bleachfield at Peffermill. The grounds of Liberton, in general, independent of the advantages of manure from the city, are as fruitful as any in the neighbourhood. The situation is healthful, and many arrive to a great age.—The valuation of the parish, being the real rent in 1649, is L. 13,585:6:8 Scotch; the real rent at present amounts to L. 10,000 sterling. The upper part of the inhabitants are sober, regular, exemplary, and have always shewn a particular regard to the interests of the poor. The lower sort are often noisy and clamorous, and are rather of violent passions, but soon pacified and appeased. Their morals, in general, are not so unexceptionable as could be wished; and no wonder, when they live in the neighbourhood of such a city as Edinburgh.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In this parish are the principal seats of the two oldest families in Mid-Lothian, the Wauchopes of Niddry Marshall, and the Lords Somerville; the former having been seated here for more than 400 years, and the latter having acquired the estate of Drum in this parish in 1375, by marriage, possesses it at this day, Craigmillar Castle, a favorite residence of Queen Mary, is in this parish, and makes a most venerable appearance,

## NUMBER LII.

## PARISH OF FORFAR.

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

*By the Rev. MR. JOHN BRUCE.*

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*Name and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish, in all writings concerning the patronage, tithes, &c. is designed the parish of Forfar-Restenet; though the latter part of the name is seldom mentioned in conversation or in common writing. Restenet was perhaps the name given to the Priory, expressive of the purpose for which it was built, namely, a safe repository for the charters, &c. of the monastery of Jedburgh; but some take its derivation from a Gaelic word, *Risk*, signifying, as they say, a bog or swamp, which indeed answers to the situation.

Forfar is conjectured to be the same with the antient *Or*, and the Roman *Orrea*, signifying a town situated on a lake, to which description it exactly answers; and the lake to which it stands, has for many ages been known by the name of Forfar.

The parish is divided into burgh and landward; whether Forfar and Restenet have some time or other been two different parishes,

parishes, and afterwards united, is not certain; but the burgh and landward parts of the parish have long had, and continue to have, distinct interests in so far as relates to the supplying of the poor, and they make separate collections for them at the church door.

The form of the parish is irregular, its greatest extent from N. to S. being about 6 English miles, and from E. to W about 5; though in some places, it does not exceed 3 English miles in breadth and 4 in length. The town in which the church and manse are built is situated near the N. W. corner of the parish. The loch of Forfar, the property of the Earl of Strathmore, and a part of the parish of Glamis, formerly washed the border of the minister's glebe in that part which lies contiguous to the manse: and the eastmost house in the parish of Forfar is within a gun-shot of the kirk of Rescobie.

*Town of Forfar.*—Forfar is a royal burgh of considerable antiquity, and the capital of the county of Angus or Forfar; the sheriff whereof has held his court for upwards of two hundred years in this town, which is pretty centrally situated for the administration of justice. It is also the seat of the presbytery of Forfar, consisting in all of eleven parishes, the churches of which lie around it, at, or within the distance of four computed miles, except that of Cortachie which is rather more than five.

The ground on which it stands, with that for a considerable way around, is uncommonly uneven, and covered, as it were, with hillocks of various sizes, as if nature had here, at some period, suffered a convulsion. Though low with respect to the circumjacent ground on every side excepting the West, it is high in comparison to the general level of the country. The lakes and springs, a mile to the east of it, run eastward and empty themselves into the German ocean at Lunan Bay. Its own springs, and those on the west side of it, run directly  
west

west through the fertile valley of Strathmore, till they join the Tay near Perth; and such is level of the country, that it has been thought practicable, and by some an object worthy of commercial attention, to open a communication by a canal between Forfar and the sea in either of these directions\*.

Forfar commands a fine view of the Seedlaw hills and the valley of Strathmore, terminated by the Grampians on the west, the most considerable of which is about 50 miles distant. In that direction is the famous Schihallion.

Forfar is perhaps a singular instance in Scotland, of a town of any note, built at a distance from running water; but the vicinity of the lake with its numerous springs, and the protection of the castle, a place in former times of considerable strength, must have first invited the inhabitants of the country to settle and form a village, which afterwards becoming the occasional residence of Majesty, was distinguished by considerable numbers of royal favours, the memory of which is preserved in the names of places and fields within the royalty, such as the King's muir, the Queen's well, the Queen's manor, the palace-dykes, the guard-breads, &c. †

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\* A few years ago, a young gentleman belonging to the navy conducted, for a wager, a small boat all the way from the loch of Forfar by Perth to Dundee, and was obliged to leave the boat only in one or two places, where a sudden fall of the water made sailing dangerous.

† In the castle of Forfar Malcolm Canmore held his parliament in the year 1057, immediately after the recovery of his kingdom from the usurpation of Macbeth,—A figure of the castle, cut in stone, remains upon the manse and the market cross, and forms the device of the common seal of the burgh; though nothing but some rubbish remains on the spot where it stood. It is probable, the most useful stones have been from time to time abstracted for building houses; and it appears that the west entry to the old church, and a great part of the materials of the present steeple, had been taken from it. From the extent of its territory, and the names of places, it would seem

The burgh is governed by a provost, two bailies, and twelve common counsellors, who are elected annually by themselves with the assistance of four deacons of crafts, who are also members of council, (but chosen by the members of the respective corporations,) and fifteen other burgeses nominated for the occasion, by the retiring provost and bailies.—The annual council, thus consisting of nineteen members, have the privilege of electing a delegate, to vote for the election of one representative in Parliament for the burghs of Perth, Dundee, St. Andrews, Forfar, and Cupar in Fife.—The revenue of the burgh, arising from lands, customs, &c. is supposed, *communibus annis*, to be little below L. 400 sterling clear, and it is yearly increasing.

The incorporation of shoemakers, which is still the richest in the town, was, previous to the year 1745, the most numerous; and the wealth of the place arose chiefly from their in-

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dustry

duce, that the community had been enriched by repeated marks of royal bounty; nor do the inhabitants seem to have been insensible to the kindness shewn them by their sovereigns. A parliamentary ratification, dated 1669, of the Royal writ of *Neodamus*, dated 1665, proceeds upon the abstraction of the original charters and rights of the burgh, and the plundering of the inhabitants in 1651 for their attachment to the Royal Family, and particularly on “the faithful testimony and dissent given by Alexander Strang, late Provost of Forfar, and commissioner for the said burgh, against passing of the unjust act of the pretendit parliament, the 16 of January 1647, entitled, Declaration of the Kingdom of Scotland concerning his Majesties Person.” This act, which bears such honourable testimony to the humanity and public virtue of the chief magistrate of Forfar, besides confirming all the ancient rights and privileges of the burgh, ratifies its right to the patronage and tythes of the parish, disposed by James and Sir George Fletchers of Restenet, and of any fees or rents payable out of the burgh acres to the priory of Restenet, the abbey of Coupar, and Lord Torphichen. In the year 1684, as appears from the date upon it, the market cross was erected, it is said, at the expence of the crown, and it stands to this day, a monument of the loyalty of Forfar, though in the eye of the police it is perhaps a nuisance as an incumbrance on the street.

dustry in manufacturing a peculiar fabric of shoes, which they still carry on to a great extent, it being well adapted to the uses of the country people, particularly in the braes of Angus.—About the year 1745 or 1746 the manufactory of Osnaburgh was introduced here, which from very small beginnings has grown into a great trade, and has become the staple of the place; and the happy influence of which, particularly of late years, is visible in the amazing increase of population and wealth, and the consequent improvement of every thing.—This branch of manufacture was brought to Forfar by a gentleman still living there, who has acquired by it a comfortable independence.—His brother, a weaver in or near Arbroath, (about the year 1738 or 1739) having got a small quantity of flax unfit for the kind of cloth then usually brought to market, made it into a web, and offered it to his merchant as a piece on which he thought he should, and was willing to, lose. The merchant, who had been in Germany, immediately remarked the similarity between this piece of cloth and the fabric of Osnaburgh, and urged the weaver to attempt other pieces of the same kind, which he reluctantly undertook. The experiment however succeeded to a wish.—Many hands were soon employed in the neighbourhood of Arbroath, where a Company was established to promote the business, and from whence the discovery was brought to Forfar at the period above mentioned.—Before that time the flax was dressed by women; there was no cloth made at Forfar, but a few yard-wides, called Scrims; the number of incorporated weavers did not exceed 40, nor were there above 60 looms employed in the town. But in consequence of the act for encouraging weavers, the trade increased so rapidly, that, before the year 1750, there were upwards of 140 looms going in Forfar, and at present there are between 400 and 500.

The knowledge of this art is so easily acquired, the call for  
hands

hands so great; that almost every young man here betakes himself to it. He receives a part of the profit of his work from the very day his apprenticeship begins; in a year or two he is qualified to carry on business for himself, and able to support a family, and so he marries and multiplies; and this facility of acquiring a living at an early period of life is one great cause of the rapid increase of population. To this also it is owing, perhaps, that other professions, less profitable and more difficult to acquire, are seldom pursued by the young men of this place; and it is a fact worthy of notice, that there has not been above one or two apprentice taylor in Forfar these seven years past.

The Osnaburgh trade is indeed a fluctuating one, and when the demand for that fabric slackens at any time, it brings many of the young and unprovident into difficulties, and oftentimes adds to the number of the poor. But when the trade is good (and it has been for sometimes past more stable and more flourishing than ever it was known before), the profits of it, with the government bounty, are sufficient to support the sober and industrious weaver against the influence of a falling market.—Manufacturers are just now giving from 15s. to 20s. for working the piece of ten dozen of yards, which a man of good execution will accomplish in nearly as many days; and a man working his own web, has been known to produce 18 such pieces by his own hands in the space of 19 weeks.—This however is allowed by all to be extraordinary, though it shews what sobriety and diligence may do.

The trade and wealth of Forfar having increased so rapidly since the year 1745, must naturally be supposed to have produced great alterations in the appearance of the place and the manners of its inhabitants. Accordingly their buildings, their expence of living, and their dress are almost totally changed since that period. And there is a remarkable difference, even



within these 10 years, not only in all these respects, but also in their amusements.

About and before the year 1745 there were few private houses covered with slate, and the masonry of almost all of them was of a very inferior kind; since that time almost every new house has been covered with slates of a coarse kind, of which there are plenty in quarries within the royalty, and several of the principal ones with Easdale. A thatched house is scarcely to be seen, and the masonry of such houses as have been built of late years is neat and substantial; the inhabitants appearing to have caught a new taste in building from the pattern set them in the new Town-house and new Church, which are of neat modern architecture.

Like most towns in Scotland, Forfar had been built without any regular design, as every man's fancy dictated the situation of his house; now more attention is bestowed in regulating the streets in the extended parts of the town, as well as in removing irregularities in rebuilding houses in the old-street.— There are no uninhabited houses, new ones are extending the town in almost every direction, and house rents are rather on the rise. Most of the houses built for trades-people consist of two stories, having four apartments of about 16 feet square each, one of which, with a portion of the garret, is sufficient to accommodate a weaver with his loom, his furniture and his fuel, and he pays for it, and a few feet of garden ground, from 20s. to 45s. *per annum*, according to its distance from the market-place or its other advantages or disadvantages. The weaver generally prefers the low flat for his operations, and an open exposure, if possible, to the heart of the town \*.

About

\* About 50 or 60 years ago there were not above 7 tea-kettles, as many hand-bellows, and as many watches in Forfar: now tea-kettles and hand-bellows are the necessary furniture of the poorest house in the parish, and almost the meanest menial servant must have his watch.

About

About 1745 the common rent of an acre of burgh land was L. 10 Scotch, including 40d. for ministers stipend. An acre of the same land is now often let at from 50s to L. 3 *per annum*: Several of them near the town bring more than twice as much, and the whole of them have been lately found by a decret arbitral

About the same period, a leg of good beef weighing 4 stone might have been purchased for 5s.; a leg of tolerable veal for 5d. the highest for 1s. and some so low as 2d.½; mutton from 8d. to 1s. per leg; a smaller sort from the Grampians, but of excellent flavour, from 4d. to 5d. per leg. Previous to 1745 there was no meat sold in Forfar by weight, and very seldom was an ox killed till the greater part of the carcase had been bespoken.—A little before that two work oxen, weighing about 30 stone each, were sold in one of the Forfar fairs for 50 merks Scots the head; and both the size of the cattle and the price of them were thought a wonder.

An ox, worth at that time about 40s. supplied the flesh-market of Forfar eight days or a fortnight, except on extraordinary occasions, from Christmas to Lammas. Between Hallowmas and Christmas, when the people laid in their winter provisions, about 24 beeves were killed in a week; the best not exceeding 16 or 20 stone. A man who had bought a shillings worth of beef or an ounce of tea, would have concealed it from his neighbours like murder. Eggs were bought for 1d. per dozen, butter from 3d. to 4d. per lb. and a good hen was thought high at a groat.

The gradual advancement of population, trade, and agricultural improvement, has produced the gradual rise in the price and consumption of all these articles, which within these last twenty years are some of them doubled, and many of them trebled; oat meal too has risen, but not in the same proportion with most other articles. And there are few artificers who cannot well afford to treat themselves and their families frequently with meat and wheaten bread, considerable quantities of both being consumed by them. At an average, there is not less than L. 50. worth of meat sold in the flesh market of Forfar every week throughout the year.—Good meat brings from 3d. to 4d. and sometimes 5d. per lb. and can seldom be purchased in quantities, even at the cheapest periods, for less than 4s. per stone. Eggs which ten years ago sold at 2d. per dozen are now risen to 4d. and sometimes 6d. Hens are from 20d to 1s. Butter from 8d. to 10d. ½ per pound of 24 ounces English—and other articles in proportion. Though this bears hard upon annuitants, yet it is universally allowed that labouring people purchase more of these articles now, and are better able to do it, than when provisions were cheaper.

arbitrary to be worth 25s. per acre, if let *in cumulo* for a lease of 19 years.

Clover grass-feed was first sown in one of the burgh acres about 60 years ago, and the people around run to see it as a curiosity; nor did it become general in this neighbourhood for upwards of 20 years after.

The soil of the burgh acres is of a light nature, and of no considerable depth, having in general a gravel bottom, and it has been said a thousand times, that it and the ground a considerable way round, would take a shower every day in the year without prejudice; yet, being flanked by the range of Seedlaw-hills on the south, of the Grampians on the north, the teeming clouds coming from the west with the prevailing summer-winds, often pass over and shed their fertilizing influence on the hills on either side of this tract, while every thing in the intermediate space was burning up. The soil produces excellent barley, but the oat crops in general are light and punny. The discovery of marle and the increased quantity of hot manure from the town, has improved it very much of late, and the multiplied consumption of the produce has so much excited the industry and attention of the inhabitants, that most of the old fields are in a state of high cultivation, while several extensive ones improved from barren muir produce plentiful crops. It should be observed, however, that the tacksmen of these acres are not in general able to pay the high rent which many of them do, from the produce of the ground, but one must have a cow for his family, and another a horse to carry him to a distant market or bring goods from a sea-port, and he takes a piece of ground near him and pays a premium for his convenience\*.

#### General

\* The effects of this increase of number, trade, and wealth, appear visibly also in the dress of all ranks, and even in the amusements of the more wealthy citizens. Twelve or twenty years ago, it was no uncommon thing to see the

*General Character of the Inhabitants.*—The general character of the inhabitants is that of industry and enterprize. As in other large assemblages of men, instances of dissipation are not wanting, and failures among trading people now and then happen; effects, which a sudden influx of wealth, and inexperience in the paths of extended commerce, seldom fail to produce and multiply; but it has been observed, to the honour of the merchants of Forfar, by the people from a distance who have had long and extensive dealings in this country, that there is no town in Angus, where they find fewer bankruptcies and more punctual payments.

Articles of commerce are greatly more numerous within these few years. Wine of various sorts, which was formerly brought from Dundee in dozens, and seldom used but as a medicine,  
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the wife of a wealthy burgher going to church arrayed in a rich silk gown covered by a homely plaid; now silk mantles and bonnets, and fashionable head-dresses are no rarities; and even the servant maids begin in this respect to ape the dress of their superiors. Formerly a ball or social dance was not thought of above once or twice in a year, and the ladies in general appeared at it dressed in close caps like their grandmothers; for several years past there has been, during the winter season, a monthly concert of Italian and Scotch music, performed by the gentlemen of the place, and followed by a dance, well attended, and presenting a company of ladies and gentlemen dressed in the modern fashion. Entertainments of the same kind are sometimes given in summer; one in particular on the 19th of June, kept as an anniversary in honour of St Margaret, Malcolm Canmore's Queen, to whose munificence perhaps Forfar was much indebted. Buchanan styles her, "*Lectissima et singulari pietate Famina;*" and ascribes many of the best acts of her husband's reign to the influence of her piety and prudence, particularly the abrogation of Ewenus' law of infamous memory. Tradition celebrates her attention to the good instruction of the young women in Forfar, and it is said it was the law of her table, that none should drink after dinner who did not wait the giving of thanks, and hence the phrase through Scotland of the grace drink. These festive scenes are in general enjoyed at little expence, and have contributed not a little to cultivate the manners, and to promote the harmony of this society.

is now imported in pipes, and is a very common drink at private as well as at public entertainments. Porter, which, about 20 years ago was scarcely known, is now brought from London in great quantities and is becoming a common beverage with the lowest of the people. Table-beer is seldom made by private families, but by the brewers in the town, who are a flourishing class of men; from 1600 to 2000 bolls of malt are consumed annually, but the consumpt of this article is lessened since the introduction of porter.

Superfine cloths, and all kinds of cotton, cloth and many other articles formerly got from Dundee, are now to be had in plenty in many shops in Forfar.

Dundee is the nearest sea-port town, and with which Forfar has most frequent intercourse, but it also carries on a trade with Arbroath and Montrose.—The communication with all these places will be greatly facilitated when the turnpike roads leading to them are finished. The turnpike act for this county commenced in June 1789, and the roads to Dundee and Arbroath are now nearly completed. Though the popular prejudice was at first against them, every one begins to see his interest in them now, since as much can be drawn by one horse as could formerly have been done with two, and the toll exigible for a one horse cart per day from Forfar to Arbroath or Dundee, is no more than 4d $\frac{1}{2}$ . on either road. The turnpike road from Forfar to Perth is likewise in great forwardness, and will soon be completed, to the general improvement of the estates through which it passes and the towns to and from which it leads.

One great drawback on the property of Forfar is the scarcity of fuel. Peats have indeed for several years past been obtained from the lands gained by draining the loch of Forfar; these are now nearly exhausted, and a new moss has been opened by the draining Loch-Restenet, which, in its turn; a

few years will see to an end: at any rate the peats got from thence, though a convenient, are by no means a cheap article of fuel; for the poor man, could he afford the money all at once, would be much cheaper, and if cheaper he must be more comfortable, with coal. A considerable quantity of thriving firs are rising on the town's property, and on some of the estates in the neighbourhood; but their number seems by no means adequate to the probable demand for firing, when the mosses shall be exhausted; so that the community's sole dependence for this article, at some future period, will be on coal, which at present is obtained from Arbroath and Dundee, at a very great expence, not less than from 9s. to 10s. 6d. per boll of 70 stone Dutch. In some places of the slate quarries in this neighbourhood, strata of culm-stone have been found, such as indicate the vicinity of coal, and they excited no little expectation some years that this useful fossil might be discovered here. Some feeble attempts towards a discovery were made by the proprietor of one of these quarries, and a few acres around it; but his finances were unequal to the expence, and he met with no support from the public.

There are few places within the royalty, in which a quarry of some kind may not easily be found, so that both stone and slate are comparatively cheap; but the expence of lime and wood, neither of which can be had but from the sea port towns or an equal distance, will probably continue, with the high price of fuel, to obstruct in some measure the growing prosperity of this burgh, till wealth and the spirit of enterprize shall open a communication by water between it and the sea.

In spite of these disadvantages, however, Forfar is, and is likely to continue, a thriving place; situated in the centre of a well cultivated county, the seat of the court of justice, the members of which at a moderate computation bring L. 1500

a year to the town; the place of resort for the free-holders; not only for transacting the business of the country, but for the enjoyment of society in clubs, assemblies, &c. laying on a great road through the kingdom, and open by the turnpikes to a ready intercourse with all her neighbours, possessed also of several substantial manufactures, conducted by men of spirit and industry, who daily stretching out new paths of art and commerce, she must rise, in the nature of things, to greater eminence than she has yet attained.

Many things doubtless are necessary to the accomplishment of this desirable end. A well regulated police, and the suppression of a multiplicity of ale-houses, so dangerous to the morals of the people, are particularly requisite. The clearing and lighting of the streets, and the introduction of water in pipes, are also objects worthy of attention, to which, it is hoped, in time, the people in power well apply their care. — It is also universally allowed, that nothing can contribute more to the civil and religious interests of any society, than a sacred attention to the education of youth. And where the funds of a parish admit of it, as well as those of this district can, there ought to be at least three established schools, one for Latin-grammar, and the other learned or foreign tongues, one for English solely, and one for writing and arithmetic. There are at present two established schools in Forfar, with tolerable appointments, in each of which the master is permitted to teach all the branches of education promiscuously, a method calculated to perplex himself and obstruct the improvement of his pupils. The schools about the middle of this century were in considerable reputation; but the town for many years past has been rather unfortunate in the appointments made to these important offices. The magistrates and council have, however, of late taken such measures as it is hoped shall in fu-  
ture

ture secure the good institution of youth, and raise the schools to some degree of celebrity \*.

The church, situated near the centre of the town, has been rebuilt within these few years, on a plan calculated to contain 2000 hearers. The fabric is elegant and commodious, but disgraced by the contiguity of the old-keele and spire, the battlement of which it over-tops by 12 feet at least.

The town house has also been lately rebuilt; the front in the market place has an agreeable effect, but the apartments for prisoners are dark, damp, and dismal, almost excluded from the sun, and the free circulation of common air; and the general utility of the whole fabric seems to have been sacrificed to the attainment of one large upper room for public business and amusement. The cupola, also intended for an ornament, conveys a mean idea of the genius of the architect. It is evident, alas! for the unhappy prisoner too evident, the genius of Howard sat not at his elbow, when he meditated this wretched design.

The slaughter house, lately in the very centre of the town, has been very properly removed to the north side of it; which, besides ridding the place of a noisome and dangerous incumbrance, must contribute to the health of the inhabitants.

The air of Forfar may be said in general to be salubrious; occasional fogs arise from the lakes and low grounds in the neighbourhood, but have nothing particularly noxious in them. Epidemical distempers sometimes appear, but they are not more fatal than in other neighbouring communities,

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and

\* Within these few years the manse has been repaired at a considerable expence at two thirds of the moneys which would have built a commodious one from the foundation; and yet it is a manse still standing in need of repair; a proof among many of the inattention of heritors to their own interest. Were such public works finished substantially at once, they would cost them less trouble and less expence.



and in general less so. On one occasion the small-pox carried off a great number of children, a circumstance which may be expected some times to happen in places where the prejudice against inoculation has not subsided: this prejudice indeed, as well as other popular errors, daily loses ground; and it is to be hoped that the success attending the practice of this important discovery will make universal converts of the rising generation. In the case alluded to, the inoculated small pox was introduced late in the spring, and children who had not been inoculated received the infection at the commencement of the summer months, which, happening to be warmer than usual, assisted in spreading the contagion. There are many active lively men in Forfar between 70 and 80 years old, several upwards of 80 years with all their faculties entire. One between 90 and 100, who is beginning to feel the infirmities of age; and there was one buried in July 1781 who had attained the age of 100\*.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in the town is very considerable; they are supported by money arising from lands purchased with the donations of Messrs Robert and William Strang mentioned in the preceding note, about the year 1654, amounting to about L 96 yearly; and the money collected weekly at the

\* Of the antiquities of Forfar little can be said, as its charters have been, for upwards of a century, consigned to oblivion by the hand of rebellion and anarchy. A few trials of those unhappy women called witches, together with the bridle with which they were led to execution, are still preserved as monuments of the superstition of our fathers; and the field in which they suffered is pointed out to strangers as a curiosity.

Among the memorials of the good, is justly reckoned a very large bell, sent by Robert Strang merchant in Stockholm as a tribute of respect to his native place; and a table of donations to the poor, to which the said Robert Strang and his brother William contributed the principal share.

the church door, which with the interests of certain savings in former times of plenty, amounts to about L. 100 yearly. Out of these sums, besides a monthly distribution of about L. 6 or L. 7 and occasional supplies in cases of urgent necessity, the poor are furnished with shoes, clothing, and house rent— Since the scarcity in the year 1783, when oat-meal was 20s. per boll, through the increase of the number of poor and the rise of provisions, the funds which before were accumulating have been scarcely adequate to the expenditure; and new methods are now trying to render the supply of the industrious poor more effectual, without increasing the burden of the community. The fact seems to be, that over-grown charity funds, are enemies to industry, as they encourage the idle and improvident, to depend upon them as a security against want in the evening of life. And so they will neither work nor save. For many years preceding the year 1788, provisions were more easily obtained by the poor, than now, by the great quantities of fresh fish with which the market of Forfar was supplied at very reasonable prices, by carriers who gained a livelihood by bringing them almost daily from the sea-port towns. A supply which had its influence also on the price of meat. But since the year 1788 fish have been very scarce, the haddocks particularly have left our coasts entirely, and one great article for the subsistence of the poor, as well as a luxury for the rich, is withdrawn.

There is a weekly market held in Forfar every Saturday; it is well attended, and a great deal of country business is transacted there. A branch of the Dundee Banking Company, and one of the commercial Bank Company of Aberdeen, have been established here for these two or three years, and both have considerable employ\*.

There

\* It is a singular circumstance in the history of this burgh that it obtained

There are several well frequented fairs kept on the main adjoining to the town; the custom of one of them was purchased some time ago from the Earl of Strathmore, and all make a considerable addition to the revenue of the burgh. From Martinmas to Candlemas there is a weekly market on Wednesday, free of custom, held on the street for the sale of fat cattle; and during the seed-time there is one weekly on the same day for the sale of work horses, all of which are well frequented, and occasion the spending a great deal of money in the town, by the country people who attend them\*.

*Surface, Soil, &c.*—The Landward Parish presents a level prospect to the eye, intercepted only by the hill of Balmashinar directly to the south of the town, part of which is within the royalty, and from the top almost the whole parish, as well as a great extent of country beyond it, may be seen at one view. The west end of this hill is the place of execution of public justice, and it is said that it derives its name in the Gaelic, from the complaint of a Highland boy, following his grandfather, who had forfeited his life to the justice of his country.—The soil is various. To the north and south it is in general light and thin, with a gravel bottom, as in the burgh land; about the middle, from the east to west, spouty clay land.

#### Rivers

an act of the Scotch Parliament, in the reign of King James VI. changing its weekly market day from Sunday to Friday. At what time it was changed from Friday to Saturday, the incumbent has not been able to learn, but the reason of the change has evidently been, that Friday interfered with the great weekly market in Dundee, and that the other days in the week were kept as fair days by the other towns in the shire.

\* It is perhaps proper to take notice of the inconvenience which arises to trading people, from the want of a proper and uniform standard of weights and measures. A pound of butter in Forfar is 24 English ounces; in Kirtmair 3 miles distant it is 27 ounces, the same difference obtains in cheese, and a similar one in other articles.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—There are no rivers in the parish, and scarce any stream that deserves the name of a burn. Two trouting-rivers Lunan and Venny, indeed take their rise in this parish but are both inconsiderable rills in so far as connected with it. Such is the scarcity of water, that of 8 mills in the parish, six are driven by water collected from small springs which in summer do little execution, one is driven by wind, and another by a horse.

There were before the draining, three lakes in the parish, Forfar, Restenet, and Fithie; all abounding in pike, perch and eel; and since a communication has been opened by a drain between the Loch of Forfar and the river Dean, trout of a considerable size are sometimes taken; but none of these fish have been brought to market except eels, which some time ago were exposed in great numbers, taken in an ark at the outlet of Loch-Restenet.

The loch of Forfar, upwards of 20 years ago, was drained of about 16 feet perpendicular depth of water. About a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in breadth, of various depth, (from 2 to 22 feet in summer), still remains. No arable land has been gained by this draining, but a very considerable quantity of moss and marle. A cubic yard and an half of solid moss is supposed to produce a cart load of peats, valued, as they lie upon the bank, from 8d. to 1s. To this the expence of digging, drying, and leading must be added to make the full price, and that will be little short of the prime cost. Those who dig and dry them for sale, usually charge the people in Forfar half a crown for a small cart load of dried peats laid down at the door. The boll of marle, consisting of 8 cubic feet, brings 8d. to the proprietor, out of which he pays 1d. for digging or 1½d. for dragging; for they not only dig for the marle at the recovered land, but heave it from the bottom of the lake by a machine, such as is used for clearing the channel  
of

of the Thames; and this operation requires the labour of three men, each of whom in good weather will make from 20d. to 2s. per day. The marle is an excellent manure for the improvement of waste lands, and answers well in compost for most of the ground in this country; the rapid improvement of which is to be dated from its discovery. It is of two kinds, both produced from shells and both equally good, but differing very materially in their consistency. Both of them form, in a short time, a dry and apparently solid mass, and one species continues so, though carried to a distance, like slacked lime; the other by agitation of the carriage becomes in a manner liquid, and cannot without a very close cart be conveyed to any considerable distance.

The draining of the lake cost Lord Strathmore about L. 3000, and it has yielded him from L. 500 to L. 700 *per annum*, but both the moss and the marle are now nearly exhausted; and some years hence, perhaps, the drain being neglected, the loch may again rise to its antient boundaries \*.

#### Loch-

\* Before this loch was drained, and near the north side of it, there was an artificial island composed of large piles of oak and loose stones, with a stratum of earth above, on which are planted some aspen and sloe trees, supposed to have been a place of religious retirement for Queen Margaret. This now forms a very curious peninsula. The vestiges of a building, probably a place of worship, are still to be seen. And it is likely there might be some accommodation too for the occasional residence of the priest of the place, as the remains of an oven were discernible not many years ago, and also something of the furniture of a pleasure garden. It appears that the loch has at some period surrounded the rising ground called the manor, and the adjacent hill on which the castle of Forfar stood; which hill is not, as the authors of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* suppose, artificial, but a conglomeration of sand and fat clay, evidently disposed in various irregular strata by the hand of nature. Besides the fish above mentioned, the loch is frequented by water fowl of various kinds and in the months of July and August. About sun set it is infested, or rather fishers upon it are plagued, by flies of the gnat kind, which fasten in great numbers on every part of their clothes, and leaving their skins, fly off sportive as  
from

Loch Restenet, the property of George Dempster Esq. of Dunnichen, has been lately drained. The extent of ground recovered does not exceed 200 acres, yet the value of the moss and marle has been computed at above L. 50,000. Indeed the marle is supposed to be inexhaustible. Upon the S. W. side of this lake, and almost surrounded by it, stood the priory and the parish church, the ruins of which still remain. There is also standing in a pretty entire state, a very neat steeple and spire built of stone and run-lime with a sort of finearing of polished asher. This is said to have been a dependency of the monastery of Jedburgh, where their valuable papers and effects were kept, as a place of safety from the depredations of the English borderers\*.

Loch-Fithie, a little to the S. of Loch-Restenet, a beautiful little sheet of water is also the property of George Dempster Esq.—It has little, if any, either of moss or marle in it, but abounds in pike and perch. It is about a mile in circumference, of various breadths, and surrounded by a beautiful rising bank, which conceals the prospect of the lake till one comes just upon it, and heightens the delight of the wanderer with unexpected pleasure. The banks are adorned with common fir, larch and spruce trees, in some places agreeably intermixed and well stocked with singing birds. Every thing in this spot con-

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spires

from a prison. The incumbent has often returned home, covered with their *spolia opima*, after receiving no little entertainment from observing their method of disengaging themselves, which overbalanced the annoyance received from their buzzing.

\* In this neighbourhood, and probably in the adjoining muir, in which there are the vestiges of a camp by some supposed to be Roman, Buchanan relates, that a bloody but indecisive battle was fought, about the year 830, between Feredithe the Pictish Usurper, and A!pin King of the Scotch. Several large stones, such as are usually found in Scotland commemorative of similar events, are still standing, though without any inscription, not far from the supposed field of battle.

pires to form a pleasing retreat for the contemplative or the gay. Its worthy owner has lately erected a handsome cottage after an East-Indian model, for the enjoyment of a summer-day with his friends.

*Woods, Rent, &c.*—On several estates in the parish, as well as on the property of the burgh, are thriving plantations of fir from 20 to 30 years old, and it is generally supposed that an acre of thriving fir trees 30 years old, would bring its proprietor at least 20s. for every year of its growth, after paying all expences. This is certainly turning waste lands (and such in general are the lands on which fir thrive best here) to very good account; besides that by the annual shedding of the leaves the soil is enriched, and rendered fitter for the purposes of agriculture when the woods are cut down.—There are 10 heritors in the parish, of whom 4 reside; and there is besides a small estate belonging to the poor of the burgh. The valued rent of the whole parish is L. 2587: 19 Scotch, and the real rent is probably about as much sterling\*.

There are 3 large farms which bring about L. 200 of rent and upwards, three that give about L. 100, 11 or 12 from L. 40 to L. 100 and the rest are small possessions occupied in general by weavers and other artists; for weavers in the country part of the parish, as well as in the town, form the most considerable body of labourers. A weaver in the country, in general, has as much land as will maintain a cow or two, and sometimes a horse, throughout the year; and on most estates in the parish, are little villages peopled chiefly by tenants of this description, who join their horses together to form a plough.

\* There is a considerable part of the landward parish actually within the royalty, the property of the community or of individuals who have feued from it, and consequently not comprehended in the above statement and valuation of the county lands.

plough. The number of weavers in the country in 1791 was 155.

The mode of cultivation after ley is, in general, 1st, a crop of oats; 2dly, lint or oats; 3dly, barley with dung; 4thly, turnips or some other green crop; and 5thly, barley with grass seeds, which remain four or five years under hay and pasture. This practice differs, however, with soil and season and other circumstances, and can hardly be observed by the tacksmen of small pendicles, though every one of them has a part of his small possession in grass, turnips and potatoes, which last is much cultivated throughout all the parish, and forms an excellent succedaneum for meal and a standing dish on the tables of the rich and the poor.

The lands in general will yield from the fifth to the seventh return. Harvest is seldom reaped within three months after sowing, and in some years, particularly in the south part of the parish, which is very wet, it is much later. Agriculture, however, in its improvements, is keeping pace in this part of the country with manufactures. The fields are regularly laid out, inclosures are multiplying, and rents are double and treble what they were twenty or thirty years ago. One farm in particular, which let for a lease of 30 years at about L. 50, has lately been let at between L. 300 and L. 400, and is still thought a good bargain \*.

3 X 2

#### *Population*

\* On some of the estates in the parish, the exaction of bondage-service is still in use; and besides the stipulated rent in money or grain, some tenants pay poultry and pigs, and must leave their own work at the landlord's call, to assist in ploughing, harrowing, cutting the corn, casting peats, driving coal and other errands and carriages, in hay time and harvest, and at any other time of the year. This is indeed agreeable to bargain, and the number of these services is usually specified and valued in the leases; but they are generally as unpopular as impolitic, and accordingly begin to be omitted in new contracts of lease. Mill thirlage also exists in this parish and is considered as a grievance.

About 60 years ago, a principal farm servant might have been had for 35s.

or



## Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755, 2450	Total in the country	1174
————— in 1781, 3800	Families do.	- 269
————— in 1790, 4625	Males 8 years old and up-	
————— in 1791, 4712	wards - -	473
————— in 1792, 4756	Females, do - -	463
Examinable persons in the	In 1792, within the roy-	
burgh in 1790 2667	alty * - -	3800
Under 8 years age, do. 785	Of these, examinable	2925
Total in the burgh 3452	———— under 8 years of	
Families, do. - 983	age - -	875
Males 8 years old and up-	In the landward, in 1792	956
wards - - 1252	Of these, examinable	765
Females do. - 1415	———— under 8 years	
Examinable persons in the	of age - -	191
country part, in 1790, 936	Examinable persons in	
Under 8 years of age, do. 238	communion with the	
	established	

or 40s. the half year, and a woman for 40d. besides her harvest fee. Now many men servants receive L. 12 sterling *per annum*, and few or none less than L. 7; and women servants have from L. 3 to L. 4 a year with a lippie of lint ground, or some equivalent called *bounties*. A man for the harvest demanded formerly half a guinea, now he asks from 30s. to 40s, and is sometimes intreated to take more. A female shearer formerly received from 8s. to 10s. now 20s. and upwards. Male servants in agriculture, besides their wages, get victuals, or two pecks of meal a-week in lieu thereof, with milk which they call *sap*. Cottars generally receive from L. 3 to L. 7 a year, with a house and garden, and maintenance of a cow throughout the year. On this scanty provision they live comfortably, and raise numerous families without burdening the public. A family of nine children has been reared by a labourer of this description without any public aid. The cottar eats at his master's table, or has meal in lieu of this advantage. From 20 to 30s a year are given to a boy, from 10 to 14 years of age, to tend the cattle or to drive the plough.

\* A considerable part of what is called the country parish is actually within the royalty; and there are some houses supposed to be in town, which are built on county lands.

established church, at Whitsunday 1790, a- bout, . . . . .	3213	Examinable persons of the Episcopal persuasion a- bout . . . . .	240
Annual number of com- municants about	1800	Do. of the Secession about	150

	Baptised.	Married.	Buried.
In 1660,	41	26	—
In 1755,	68	—	51
In 1782,	141	43	81
In 1789,	143	45	51
In 1790,	147	34	107*

From the preceding statement of the population, it would appear that Forfar ought to be a collegiate charge.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The poor in the country parish are few, only about 8 or 10 very old or diseased individuals claim the aid of the funds, and they are well supplied at their houses out of the weekly collections at the church, and the interest of accumulated collections in former years of plenty.—They have also a few acres of land, purchased by such contributions, as a reserve against years of scarcity. All the above amount to more than L. 40 sterling. There is not a beggar in the country parish, and only about five or six belonging to the town, who are furnished by the kirk treasurer with a permission-ticket, to distinguish them from strangers and vagrants.

About half a century ago the population of the town and country parish seems to have been nearly equal, the disproportion between them now will appear from the foregoing table.—There has been little alteration in the number of landward parishioners since the year 1781, though during that period there

\* The great increase of burials in 1790, was occasioned by the ravages of the small-pox.

there is an addition of near 1000 inhabitants to the town. The chief causes of this increase have been already pointed out.

The inhabitants of both town and country share alike the praise of industry, economy, and hospitality. If fewer instances of intemperance, impurity, and prodigality appear in the country than in the town in proportion to the number in each, it is perhaps chiefly, because simplicity of manners is less liable to corruption in the former than in the latter, from a multiplicity of low ale-houses, these seminaries of impiety and dissipation.—The farmers and manufacturers in the former, however, have experienced a change in their dress and expenditure as perceptible as what has taken place among the inhabitants of the burgh.

The parishioners are in general attached to the religious establishment of the kingdom. A small society of Episcopalians and another of Seceders form the sum of the sectaries.—A spirit of enquiry and a taste for reading is springing up, and popular superstitions begin to hide their heads. The subscriptions to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *Bee*, and several periodical and other publications, scientific, religious, moral and political, are more numerous of late than could well have been expected; and they already shed an evident lustre on the conversation of many.

The presbytery of Forfar was disjoined from Dundee by an act of the provincial synod of Angus and Mearns, dated Arbroath, 17th April 1717, and the members held their first meeting by appointment at Forfar on 1st May following.

The stipend, as augmented in 1785, is L. 24 : 15 : 9d $\frac{1}{2}$  in money, and 31 bolls 2 pecks of meal, making, at the ordinary conversion, L. 100 neat, L. 5 for communion element money, with a house and garden, and a glebe consisting of about 72 acres.—The new church was opened for public worship on the 9th day of January 1791.—The oldest date upon the manse is 1619.

NUMBER

## NUMBER LIII.

## PARISH OF HADDINGTON.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SY-  
NOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

*By the Rev. DR. GEORGE BARCLAY OF MIDDLETON\*.*

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*Extent and Population.*

**H**ADDINGTON, the county town of East Lothian, is situated about 17 miles east from Edinburgh, and is the first stage on the great post road from thence to London. The word Haddington seems evidently to be of Saxon origin. The greatest extent of the parish is 6 miles from E. to W. and about the same length from S. to N. The river Tyne runs through it from E. to W. and nearly divides it into two equal parts. It contains about 12,000 acres of land, and 3915 inhabitants; of these 2055 reside in the burgh of Haddington, 512 in the suburbs called Nungate and Giffordgate, and 1348 in the country. The parish was more populous about the end of  
last

\* This account is abridged from a very complete, intelligent, and satisfactory history of Haddington parish, published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland, page 40. Some additional observations, communicated by the same author, are incorporated with the original account.

last century than at present. It appears from the register of baptisms, that the number of births, taking them at an average for 7 years preceeding 1684, amounted annually to 199, which supposes a population of about 6000 inhabitants. This decline of population is chiefly to be ascribed to the engrossing of farms, for it is an undoubted fact that the inhabitants of the town have increased within the last 40 years. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, however, amounting only to 3975 souls, it would appear, that the total decrease, since that period, has not been considerable. It is farther to be remarked, that in 1692 the parish of Gladsmuir was erected, which was made up of lands taken from the parishes of Haddington, Tranent, and Aberlady, and that the lands taken from Haddington now contains from 500 to 600 souls.

*Soil, Rent, &c.*—The western part of the parish consists of a large tract of muirish ground of about 1000 acres, called Gladsmuir, formerly possessed by the burgh as a commonity. The rulers of the burgh were advised about 60 years ago to inclose and plant it, and had they done so it must have yielded a considerable revenue; but instead of complying with this advice, it was feued out in small parcels to favourite citizens, who after all were generally losers by their grants; for after expending a good deal of money in inclosing, liming &c. the lands for the most part proved sterile and unproductive. On the failure of the original feuars, great part of the commonity has been acquired by Mr. Buchan of Letham, who has planted many acres of it with oak, fir, birch, &c. which are in general in a thriving condition, and in a few years will be of great value. The barony of Byres has always been esteemed one of the finest estates of its extent in the whole county, it pertained for many centuries to a noble family of the name of Lindsay, ancestors to the present Earl of Crawford, from whom it was acquired  
about

about the beginning of the last century by the Earl of Haddington, and is now the property of the Earl of Hopetoun. The Park of Leithington contains about 400 acres, formerly surrounded with a stone wall 12 feet in height, the work of John Duke of Lauderdale; and was occasioned by the Duke of York telling him before his first journey to Scotland, that he heard there was not so much as a park in Scotland; a few years ago Lord Blantyre reduced the height to seven feet. Amisfield parks contain about 700 acres, and are esteemed the best pasture grounds in the county.

The whole of the parish is arable, except a few hundred acres of the summit of the ridge called Garleton-hills, and about the same extent of woodlands on Gladsmuir and the estate of Coalstown. So extensive a tract as this parish, must naturally be supposed to be composed of a variety of different soils, which is the case. The whole district, however, is in a state of high cultivation, and all inclosed, except a few fields in the neighbourhood of the burgh, which being either burgh lands, or let by the neighbouring heritors to labourers and other poor people, are sometimes managed in a very slovenly manner. There are 109 ploughgates of land in the parish, divided into 30 farms. The valued rent is L: 14,645 Scotch, and the real rent, including the lands in the natural possession of the proprietors, above L: 8000 sterling. Lands near the town are generally rented at L. 3 to 50s. per acre, whilst others of equal quality, at the distance of two miles from the burgh, do not fetch a third part of that rent: The price of provisions is nearly the same as in Edinburgh, and the price of labour just the same as in the neighbourhood of that city. The air is temperate and serene, consequently healthful; instances of longevity are frequently to be met with. A very extraordinary instance occurred in one family, Mr. Alexander Maitland and Catharine Cunningham were married August 6th 1667.

The ages of nine of the children of the marriage amounted to no less than 738 years. Another thing remarkable of this marriage is, that the 18th year of it produced trines, and the 21st twins. The ages of the trines amounted to 256. The fact is ascertained beyond all possibility of doubt, for it was communicated to the writer of this account by Mr Robert Keith, a gentleman of the strictest probity, and himself son to one of the trines.

*Town.*—Haddington is undoubtedly a burgh of great antiquity, for in a charter of Ada widow of Prince Henry, son of David I. foundress of the abbey, she styles Haddington *meum burgum*; it is governed by a provost, two merchant bailies, one trades bailie, a dean of guild, a treasurer, eleven merchant counsellors, one trades counsellor, and seven deacons of crafts. The revenues of the town amount to about L. 400 per annum, arising chiefly from the rent of the mills, petty customs, feu duties of Gladsmuir, &c. The town consists of four streets, intersecting each other nearly at right angles; the only public buildings belonging to the burgh of any consequence, are the town house and school house, the former built from a design of the late William Adam, Esq. in 1748, and the latter, which is large and commodious, contains excellent accommodation for boarders. There are two fairs held annually, one in July, and one in October, but neither of them are much frequented. There is also a weekly market held on Friday, reckoned the greatest in Scotland for all kinds of grain\*. For several centuries past, a species of coarse woollens have been manufactured here, and many weavers, particularly in the Nungate, still make them; but the number of persons employed in this branch is greatly diminished of late.

During

\* See the fairs of East Lothian, since 1627, Transactions of the Antiquarian Society, vol. I. st, page 91, 92, 93, 94, 95.

During the time of Cromwell's usurpation, an English Company, of which Colonel Stanfield was the principal person expended a very considerable sum of money in establishing a manufactory of fine woollen cloaths. For this purpose, they purchased some lands formerly belonging to the monastery of Haddington, erected fulling mills, dying houses, &c. and called the name of the place New-mills. After the restoration, by several Scotch acts of parliament, the Company, for their encouragement, were exempted from some taxes, and Colonel Stanfield had the honour of knighthood conferred on him. After his death the manufactory declined, and the affairs of the Company going into disorder, Colonel Charteris purchased their lands and houses, and changed the name from Newmills to Amisfield, in honour of the very antient family in Nithsdale, of which he was descended. A Company was established in 1750 for carrying on the woollen manufactory, and a large sum was subscribed; but the trade proving unsuccessful, the Company dissolved, and a new one formed, which also in its turn was dissolved a few years ago.

*Religious Houses.*—The abbey of Haddington was situated about a mile to the eastward of the burgh, where there is still a little village called the abbey, but the monastery itself is almost entirely demolished. It was founded A. D. 1178, by Ada mother of Malcolm IV. and William the Lion, kings of Scotland, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The foundress and others enriched it with many temporal lands, teinds, and other benefactions. The revenues at the time of the Reformation, as appears from many charters, as likewise from the books of assumption in the Advocates Library, were very considerable. It was soon after erected into a Lordship, in favour of John Master of Lauderdale. It was at this abbey that parliament was convened July 7th 1548, during the siege of  
Haddington,



Haddington, which gave consent to Queen Mary's marriage with the Dauphin, and her education at the court of France.

The parish church is a large and venerable structure; it was formerly the church of the Franciscan monastery; from the stile of architecture, it appears to have been built in the 12th, or 13th century. Only the western part is used for public worship; the remainder of the fabric is unroofed, and going fast to ruin. The patronage of this collegiate charge is in the Earl of Hopetoun.—In the town is a very elegant chapel, for those of the Episcopal communion, built A. D. 1765, to which the present Earl of Wemyss was a very liberal subscriber, having contributed in all about L. 400, nearly one half of the expence of the building.

Haddington has suffered frequently from fire, and from the inundations of the Tyne, which in Oct. 4. 1775, rose 17 feet perpendicular, continued in this state several hours, and then gradually subsided. The mansion house of Clerkington, and the beautiful Chinese bridge over the river were immediately swept away. The whole suburb of Nungate, and more than half of the town were laid under water. The inhabitants were obliged to abandon their houses, and take sanctuary in the fields. Had it happened in the night time, many must have perished; but happily no lives were lost. This inundation was owing to the bursting of a water spout on Lammer muir, for the day was not very rainy.

*Stipends.*—The stipend of the 1st minister is 48 bolls of wheat, 48 bolls of barley, and L. 41 : 15 : 5d. Sterling of money, including L. 8 : 6 : 8d. for communion elements. The stipend of the second minister is 16 bolls of wheat, 32 bolls of barley, and L. 50 Sterling of money. Both ministers have manes and glebes, but the first minister's glebe is but a very small one, amounting only to three acres and a half.

*Schools.*

*Schools.*—There is no legal parochial school. The salaries of the teachers of public grammar, and English schools in Haddington, are paid wholly by the town council out of the revenue of the burgh. The salary of the rector of the grammar school is 400 merks Scots; and the salary of the master of the English school, to which the office of music master is conjoined, is about L. 15 Sterling.

*State of the Poor.*—The money expended for the maintenance of the poor is under the management of a committee of 11; consisting of the two ministers, 3 chosen annually by the heritors, 3 by the town council, and 3 by the kirk session. The money required for this purpose, amounted about 40 years ago, only to about L. 100 Sterling annually, of which the heritors of the landward parish gave L. 40 Sterling, the burgh L. 30 Sterling, and the kirk session L. 30; but the expence has been since gradually increasing, and amounted last year (1791) to above L. 270 Sterling. The number of weekly pensioners is about 130, besides many others who receive occasional charity from the kirk session.

The increase of the number of poor in this place, is in a great degree owing to the prevailing custom amongst the heritors and farmers in the county preserving no cottagers, unless such as are absolutely necessary for persons employed in cultivating their farms; this drives many of the aged and infirm into town, where, after a few years residence, they claim a legal maintenance. If the number of persons who resort to this county from the Highlands as reapers, continues to diminish in the same proportion as it has done for several years past, our landholders and farmers will feel the baneful effects of this piece of œconomy, when it is too late.

*Roads.*

*Roads.*—The post road is supported by the money raised at the different toll bars, which are this year set for L. 981 Sterling. The bye roads are repaired by the statute labour, under the direction of the heritors of the parishes where they are situated. By act of parliament, the trustees have power to convert the statute work into money; the composition usually taken is 20s Sterling for each ploughgate of land, and 1s 6d from each householder who possesses a house not under 20s of rent; but though this amounts to a very considerable sum, yet many of the bye roads are in very bad repair, owing to the nature of the soil, which is generally clayey, and to the great scarcity of materials in many parts of the county.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—John Knox, the famous reformer, was a native of Haddington; the house in the Giffordgate, in which he was born, still remains. The illustrious family of Maitland was for many ages seated at Leithington, in this parish, where the famous Duke of Lauderdale was born in 1616; several of that family are interred in Haddington church, particularly John Maitland, baron of Thirlstane, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, whose monument is graced with an epitaph, composed by his royal master James VI. Amisfield house, in this parish, the property of the Earl of Wemyss, is a capital modern building, the body is 109 feet in length by 77 in depth; the gallery contains many fine paintings, some of them by the first masters: particularly Ver-tumnus and Pomona, by Rubens, for which the proprietor has been offered 800 guineas\*.

\* See a catalogue of all these paintings, Transactions of the Antiquarian Society, vol. 1st, p. 77.—84.

## NUMBER LIV.

## PARISH OF UPHALL.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD  
OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE\*.)

*Population and Agriculture.*

THE parish of Strathbrok or Uphall†, contains 3120 Scotch; or 3922½ British statute acres. The return to Dr. Webster from hence in 1755 was 690 souls. The number of inhabitants in 1778, by an actual numeration, amounted to 583; and in 1781 to 600, and seems likely to increase. The soil is in general a rich mouldering clay on a tilly bottom; but the lower fields are covered with some inches of rich loam, or intermixed with it. 178 acres are planted with fir, oak, spruce and larix. About 60 acres require a four horse plough, and there are 45 ploughs of this sort in the parish. No longer ago than 1768 much of it was divided in the baneful way

\* Abridged from the account of that parish, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan, in the 1st volume of the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland, p. 139,—155.

† *Strathbrok* evidently is a Celtic name, denoting the valley of badgers or brocks; *Upball* or *Opball* signifies in the Gaelic an orchard, but may be referred also to a Saxon origin, Uphall or hill. *Dromsborlan* in this parish, signifies in the Gaelic, either the ridgey field lying near the rising mofs, or, according to the laird of Macfarlane, the field of the rising music.

way of *runrig*. Very little summer fallow was practised; still less of artificial grasses sown; inclosing neither practised nor approved of by the husbandmen; and the general state of agriculture lower than one could have imagined so near a great city such as Edinburgh, from which the medium distance is no more than 11 measured miles. The method Lord Buchan took of introducing a better method, was giving leases for 19 years, putting an end to *runrig*, showing examples of summer fallow, straighting ridges, cleaning, artificial grasses, rolling of grass seeds, and barley stirr, inclosing, draining; all these are now practised by the husbandmen more or less, and they have tasted the fruits of it. The endurance of leases now are 38 and 31 years for inclosing, and 19 or 21 where already inclosed; a good deal of wheat is grown in the parish, and it is very fit for that grain; the barley also and the beans are excellent; the soil is rather too wet and strong for turnip and pease.

*Rent.*—The best inclosed land lets for 30s. an acre, good inclosed land 25s. an acre overhead, middling uninclosed land 25s. the worst 8s. and 9s. excluding muir, of which there is not above 40 or 50 acres. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4262 Scotch.

*Sheep, Exports, &c.*—Sheep are not much in use, because there are few stone fences, and the plantations are young. Oxen are not so much used as formerly, nor as much as they ought to be. The nearness of the parish to Edinburgh occasioning much cart work, and oxen not being so fit for that sort of labour. Large quantities of milk, butter, eggs and poultry are carried into that city; and, what is remarkable, it is but lately since the people fell upon the expedient of using

a single horse cart, instead of a carrier's horse, which is a saving of 50 per cent.

*Villages, &c.*—Broxburn, so called from the rivulet of that name, the only village in the parish, is now on the increase, and is let out on building leases of 99 years, at the rate of L. 3:4 per acre. Here is an annual fair in August. Timber is scarce, and consequently dear; the Scottish pine does not thrive so well as the oak, ash, and beech. The great willow thrives wonderfully, and is an useful tree for many country purposes.

*Roads.*—The high roads are supported by the statute labour and subscription; the statute labour amounts to 15s. per plough; at an average a plough pays L. 45 of rent. The materials for the roads are a species of basalt rock, which runs in a ridge from N. W. to S. E. in the parish, and is excellent for that purpose. A chain of good road may be formed and laid 24 feet broad for about 24s. and finished off at 28s.

*Minerals.*—In the parish are a colliery, two free stone quarries, many seams of ironstone, one above and one below two seams of coal; two lime quarries, but not wrought at present, whin-stone, basalts, slate-stone, some coarse fullers earth, potters-clay, brick-clay, coarse red chalk, stone-marle, and small quantities of shell-marle. The coal is of excellent quality, raised at a moderate expence, and sold at 5s. and 6s. per ton. From 10 to 12 pickmen are employed in this colliery.

## NUMBER LV.

## PARISH OF ABERLADY.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

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*Situation.*

**A**BERLADY church stands near the shore, about 15 miles east of Edinburgh. The parish is bounded on the N. W. by the sea, on the S. by Gladsmuir and Haddington, and on the E. by Haddington and Dirleton parishes, being separated from the last by the water of Peffer, which falls into Aberlady bay at Luffness point. From this point the whole bay between Aberlady and Gulan shores is left dry at low water for near two miles. At spring tides, vessels of 60 or 70 tons may come up the Peffer to within a few hundred yards of Aberlady, and lie perfectly safe upon a soft clay bottom, if properly secured by anchors against the N. E. wind. Along the shore from Aberlady to the westmost part of the parish, runs a track or border of links or sandy ground, of considerable breadth, abounding with rabbits.

*Said*

\* Abridged from the Topographical Description of that parish, by the Rev. Dr. Neil Roy, in the first volume of the Transactions of the Antiquaries in Scotland, page 512—522.

*Soil and Surface.*—Within this border, for a considerable way, the soil is, for the most part light, with a mixture of loam; but the middle part of the parish, almost from the E. to the W. extremity of it is generally poor, flat, sandy, and partly liable to be flooded during heavy rains. From this flat, the ground rises gradually toward the S. being part of that fertile bank of land which extends from Fawlsyde to Whitekirk. The landed property of this parish, exclusive of a small part of Redhouse, is divided into four baronies, Aberlady, Gosford, Balncriff, Luffness.

*Population.*—The whole of that landed property, exclusive of some inclosures about the houses of Balncriff and Gosford, and a few acres belonging to feuars in Aberlady, is possessed by eight farmers. The farms are large, which is unfriendly to population. The village of Gosford is entirely destroyed, and that of Balncriff falling into decay. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, however, was only 739 souls. By an accurate enquiry very lately made, from house to house, the number of souls was found to be precisely 800, of which number 386 were in the village of Aberlady. At an average of births and marriages for the last 25 years, there have been exactly 4 births to each marriage.

*Parochial Funds.*—There are no charity funds or mortified money in the parish, except 1600 merks by Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford; the yearly interest of which is ordered to be paid to backgone tenants, and others on these lands. The poor, who are not very numerous, are supported by the weekly collections at the church doors, aided occasionally by a voluntary parochial assessment, of which the tenants pay one half. These assessments have been so moderate, that for 21



years past, the heritors have contributed, at an average no more than L. 1 : 7s. annually.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The valued rent of the parish, amounts to L. 7445 : 6 : 8d. Scotch—The old church of Aberlady was a disgrace to the parish; it measured 100 feet in length, by  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet in breadth, and was betwixt 10 and 11 feet in height; the walls were partly built of mud, and the floor was some feet lower than the surface of the ground without. In 1773 the heritors built a very commodious church, adjoining to which are two ailes, in one of which is a monument to the memory of Lady North and Grey, wife of Patrick Lord Elibank, with an inscription composed by his Lordship, who was proprietor of Balncrieff, the most extensive barony in the parish. The Earl of Portmore is patron.

NUMBER

## NUMBER LVI.

## PARISH OF LAMINGTON.

(PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, COUNTY OF LANARK.)

*By the Rev. MR. THOMAS MITCHELL.*

---

*Name.*

**T**HIS parish consists of two baronies, Lamington and Wandel. The first belonging to Lady Ross Baillie, and the other to Lord Douglas of Douglas; and both present to the kirk of Lamington, to which Wandel is annexed.—Lamington is perhaps contracted for Lambington, a place of pasture for sheep on hills extending long and wide; or where was antiently a fair for lambs, which may have given rise to its name. And Wandel, may be put for Wandale; *wan* signifying pale or languid, and *dale*, a valley; and the place exactly answers to that name. As for instance Wandel mill, it being obscured, hidden, and scarcely seen from the high way. The present farmer has built a new house conspicuous at first glance of the eye. And there are in it two or three other farm houses, not in concealed and hollow places as formerly, but in such as are in full view, according to the modern taste.—We differ from our forefathers in this, as in other respects.

We

We chuse for our habitation an high and open place, and in which there is much free air ; whereas they preferred a close and confined place, and low in situation. Thus the old manse or clergyman's house in Lamington, was lower and nearer the burn running through the town, than it is now ; hence it may be taken for granted, that they of old were for the most part, if not always, more healthful than we now are ; and of course, did not so much mind and perceive the want of the free air, as we do.

*Extent, Rivers, &c.*—The extent of this parish is about 9 milts in length, measuring it as lying on the Clyde, and supposed to be between 3 or 4 miles in breadth, taking the adjacent hills into the account. Its form resembles a rectangle, or oblong figure, whose opposite sides are equal.—The parish is situated on the east side of the Clyde and bordering on it.

This river Clyde which gives name to Clydesdale, takes its rise from an hill called Clydeslaw in the parish of Crawford, and about 9 or 10 miles distant from Cold Chapel at the head of this parish. There are 10 burns or rivulets in the parish, 6 in Wandel, and 4 in Lamington.—There may be several mineral waters of great use, if found out. One attributed to a saint, is called St. Innian's Well, and lies a little above the town of Lamington. It is said that slate is found in the hills of Lamington ; and some years ago, search was made for coal about Hartside in Wandel, but failed in the trial. In the same place also, lead was sought for, but the attempt did not succeed.

*Woods, &c.*—There were antiently many woods in this parish, not only about Lamington and in the mains, but also about Wandel, and in Woodend, or Devonshaw, and downwards to Hartside and Braehead, or Devonshaw-hill, which grew all the way up the bank of the Clyde, for the space of 2 miles  
or

or more. Devonshaw is the same with Woodend in the Celtic. And Hartside may be so named from Harts, which animals may have been formerly plentiful in the woods, which then abounded.—The trees now remaining in Lamington, there being few or none in Wandel, are principally the beech, ash, elm, alder, plane, and fir.—There are no thorn hedges here except in the glebes of Wandel and Lamington, in the ridges adjoining to the latter in the high road below Loanhead, and about yards and gardens. For this neglect two reasons are given, first, that the hedges gather flocks of birds, to eat up the grain; and secondly, that when the grounds are inclosed there is not so much open air, to wind their corn after it is cut down, and to make it ready to be led into the barn yard, in a country like this, inccompassed about with hills and high grounds, and consequently liable to wet weather\*.

There is a beautiful and pleasant spot of ground situated on the Clyde, at Whitehill, improved at a great expence, by drains in a long and straight ditch set about with willows about a mile or upwards.—There is scarcely a garden, which deserves the name, as being almost without flowers, and having little or no fruits excepting gooseberries, currants, and blackberries.—Not only the farm houses have a small spot of ground on which are set plants and herbs, but also every cottage almost has a kail yard.

*Extent, Rent, &c.*—The acres in the barony of Lamington are about 4000; and in that of Wandel about 5000, in all 9000. There are about 3000 of the former, and above 4000 of the latter, in high grounds, for pasture of sheep, in grazing

\* These two reasons seem to be unquestionably ill founded, as the hedges many be well pruned, and kept sufficiently thin and low, with some labour, which would be abundantly recompensed by defending the grounds from the encroachment of sheep and other cattle, to which they may be exposed.

ing which at an average, one is allowed to an acre. So that there are about 3000 sheep in Lamington, and about 4000 in Wandel, in all 7000. And besides the sheep now mentioned there are about a score of goats in Cowgill of Lamington. There are about 1000 acres of arable grounds and grafs for cattle in Lamington; and about 900 in Wandel.—The rents in both baronies are nearly equal, between L. 700 and L. 800 each.

*Sheep, and Horses.*—There are only two sorts of sheep, the short and the long, the former, our own breed, are thought to agree best with our hills and high ground. The store-farmers still smear their sheep with tar and butter in this cold and wet climate; and the price of it is 7s. per stone.—There are in the barony of Lamington between 40 and 50 horses, in the town about 10, and in the barony of Wandel about 30, in all between 80 and 90.—There are in the barony of Lamington about 180 cows, in Wandel about 80, and in the town 30, and in all about 290.

*Population Table.*

Number of souls in 1755	599	From 20 to 30	-	69
————— 1792	417	—— 30 to 40	-	34
Under 7 years of age	79	—— 40 to 50	-	39
Above 7	-	—— 50 to 60	-	23
Married	-	—— 60 to 70	-	27
Widowers and widows	36	—— 70 to 80	-	13
From 1 to 7	-	—— 80 to 90	-	1
—— 7 to 14	-	—— 90 to 100	-	1
—— 14 to 20	-	About 100 *	-	1

**Millers**

\* Andrew Grieve, a small farmer at Braehead in Wandel, who possesses a few acres of ground; belonging to Lord Douglas; he is now very frail, and quite wearied of the world; but still retains, in a great measure, his mental powers and faculties in active vigour, and is a living chronicle of the holy scriptures. It is said, that the late minister of Lamington, Mr. Blinball, was 100 years old and upwards.

Millers	-	-	2	Publick houfes	-	2
Weavers	-	-	4	Small merchant-shops	-	4
Smith	-	-	1	Established church	-	414
Cooper	-	-	1	Burgher Seceder	-	1
Wright	-	-	1	Relief Seceders	-	2
Dyers	-	-	2	In Lamington barony		
Taylor	-	-	3	Large tenants	-	8
Huntsman	-	-	1	Small do.	-	14
Shoemakers	-	-	2	Subtenants	-	6
Midwife	-	-	1	In Wandel barony		
Sempstresses	-	2 or 3		Large tenants	-	4
Carrier	-	-	1			

*Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, for 8 Years preceding 1792, extracted from the Parish Register.*

Baptisms.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	9	5	14	4	4
1785	7	6	13	0	12
1786	7	7	14	1	2
1787	3	8	11	4	1
1788	2	6	8	1	6
1789	3	3	6	4	7
1790	6	7	13	4	8
1792	3	6	9	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tota	40	48	88	23	45
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
An. av.	5	6	11	3	5½

There are about 200 communicants in this parish. There were about 400 examinable persons between 30 and 40 years

ago. The decrease is owing to the union of farms in the barony of Wandel.

*Agriculture, Soil, &c.*—There are here, as in other places, some good farmers. In cultivating poor ground, they make folds for the sheep in the night, to enrich it with their dung; and there too they are milked for butter and cheese, the last of which is not a little prized by those who know it.

In wet grounds they make drains to carry off the water, and prepare it for tillage; and they have as good crops on it as in other places. In the neighbourhood of Wiston, on the other side of the Clyde, there is plenty of lime, which some bring, and lay on ley ground that has been grass, and as they say rested for 3 or 4 years, on which are good crops for 2 years, but the 3d. is not so good; and they bring in the ground, as they express it, by sowing on it now and then ryegrass and clover, as in other parts. There is no such thing practised here as fallowing; but instead of that they take a crop of potatoes with the plough, which they think is better than dibbling and covering them with a spade. And some have introduced the sowing of turnips for the cows, and manuring the ground.—The soil varies; in some parts it is dry, thin, light or gravelly, and shallow; in some, wet, heavy and clayey, and in others, thick and deep. It is generally too strong for an English plough of two horses, and therefore 3 or 4 horses, and sometimes 2 horses, and 2 oxen or cows are usually yoked in a plough.—There is here, as in other parts, a change of grain, such as bear or barley, oats, pease and beans, but no wheat is raised. They begin to sow pease and oats about the middle or end of March, and beginning of April; and barley about the end of April and beginning of May, and when they have done with the former, and before they enter upon the latter, they set potatoes, of which every cottage as well as farm house has a quantity sufficient

ficient to maintain them through the winter and spring. The crops are generally late, harvest is begun about the end of August or beginning of September, and it is not finished till the middle or end of October; and sometimes it is a week or two in November, before all is cut down and brought into the barn-yard. The farmers are most afraid of rotting rains and nipping frosts; in consequence of which it is here much the practice of sowing early corn in the spring, and it is not to be omitted mentioning, that every family sows a quantity of flax or lint-seed. Thus a large house sows a peck or an half; and a small cap full, *i. e.* a ferpet or fourth part of a peck\*.

*Climate.*—The air is sometimes moist, and sometimes dry. This being an hilly and mountainous part of the country, it is much exposed to rain in the summer, and snow in the winter; but, notwithstanding these changes, it is not a little healthful to the present inhabitants, they being accustomed to them. The climate here is generally sharp and cold, and that because the places toward Crawford-muir and the Lead-hills are exceeding high, and it varies in different parts as they are more or less elevated.—It is said, that from Cold Chapel, there is nearly the same distance to the sea-ports of Annan, Air, Greenock, and Leith; and in like manner from the town of Lamington to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dumfries, there is nearly the

4 A 2

same

\* The servants here, as in the neighbouring parishes, have their wages almost double of what they had twenty years ago; thus a man for half a year gets L. 4. and a maid L. 1 : 10s. A labouring man gets 8d a day, and his meat through the year; and at harvest a man reaper has 10d a day, and his meat; and a woman reaper 8d, and her meat. Some engage for so much money during the harvest, as a man for L. 1 : 5s. and a woman L. 1. In 1791, oat-meal was sold at between 29s and 30s a load,—and bear at 15s a boll.—Barley at 20d a stone, or thereabouts.—Bear meal at 8d a peck;—and pease meal at 9d. But the price of grain is very precarious.



same distance, so that this parish may be reckoned in the center or heart of the country.

*Schools, Ecclesiastical State, &c.*—There are 2 schools in this parish, one publick at Lamington, and another private at Wandel; the former was new built in 1788\*.—The master's salary is only L. 100 Scotch, and what little more he may make by teaching. And the salary of the school-master in Wandel, is only L. 2 : 5 : 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ . sterling.

The stipend consists of L. 43 : 12 : 6d. from Wandel barony; L. 14 : 12 : 6d. from Lamington barony; 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal; 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of bear; and in all about L. 74. sterling in 1792. The glebe consists of ten acres, four in Lamington, and six in Wandel; and the latter lies adjacent to two parks belonging to Lady Ross Bailie; between 6 and 7 acres are let to the minister at L. 1 : 15s. an acre.

There is in this parish no tax for the poor, their maintenance depends upon the charity of others; the collections in the church on the sabbath day, before the dismissing of the congregation; and on other days by baptisms, marriages, and burials, by mortcloth, bell, and litter; and a little stock which the kirk-session has laid out on interest.—All these put together amount to but a small pittance, or scanty allowance, distributed to each at the rate of 18d, 2s, and 2s 6d a month; but those in more distressing and necessitous circumstances may, have somewhat more bestowed upon them. There is a poors roll

\* In the year 1738, there was a sum mortified by the late Countess of Forfar to the kirk-session of Lamington, to present a burfar to the high-school and college of Glasgow;—a boy born in the barony of Wandel, educated at the school there, and not below eight or above ten years of age,—of which there is a vice every 13 years, and that at the expiration thereof one is to succeed another, if found with the above express conditions and qualifications.

roll or rate, in which are marked their number, and every one's moiety or portion. There are now 9 on the roll. What a pity is it, and matter of grief to the poor, that the heritors do not reside in the parish!\*

*Diseases.*—The diseases incident to this parish, and most prevalent, are, intermitting fevers, rheumatism, Erysipelas or St. Anthony's Fire, and the dropsy; colds and coughs are frequent here; consumptions of late years have carried off several young persons of both sexes between 10 and 20 years of age. The small pox is not now so dangerous as it formerly has been. In 1787 there were in the parish between 20 and 30 inoculated, and they all recovered; and in the year 1792 about as many, who in like manner all did well.

#### *Miscellaneous*

\* There is a Roman camp at White-Hill, near Culter, at one end of the parish in Lamington; at the other end of it in Wandel, at Cold Chapel, there are two Roman camps, one on the road-side between Cold Chapel and Little Gill, and the other on the Arbor-hill, so called, because formerly it may have abounded with trees. At the foot of one of the hills there is a place called Rob's Bog, which, in time of war with England, being covered over with rushes by the Scotch, and the English taking it for safe ground, and passing through it on horse back at full speed, fell into it, and perished there; the stratagem being ascribed to Rob one of the commanders of the Scotch army, the place derived its name from him.

In Birwick heights there is an indelible mark of a furnace, where it is said that a fire was always kept by the druids. Opposite to Lamington, on the other side of the Clyde, is an high mountain called Tinto, or the hill of fire, on which it may be supposed that in like manner a fire was always kept.

In one of the hills above Wandel mill there is Wallace's camp, so called from that great Scotch warrior, who encamped here. There were in this parish anciently four great buildings, called towers; two in Wandel, and two in Lamington, one in the town, and another in the mains; but to say nothing of the three former, it may be mentioned of the latter that the walls still remain some stories high, very thick and strong. It was built by a laird of Lamington,

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The language of this parish is no doubt much inferior to the English in pronunciation and accent; but there are in it few or no peculiarities in articulation and sound as in some countries of Scotland, and even in England. The taste of the age in which we live, is here, as in other parts, much altered from what it was between 15 and 20 years ago, as to expence of living, such as in dress and shoes, meat and drink, tea and tobacco.—The inhabitants of this parish are generally given to industry.—The fuel is mostly coal, there being little use made of peat here, except in the drying of corn, and for the kiln and making of malt.—Most of the people in the town of Lamington have 5 or 6 acres, at L. s : 12 : 6d.—There are two millers, one in Lamington, and the other in Wandel, and the thirlage or multure, which the tenants give to the mill in their own barony, is a mutchkin, or the fourth part of a peck per boll. There is a lint mill in Wandel mill, and a toll in Hartside in the same barony.

ton, of the ancient and honourable name of Baillie, with whom the aforesaid Sir William Wallace was allied by marriage; in proof of which, and as a piece of curiosity, Wallace's chair is now in Bonnington, in the possession of Lady Ros's Baillie, the representative of the family of Lamington, being removed from the tower of that place. The chair is remarkably broad and stout.—There was a beautiful orchard in the mains of Lamington, in which were found all kinds and sorts of the finest and richest fruits, when possess'd by the late laird of Lamington, about half a century ago, or even later, but it is now quite destroyed.

NUMBER LVII.

CITY OF EDINBURGH,

WITH THE

PARISHES OF CANONGATE, ST. CUTHBERTS,  
SOUTH AND NORTH LEITH.

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**I**T would considerably exceed the bounds of a work of this nature, to enter into any minute detail of the antient state of Edinburgh, and its neighbourhood. The history of that city is contained in other publications, to which the reader is referred \*. Some information, however, regarding the progressive state of its population, the commerce of Leith, &c. will not be unacceptable.

By a paper, in the possession of the Session Clerk of Edinburgh, intitled, "A list of the hail possessors (of houses) in the different parishes," the number of families in the year 1678 appears to have been as follows:

In

\* See particularly, Maitland's history of Edinburgh, printed anno 1754, and the history of Edinburgh, by Hugo Arnot Esq. 2d. edition, printed in 1788.

In the N. W. Parish	} now called	Tolbooth	-	-	-	513
N. do.		High Church	-	-	-	389
N. E. do.		College	-	-	-	470
S. W. do.		Old Grayfriars	-	-	-	672
S. do.		Old Church	-	-	-	625
S. E. do.		Tron	-	-	-	664
Total						3333

The old town of Edinburgh at that time consisted of the above six parishes only, consequently the preceding list contained every family then living in what was properly to be called the city of Edinburgh. On the supposition that there were at that time even 6 individuals in each family, the total number of souls would amount to 19,998, which gives but a poor idea of the situation and importance of Edinburgh at that period. If we reckon the Canongate to have contained 2500 inhabitants, the parish of St. Cuthberts 7000, and those of South and North Leith 6000 souls, the total number of individuals in Edinburgh and its neighbourhood, was 35,500 in 1678.

The Rev. Dr. Blair communicated a paper, containing an enumeration of families and examinable persons in the city of Edinburgh, apparently taken in 1722, in which the numbers in each parish of that city were thus stated,

	Families.	Examinable persons.
Tolbooth Parish	701	2418
New-Church, do.	581	2447
College Church, do.	876	2857
Tron Church, do.	718	3007
Lady Yesters, do.	683	1852
Old-Church, do.	557	1924
Haddo's-Hole, or Little-Church, do.	554	1918
Carried over	4670	16423
		East



In the old town of Edinburgh	-	-	31,122
In the Canongate	-	-	4,500
In St. Cuthberts or West-church Parish	4		12,168
In South Leith	-	-	7,200
In North Leith	-	-	2,205
			Total
			57,195

The computation made by Mr. Arnot in 1775, was still more considerable. The number of families in Edinburgh, Leith, and the environs, he states, amounted to 13,806, which, multiplied by 6, makes the number of inhabitants to be 82,836, and to this he proposes to add 1400 for the castle, hospitals, &c. amounting in all to 84,236. But 6 to a family is too high a calculation even for Edinburgh, large as the families there are. Reckoning at the rate of 5 to each family, which, it appears from the enumeration in 1791, is sufficiently high, and adding 1400 for the castle &c. the number of souls in the city and suburbs, including Leith, amounted in 1775 to 70,430

Soon after the Statistical Account of Scotland was set on foot, the ministers and elders of six parishes of the city of Edinburgh, (the High Church, Old Church, Little Church, Lady Yester's, Old-Grayfriars, and St. Andrew's), and the parishes of St. Cuthberts, South Leith, and North Leith, with the view of promoting this work, made an enumeration of the inhabitants within their respective bounds. The numbers in six of the ten parishes of Edinburgh being in this manner actually ascertained, sufficient data were from thence afforded for estimating the numbers of families, and of individuals, in the remaining four parishes; and the result of this enumeration and calculation is exhibited in the following Table of the Population of Edinburgh and its environs in 1791.

High

	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
High-Church Parish - - -	476	951	1294	2245
Old-Church, do. - - -	496	920	1251	2171
Little-Church, do. - - -	498	882	1254	2136
Lady Yesters, do. - - -	583	961	1128	2089
Old Grayfriars, do. - - -	878	1534	1892	3426
St. Andrews, New-Town, do.	1243	2905	4301	7206
Tolbooth Church, do. - - -	500	933	1378	2311
Tron Church, do. - - -	467	875	1283	2158
College Church, do. - - -	662	1349	1710	3659
New-Grayfriars, do. - - -	631	1351	1566	2917
<b>Total in the the city of Edinburgh</b>	<b>6434</b>	<b>12661</b>	<b>17057</b>	<b>29718</b>
In Canongate Parish - - -	1552	2700	3500	6200
In St. Cuthberts, do. * - -	7133	15571	17376	32947
In South Leith, do. - - -	2893	5494	5938	11432
In North Leith., do. - - -	642	1059	1350	2409
<b>Total</b>	<b>18654</b>	<b>37485</b>	<b>45221</b>	<b>82706</b>
In Edinburgh castle † - - -	-	624	223	847
In the Hospitals, Charity Work- house, Infirmary, and Prison of Edinburgh - - -	-	-	-	1333
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>84886</b>

It

\* The families in St. Cuthbert's Parish were not enumerated, but are calculated from the proportions between the families and individuals in the City of Edinburgh.

† In Edinburgh castle,

Commissioned and Staff Officers	-	-	-	-	41
Serjants	-	-	-	-	26
Drummers and pipers	-	-	-	-	14
Rank and file	-	-	-	-	474
Barrack master	-	-	-	-	1
Gunners	-	-	-	-	4
Women	-	-	-	-	158
Children	-	-	-	-	131
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>847</b>



It is to be observed, on the above enumeration, that it must be rather under, than above, the real amount. In some of the parishes, lodgers were not included; and in all of them, the real number of many families could not be obtained, in consequence of the absurd apprehensions entertained, that the enumeration was intended for the purpose of laying on some new tax, in which the people were to be charged higher in proportion to the number of their children. It is probable that from 2 to perhaps 3000 souls more would have appeared on the lists, had the enumeration been more accurate and complete, and had there been no concealment in consequence of the above mentioned prejudices of several of the inhabitants.

There appears, however, at any rate, to have been a very great additional increase indeed to the population of the capital of Scotland and its environs, the progress of which may be stated as follows :

Population of Edinburgh, the Canongate, St. Cuthbert's and Leith, anno 1678			
	-	-	35500
do. in 1722	-	-	40420
do. in 1755	-	-	57195
do. in 1775	-	-	70430
do. in 1791	-	-	84886

#### CANONGATE

In Heriots Hospital, (boys 120, men 8, women 9),	-	-	Total	137
In Watfon's, do.	-	-	-	70
In the Merchant Maiden, do.	-	-	-	90
In the Trades Maiden, do.	-	-	-	62
In the Trinity, do.	-	-	-	54
In the Orphan, do.	-	-	-	160
In Edinburgh Charity Work-house	{	men 97, boys 45, wo-	-	528
		men 343, girls 42 }		
In the Royal Infirmary	{	attendants 33, aver-	-	174
		age of patients 141 }		
In the Tolbooth,	{	jailors 6, debtors 19, criminals, in-	-	58
		cluding those for trifling offences, 32 }		
Total				1331

## CANONGATE PARISH.

OF the 6200 inhabitants of this district, about 1200 are under ten years of age. Of the 1552 families, about 1200 profess the established religion; 80 belong to the Episcopal church, 114 are Seceders, 18 Roman Catholics, and the remaining 140 either sectaries of different denominations, or families who will give no account of their religious persuasion. The population of this parish appears to be pretty stationary for a good number of years past; but a considerable change has taken place with respect to the rank and the opulence of the inhabitants. It was formerly remarkable for the number of noble and genteel families residing in it. But of late, since the increase of the buildings in the New-Town and south districts, the number of these has considerably diminished. The interest of the Canongate, as a burgh, has also been hurt by the alteration of the carriage-road to Leith, which has cut off, in a great measure, the revenue it derived from the customs at the Watergate.

The burgh of Canongate, being a vassalage to Edinburgh, is governed by a baron bailie, and two resident magistrates annually chosen by the Town-Council of that city. Their jurisdiction extends beyond the bounds of the parish, to the east side of the Pleasance, and to the town of North Leith. They are *ex officio* justices of peace.

There are two ministers of the parish of Canongate. One is presented by the Crown, and the other by the joint body of the magistrates, kirk-session, heritors, and deacons of craft of the eight incorporations. The settlement of the last, owing to the number of electors, (about 400), has generally been attended with much difficulty and litigation.

The stipend of the first or senior minister is L. 99 in money

ney, and 51 bolls of victual, in equal proportions of wheat, barley, and oats; besides the interest, at the rate of 5 *per cent.* of L. 500, provided for building or purchasing a manse, if the incumbent shall require it to be laid out for that purpose.

The chapel adjacent to Holyroodhouse was long used as the parish church of Canongate. But, in the year 1686, James II. having resolved to restore the Order of the Thistle to its former splendor, converted it into a Roman Catholic place of worship, for the installment of the knights, and for other solemnities belonging to that ancient Order. The Protestant inhabitants were thereby for a time deprived of a church. The inconvenience of this being severely felt, they gave in a petition to the king, for a grant of as much of a certain sum of money, which had been disposed to the Town-Council of Edinburgh, *anno* 1649, by one Thomas Moodie, for the purpose of building a church, (which purpose had never been fulfilled), as should be sufficient for erecting a parish church in Cannongate. This petition the king was pleased to grant; and, accordingly, the present church was built, and a burial place annexed to it, *anno* 1688, for the sum of 43,000 merks Scotch.—A condition, however, was annexed to this grant, that all persons, having right to seats in Holyroodhouse, should be provided to the same extent in the new parish church. Hence by far the greater part of the area and lofts in the church of Canongate is still the property either of the incorporations, or of noble families, formerly connected with the King's household.

The repairs of the church of Canongate within these thirty years past, have amounted to upwards of L. 2200 sterling. Many disputes having arisen about the property of the church, the administration of the funds arising from it, and the burden of these expensive repairs; a contract of agreement was at last entered into by the magistrates, Kirk Session, heritors, and

and deacons of craft of Canongate, *anno* 1772, vesting the said property and administration, with the burden of repairs, in fifteen delegates, chosen annually, under the appellation of managers of the church and church-yard funds of Canongate, viz.

Six delegates from the heritors.

Three from the magistrates and treasurer of Canongate, one of whom to be always the baron baillie.

Three from the kirk-session.

Three from the incorporations.

The funds under their management are,

1st, The rents of such seats in the church as are not heritable property of individuals, or do not belong to the incorporations.

2dly, The produce of the sale of burial ground; of these, besides the unpurchased ground in the old church-yard, they have now a considerable number for sale in a piece of ground adjacent to it on the East, lately purchased and inclosed for this purpose.

3dly, The surplus of an annuity of four per cent. levied by an act of the Scots parliament, on the rents of houses in Canongate, for the stipend of a second minister of the parish, and certain other purposes therein mentioned.

There never has been any poor rate in the parish of Canongate.

The charity-work-house, which was built by subscription in the year 1761, is maintained from the following funds.

1st, The collections at the church door, amounting on an average of 8 years past, to L. 192 *per annum*.

2dly, A benefit play, granted annually by the manager of the Edinburgh Theatre.

3dly, Dues on mortcloths and private baptisms.

4thly, Dues on funerals passing to other places, when the remains

remains of the dead are lodged in an aisle of the church, appropriated for that purpose.

5thly, Private and occasional benefactions.

The number in the house, in November last, was 38 aged persons, and 35 children, besides 23 out pensioners;—Total 96

There is a public grammar school in the parish under the patronage of the magistrates and kirk-session. The rector has a salary of L. 36 for himself and an assistant.

### ST. CUTHBERT'S OR WEST CURCH PARISH.

	In the suburbs.	Country part.	Total
Parents, Male	3970	605	4575
Do. Female	4604	698	5302
Children, Male	4972	889	5861
Do. Female	5383	830	6213
Lodgers, Male	2021	197	2218
Do. Female	2180	187	2367
Servants, Male	2242	675	2917
Do. Female	2911	583	3494
Total	28283	4664	32947

It is not perfectly easy to draw a precise line between the suburbs and the country, and therefore it is necessary to mention that the inhabitants of Lauriston, Tollcross, Castlebarns, Fountainbridge, West Church Charity-workhouse, Water of Leith, Stockbridge, Silver-mills, Canonmills, Broughton, and Leith Walk, are included in the numbers stated for the suburbs.

It is to be supposed that there are inaccuracies in the general enumeration of the parish, but they cannot be of any importance; and as the survey was made chiefly in the months  
of

of September and October, the numbers, (especially in the article of lodgers) are probably stated below the fact, rather than beyond it.—This parish may contain above 9000 acres; the valued rent is L. 29,536 : 13 ; 4 Scotch, and the real rent of the land may be moderately estimated at L. 22,500 sterling.

**SOUTH LEITH PARISH.**

In this parish are 5142 heads of families, 2439 male children, 2432 female children, 484 male servants, 935 female servants, in all 11432 individuals, and 2893 families. Of these, 423 individuals reside in Restalrig, 557 in Abbeyhill, and 1497 in Calton of Edinburgh.—The valued rent of this parish is L. 6413 : 2 11 Scotch.

In 1784 the trade of Leith was estimated at half a million sterling, according to the following statement.

8 Traders or companies dealing in flax, hemp, iron, ashes, tar, &c.	- - -	L. 160500
10 Do. in wood	- - -	32000
10 Do. in teas, spirits, and groceries	- - -	65000
9 Do. in wine and spirits, hops, &c.	- - -	36500
8 Do. in grain, both by consignment and purchase	- - -	161000
2 Manufacturers of soap and candles	- - -	13000
Rope works, raw materials	L. 12200, labour	
L. 14800	- - -	27000
		<hr/>
<b>Total</b>		<b>L. 495000</b>

Grain imported by the above 8 traders in that article.

Wheat about	60,000 bolls	-	L. 66000
Oats ———	100,000 do.	- -	65,000
Barley ———	20,000 do.	- -	21,000
Pease ———	10,000 do.	-	9,000
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	190,000 bolls		L. 161,000

Ships cleared at the customhouse in 1784.

From foreign parts	- - - -	247
With coals	- - - -	361
Coasters	- - - -	782
In ballast	- - - -	884
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		1774

From the 13th of November 1786, to the 13th of November 1787, there arrived in Leith harbour, the following vessels.

	Foreign.	English.	Scotch.	Total
Ships	- - -	17	10	27
Brigs	- - 11	22	92	125
Sloops	- - 19	282	1407	1708
Tons	- - 3244	26170	75809	105223

During the same period, there came into Leith harbour, from ports within the Firth of Forth 383 vessels with coals, measuring 14,956 tons, and the same number of vessels with other goods, measuring 16,139 tons.

## NORTH LEITH.

*The following Account of this Parish was drawn up by the present incumbent, DAVID JOHNSTONE, D. D.*

*Name, Surface, and Climate.*—The name, Leith, is derived from an old Scotch or Gaelic word, which signifies the mouth of

of the water. North Leith originally belonged to the parish of Holyroodhouse, from which it was disjoined and erected into a separate parish in the year 1606. It then comprehended only the village of North Leith, and the coal hill, which are a part of the barony of Broughton; but, in the year 1630, the baronies of Newhaven and Hillhouse-field, which belonged to the parish of St. Cuthberts or West Kirk, were annexed to it.

The parish is of an oblong figure, extending along the sea shore about an English mile in length, and is a quarter of a mile in breadth; it is bounded by the Firth of Forth, on the north, by the parish of St. Cuthberts on the west, and by South' Leith, on the south and east. The face of the country is flat, and its soil light and sandy; but with the dung procured from the town, it produces wheat, barley, clover and potatoes. It is all inclosed. There are properly no farms in the parish; a few gardeners rent the most of it, and give about L. 3 : 10 per acre. The whole lands do not exceed 170 acres, of which there may be about 20 in kitchen gardens. The only heritor is Mr Robertson of Lady-kirk. The rest are feuars, who hold of the trinity-house Leith.

The air, in general, is sharp, clear and healthy; the place has been much frequented, of late years, for sea bathing, and a number of houses has been erected for the accommodation of strangers. In the months of April and May, an east wind generally prevails, which occasions damp and foggy weather.

*Population.*—In the year 1745, the number of inhabitants was about 1400. For 25 years past, the incumbent has taken up a roll of them every year, in course of ministerial visitation, and finds the souls amount at present to about 2400. This year, 1791, the number of families is 642, and the individuals are 2409, of which 1350 are females, and 1059 are



males; so that the females exceed the males by 291; upon an average, they are somewhat under four to a family. About 12 months ago, 100 families were dispossessed, and their houses pulled down to open a passage to the new bridge; but the people seem to have got lodgings in the town, as the numbers are not diminished. Two large houses are erected in place of the old ones, which will accommodate 20 families.

By a medium of births for 20 years; they amount to 82 annually, but in these are included several from South Leith, who attend public worship in North Leith, and have their childrens names registered there; 1800 of the parishioners live in North Leith, Coalhill and Citadel; the other 600, reside in the fishing town of Newhaven and in detached houses in the country. The number of marriages, at an average, is 25. There is no register kept of the dead, as the people grudged the expence of it; and, indeed, it would not ascertain the number of those who die in the parish, with any precision, as a great many from South Leith and the neighbourhood, bury in North Leith church-yard. Almost all the parishioners attend the established church. The number of other persuasions does not exceed 50. There are no very old people in the parish; a few exceed 80 years.

*Manufactures and Rent, &c.*—The principal manufacture in the place is ship-building, and a number of fine vessels from 200 to 300 tons have been lately built. There are 5 master-builders, who employ about 152 carpenters, whose wages are about 1s 10d a day each. There have been two dry docks erected within these sixteen years, one of which lets at L. 130 per annum; the other is still more valuable, and is in the possession of the proprietor. The great bulk of the inhabitants are carpenters, sailors, and fishermen; there are a few anchor smiths, and weavers.

The

The rent of the houses in North-Leith is valued at L. 500 per annum. The tithe of fish, which belongs to the kirk-session, yields L. 63 : 10s, but that arises chiefly from the dry fish from Zetland; this was purchased from Lord Holyroodhouse, who succeeded the abbot of that name, at 1800 merks, and is part of the fund for paying the ministers stipend.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 1220 Scotch.

Haddocks used to be plenty on the coast, but of late they have disappeared; they were in greatest perfection in the months of May and June. There are abundance of lobsters, oysters, and muscles in the neighbourhood; the lobsters are in season in the summer months; the oysters and muscles, from September to May. There are no sea weeds of any consequence, a few are sometimes cast ashore with an East wind, but are scarce worth gathering for manure.

By an account taken from the custom-house books, where an exact register of ships belonging to the place is kept, it appears, that in the beginning of this year (1791), there were 165 vessels of different burthens; their tonnage amounted to 16,445 tons, and they were navigated by 915 men and 70 boys. The principal trade of the place is to the Baltic, which of late years has greatly increased, and a number of ingenious spirited merchants have engaged in it.

*Fortifications and Bridge.*—A citadel was erected by Oliver Cromwell, with five bastions, three of which remain, and two of the gates. It was in a great measure demolished after the Restoration, and the site of it given to the Duke of Lauderdale, from whom the Council of Edinburgh were obliged to purchase it for the enormous sum of L. 6000.—About ten years ago, a battery of nine guns was erected to the west of the citadel, for the defence of the harbour, occasioned by the appearance of Paul Jones in the neighbourhood, with three armed

ed vessels, who spread a general alarm over the whole coast, and threatened to destroy the ships both in the road, and in the harbour. An officer, with eighteen or twenty artillery men constantly reside in the battery, and keep it in excellent order; it would accommodate a much larger number, and it has been proposed to make it the head quarters of the company.

There was a stone bridge of three arches, across the harbour, near the church, which was built originally by the abbots of Holyrood-house; and seems to have been rebuilt by the inhabitants of North Leith, in the year 1602. A toll was then levied upon it for every horse, cow, and sheep, and every man and woman with a burden; but there is no mention made of a carriage of any kind, which shews that there were then none in the country. The bridge became afterwards the property of the Town Council of Edinburgh, by a grant from Charles I. and is now removed to enlarge the harbour, a new draw bridge having been lately built, a little farther down. There is only one turnpike road in the parish, upon which there is a toll bar hard by the church yard.

*Ecclesiastical State, and Poor.*—The patronage is vested in the heads of families; and to their honour, for these hundred years, they have been unanimous in the choice of their ministers. The Archbishop of St. Andrews and the Bishop of Edinburgh gave them a great deal of trouble, but the parishioners always prevailed.

Both the church and manse are as old as the times of popery, but they have undergone a variety of repairs; the church received a very considerable one in the year 1736, when it was in a great measure rebuilt. Both the church and manse are upheld by the kirk-session, who likewise pay all the stipend, except 400 merks paid by the parish of St. Cuthbert's, in consequence

quence of the baronies of Newhaven and Hillhousefield being annexed to North Leith. The living altogether, including manse and glebe, may be worth L. 140 per annum, but it depends much on the incumbent being well with his people; the legal stipend does not exceed L. 80. The rest is voluntary.

The number of poor upon the kirk-session's roll is about sixty, and they are chiefly supported by the collections at the church doors; the sum expended upon them, and in educating their children, is about L. 100 per annum. In the winter 1782, when the meal was at 2s 10d a stone, the inhabitants made a contribution for the relief of the indigent, by which means they got meal at 1s per peck, when the market price was 1s 5d.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—The universal fuel is coal, which costs about 10s 6d the deal of 23 cwt.

Beef and mutton vary according to the season, at a medium they may be about 3½ or 4d per lb. It is somewhat remarkable that in the year 1781, when a fleet of near 600 sail came to the road, and continued for seven or eight weeks, they did not raise the price of provisions. Such a quantity of vivres of all kinds was crowded into the place, that near 30,000 strangers were amply supplied, and the inhabitants felt no inconvenience; garden stuffs in particular abounded, which proved a most seasonable relief to the seamen, many of whom were afflicted with the scurvy. Besides the large fleet bound to the Baltic, there were fourteen ships of the line, and upwards of fifty merchantmen from Jamaica, which made a grand and beautiful appearance.

There is a light house with reflecting lamps at the mouth of the harbour, and a beacon a mile distant from thence.

There is an established school in the parish, where about 60 scholars attend. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 8 : 6 : 8d, and he is allowed L. 5 annually, for being session clerk. His school

school wages for teaching Latin, is 5s a quarter, for writing and arithmetic the same, and for reading English, 3s. His fees for proclamation of banns is 4s 10d, for registering births and baptisms 1s 2d.

A Sunday school was established in the parish three years ago, where 100 children attend, and it is of the greatest benefit to the place; young people, who formerly were brought up in the profoundest ignorance, and grossly mispent the Sabbath day, are now taught a reverence for it, and are educated in the principles of religion and morals. The master is allowed five guineas a year, by the Society for promoting Religious Knowledge among the Poor.

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It might have been necessary to have enlarged this part of the work considerably, and for that purpose to have made more extensive inquiries into the statistical circumstances of Edinburgh and its neighbourhood, had not William Creech, Esq. a respectable magistrate of that city, paid particular attention to such inquiries, which led him, some years ago, to draw up a comparative view of Edinburgh in 1763 and 1783; containing many curious particulars, not only relative to that city, but to Scotland in general, with many important observations in regard to the changes which had taken place in that period in the mode of living, arts, commerce, literature, manners, &c. of the inhabitants. As Mr Creech very readily agreed to carry down that information to the present period, it precludes the necessity of any farther investigation of that nature. The reader is therefore referred to the following appendix for the statistical progress, and present state of Edinburgh, and also for an interesting paper respecting such extraordinary physical phenomena as have occurred in Scotland, for some years past.

## APPENDIX

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A P P E N D I X

TO

*VOLUME SIXTH*

OF THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

*SCOTLAND.*

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# L E T T E R S,

ADDRESSED TO

*SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.*

RESPECTING THE

MODE OF LIVING, ARTS, COMMERCE,  
LITERATURE, MANNERS, &c.

OF

*EDINBURGH,*

IN 1763,

AND SINCE THAT PERIOD.

ILLUSTRATING THE

*STATISTICAL PROGRESS OF THE CAPITAL OF  
SCOTLAND.*

TOGETHER WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PHYSICAL PHE-  
NOMENA IN SCOTLAND FOR THE  
LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

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*EDINBURGH.—M DCC XCIII.*





L E T T E R S

TO

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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LETTER FIRST.

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*Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.*

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S I R,

I HAVE often thought, that it might not only be entertaining, but useful, to remark, from time to time, the vicissitudes in civilized society, and the progress of its manners; and, by comparing the present with the past, to examine, whether, as individuals, or as a people, we were improving or declining.

It is frequently difficult to assign a reason for the revolutions which take place in the circumstances and manners of a country, or to trace the causes that have occasioned a change; but, it is evident that the first step towards investigating the cause, is to state the facts. A plan of this kind, frequently repeated, might be of great utility, by leading to cultivation and improvement in some things, and to correction or prohibition in others; while it would, at the same time, afford a valuable fund

fund of facts for the annalist, the philosopher, and the historian.

Every person, whose recollection extends but to a few years past, must be sensible of a very striking difference in the external appearance of Edinburgh, and also in the mode of living, trade, and manners of the people.

Let us state a comparison, for instance, no farther back than between the year 1763 and the year 1783, and from thence to 1793, and many features of the present time will probably appear prominent and striking, which, in the gradual progress of society, have passed altogether unnoticed, or have been but faintly perceived. So remarkable a change is not perhaps to be equalled, in so short a period, in any city of Europe; nor in the same city for two centuries, taking all the alterations together.—When the plans at present in contemplation are completed, Edinburgh will be the most beautiful and picturesque city in the world.

In 1763—Edinburgh was almost entirely confined within the city-walls. The suburbs were of small extent. Nicolson's Street and Square, Chapel-street, the greater part of Bristo-street, Crichton-street, George's Square\*, Teviot-row, Buccleugh-street, St Patrick's Square, &c. &c. to the south, were fields and orchards. To the north, there was no bridge; and (till of late) the New Town, with all its elegant and magnificent buildings, squares, rows, courts, &c. extending upwards of a mile in length, and near half a mile in breadth, did not exist †. It may with truth be said, that there is not

HOW

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N O T E S.

\* What is now George's Square was in 1763 Ross-Park. It was purchased for L.1200; and the ground-rents now yield above L.1000 sterling *per annum* to the proprietor.

† The North Bridge was nearly completed in 1769, when one arch, and the

now in Europe a more beautiful terrace than Prince's Street ; nor a more elegant street than George-street. The views from Queen-street, to the north, exhibit a scene of grandeur and beauty unparal-lelled in any city.

It is a moderate calculation to say, that three millions Sterling have been expended on building, and public improvements, in and about the city of Edinburgh, since 1763; the environs of which cannot be surpassed in views of the sublime, the picturesque, and the beautiful.

In 1763—People of quality and fashion lived in houses, which, in 1783, were inhabited by tradesmen, or by people in humble and ordinary life. The *Lord Justice Clerk Timwald's* house was possessed by a *French Teacher*—*Lord President Craigie's* house by a *Rouping-wife* or *Sales-woman of old furniture*—and *Lord Drumwore's* house was left by a *Chairman* for want of accommodation \*.

In 1786—A bridge to the south, over the Cowgate-street, was built, and the areas for building shops and houses on the east and west side of it, sold higher than perhaps ever was known in any city, (even in Rome, during the most flourishing times of the

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N O T E S.

The abutments to the south, fell suddenly on the 8th of August of that year, and buried 9 people in the ruins.

Three or four scattered houses were then built in the New Town. It was several years after the bridge was rebuilt, before people took courage to erect houses in the New Town.

\* The house of the Duke of Douglas at the Union, is now possessed by a wheel-wright. Oliver Cromwell once lived in the late gloomy Chambers of the Sheriff Clerk. The great Marquis of Argyle's house, in the Castlehill, was possessed by a hosier, at L. 12 *per annum*. The house of the late President Dundas who died in Dec. 1787, is now possessed by an iron-monger, as his dwelling house and ware-room.—A house lately inhabited by one of the present Lords of Session is now possessed by a Taylor.

the republic or the empire), to wit, at the rate of no less than L. 96,000 *per* statute acre; and some areas at the rate of L. 109,000 *per* acre:—and, in 1790, the area at the east end of Milne's Square, sold for above L. 151,000 *per* acre!

In March 1792—The ground for 9 houses on the north of Charlotte's Square sold for L. 2480 or L. 9 *per* foot in front, besides L. 6 yearly, for every 42 feet in front.

The foundation-stone of the South Bridge, over the street of the Cowgate, was laid on the 1st of August, 1785\*. The Bridge, consisting of 22 arches, was built—the old houses were removed—elegant new houses on both sides were finished—the shops occupied—and the street opened for carriages in March 1788—an operation of astonishing celerity!—By this change, Niddry's, Merlin's, and Pebbles' wynds (or lanes) were annihilated; and the oldest stone building in Edinburgh was pulled down, where Queen Mary lodged the night after the battle of Carberry hill †. It was then the house of Sir Simon Preston of Craigmiller, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, 1567.

In 1783—A communication (towards the Castle) between the Old and the New City, was begun by means of an immense mound of earth, above 800 feet in length, across a deep morass, and made passable for carriages in 3 years. Whilst the mound was forming, it sunk at different periods, above 80 feet on the west side, and was again filled up. Eighteen hundred cart-loads of earth, from the foundations of the houses then digging in the New Town, were (upon an average) laid upon

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NOTES.

\* On digging the foundation, which was no less than 22 feet deep, many coins of Edward I. II. and III. were found.

† See an Account and Plate of this House in the Gentleman's Magazine, about three or four years ago.

upon this mound, every day. This is a work unrivalled by any but Alexander the Great's at Tyre \*.

The extent of Edinburgh at present is as follows:—From the west end of Fountain-bridge, to the east end of Abbey Hill is above two English miles. From Broughton on the north to the Grange Toll-bar on the south, is about two English miles.—The circumference, by the report of a Gentleman who walked round it with a view to ascertain this point, is as nearly as he could estimate, seven English miles.

In 1786—The valued rents of houses in Edinburgh, which pay cefs or land tax, were more than double what they were in 1763; and in 1791 they were more than triple †.

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In

N O T E S.

\* The height of this mound, from the surface of the ground, which was formerly a lake, is at the south end 92 feet, and at the north end 58 feet. The quantity of earth that appears at present above the surface, measures 290,167 cubical yards; and, it is moderate to say, that half as much is below the surface. This makes the mound, as it stands at present, 435,250 cubical yards of travelled or carried earth. Then, allowing three cart-loads to each cubical yard of earth, there must be 1,305,750 cart-loads in this mound! It began by the magistrates accommodating the builders in the New Town with a place to lay their rubbish; and this noble and useful communication cost the city only the expence of spreading the earth. Had the city paid for digging and driving the earth, it would have cost them L. 32,643:15 sterling,—supposing the digging, carting, and driving, as low as 6d. per cart-load. It is not yet nearly completed to its full breadth.

† In 1635—The rents within the city were	L. 19,211	10	0
In 1688,	24,353	6	8
In 1751,	31,497	0	0
In 1783,	54,371	0	0
In 1786—The valued rents were above	66,000	0	0
In 1792,	68,997	10	0
In 1791, with Leith and Canongate,	103,922	0	0
In 1792, do.	106,602	0	0

N. B.

In 1763—The revenue of the Post Office of Edinburgh was L. 11,942 *per annum*.

In 1783—The same revenue was upwards of L. 40,000, and is since much increased \*.

In 1763—There were two stage-coaches, with three horses, a coachman, and postilion to each coach, which went to the port of Leith (a mile and a half distant) every hour from eight in the morning till eight at night, and consumed a full hour upon the road. There were no other stage-coaches in Scotland, except one, which set out once a month for London, and it was from *twelve to fifteen* days upon the journey.

In 1783—There were five or six stage-coaches to Leith every half hour, which ran it in fifteen minutes. DUNN, who opened the magnificent hotels in the New Town, was the first person who attempted a stage-coach to Dalkeith, a village six miles distant.—There are now stage-coaches, flies, and diligences, to every considerable town in Scotland, and to many of them two, three, four, and five: To London there were

no

#### NOTES.

\* N. B.—One-fifth is deducted from the real rent in stating the cefs.—Leith and Canongate are not included in the above, (except in the two last articles,) though now one city with Edinburgh. The valuation is confined to the royalty only. Arnot thinks the real rent is a half more than the valued rent. See his Hist. p. 339.

\* In 1698, Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevenson had a grant from King William of the whole revenue of the Post Office of Scotland, with a pension of L. 300 *per annum*, to keep up the post. Sir Robert, after deliberation, gave up the grant, as thinking it disadvantageous.

A curious fact may also be here inserted. In 1634, Charles I. gave a grant to Messrs Dalmahoy, and Davidson, for the exclusive sale of Tobacco in the kingdom of Scotland, for the space of seven years, upon their paying into the Exchequer L. 100. *per annum*.—From 1790 to 1791, the revenue arising from Tobacco (Customs and Excise) was L. 62,211 : 6.

no less than sixty stage-coaches monthly, or fifteen every week, and they reached the capital in four days:—And, in 1786, two of these stage-coaches, (which set out daily), reached London in *sixty hours*, by the same road that required *twelve or sixteen days* for the established coach in 1763\*.

In 1763—The hackney-coaches in Edinburgh were few in number, and perhaps the worst of the kind in Britain.

In 1783—The number of hackney-coaches was more than tripled, and they were the handsomest carriages, and had the best horses for the purpose, of any without exception, in Europe. In 1790, many elegant hackney-chariots were added. There are no other of the kind in Britain that ply the streets†.

In 1783—Triple the number of merchants, physicians, surgeons, &c. kept their own carriages, that ever did in any former period; and the number is since increased.

In 1783—Several Presbyterian ministers in Edinburgh, and Professors in the University, kept their own carriages; a circumstance which, in a circumscribed walk of life as to income, does honour to the literary abilities of many of them, and is unequalled in any former period of the history of the Church, or of the University.

In 1763—Literary property, or authors acquiring money by their writings, was hardly known in Scotland: David

4 E 2

Hume

## N O T E S.

\* A person may now set out on Sunday afternoon after divine service from Edinburgh to London; may stay a whole day in London; and be again in Edinburgh on Saturday at six in the morning! The distance from Edinburgh to London is 400 miles.—Forty years ago, it was common for people to make their will, before setting out on a London journey.

† One hackney-coach lately cost a hundred guineas, and the two horses eighty guineas.



Hume and Dr Robertson had indeed, a very few years before, sold some of their works; the one, a part of the *History of Britain*, for L. 200; the other, the *History of Scotland*, for L. 600;—each 2 vols. in quarto.

In 1783—The value of literary property was carried higher by the Scots than ever was known among any people. David Hume received L. 5000 for the remainder of his *History of Britain*; and Dr Robertson, for his second work, received L. 4500. In sermon-writing the Scots have also excelled; and, although, in 1763, they were reckoned remarkably deficient in this species of composition, yet, 1783, a minister of Edinburgh, wrote the most admired sermons that ever were published, and obtained the highest price that ever was given for any work of the kind.

N. B. The merit of these sermons obtained for Dr Blair a pension of L. 200 *per annum*.

Previous to 1763, the Scots had made no very distinguished figure in literature as writers, particularly in the departments of *History* and *Belles Lettres*: Lord Kames had, in the year before, (in 1762), published his *Elements of Criticism*; Hume and Robertson had made their first essays in the line of *History*, a short time before, as mentioned above.

In 1783—The Scots had distinguished themselves in a remarkable manner in many departments of literature; and, within the short period of twenty years, Hume, Robertson, Kames, Orme, Dalrymples (Sir David and Sir John), Henry, Tytlers (father and son), Watson, Reid, Beattie, Oswald, Ferguson, Smith, Monboddo (Burnet), Gregories (father and son), Cullen, Homes (poet and physician), Monros (father and son), Black, Duncan, Hunter, Stewart (father and son,) Stuart (Dr Gilbert), Blair, Mackenzie, Campbell, Gerard, Miller, Macpherson, Brydone, Moore, Smellie, Mickle, Gillies, Adam,  
Sinclair,

Sinclair, and many other eminent writers, too numerous to mention, have appeared.

In 1764—A riding school was built by subscription, 124 feet long by 42 broad. This institution afterwards received a Royal charter, with a salary of L. 200 *per annum*, to the master.

In 1764—The first academy in the kingdom, for teaching language and science to the deaf and dumb, was begun.

In 1764—The Speculative Society was instituted by six students then at the University, for improvement in composition and public speaking. This Society afterwards built a hall within the University, and furnished a Library for the use of the Members. The institution has been highly useful. It can now boast of eminent members in the Senate, in the Pulpit, in Professors chairs in the Universities, at the Bar, in Medicine, and in various departments of life.

In 1783—The Society of Antiquaries was constituted by Royal charter; and in 1792, published the first volume of their Transactions.

In 1783—The Royal Society of Edinburgh was constituted by Royal charter, and published the first volume of their Transactions in March 1788, and a second in 1790.

From 1780 to 1786—Edinburgh produced two periodical papers, the Mirror, and the Lounger, which have met with much public approbation. No other periodical paper of note has appeared in Britain since the World and the Connoisseur, in 1753 and 1754.

In 1786—A Chamber of Commerce was constituted by Royal charter, for protecting and encouraging the commercial and manufacturing interests of the country. This institution has led the public attention to many useful objects, and has obtained many salutary regulations and laws respecting the general commerce of the country.

There

There was no law, in Scotland, making the wilful sinking of ships a capital crime, till obtained by means of this chamber.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Chamber are printed every year, and distributed to the members on the third Wednesday of January.

In 1790—A society for the improvement of wool was instituted by Sir John Sinclair. This institution has had the effect of rousing attention to this valuable article of manufacture; and has excited much emulation among the farmers and gentlemen. Much labour and expence has been bestowed in collecting the best breeds of sheep, foreign and domestic, and spreading them over the country.

In 1791—A Society was instituted by a few lay sons of Clergymen, for the benefit of the children of the clergy of the established church of Scotland; and in 1792, the subscribers to this laudable purpose were so considerable, that they obtained a Royal charter of Incorporation.

The stipends of the clergy, it must be allowed, have not kept pace with the increasing progress and commerce of the country. It is of great importance to society that some means should be devised to make the situation of their families as comfortable as possible.

In 1763—The stock of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge amounted to L. 30,000.

In 1792, the same stock amounted to about L. 100,000. This fund it is believed is most faithfully applied to the object of the institution. An hundred and sixty thousand children have been educated by this society, and there are ten thousand in their schools this year 1792.

The Fund established in 1744 for the Ministers widows had been calculated on such just principles, that in 1792 the stock

was above L. 90,000.—This stock is lent out at present on heritable security, at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

In 1789—The foundation of a magnificent New College was laid on the 16th of November; the old college having become ruinous, and the class-rooms being unfit to contain the number of students who resorted to this celebrated school of science and literature. So popular was this measure, that in five months the voluntary subscriptions amounted to L. 16,869, and they are now L. 31,600. The estimate for completing the whole is about L. 63,000.—The six columns in the front of this elegant new building are not to be equalled in Britain. The shaft of each is 23 feet high, and 3 feet diameter, of one entire stone.

In 1763—The number of students at the college of Edinburgh was about 500.

In 1791—The number of students entered in the college books was 1255.—And in 1792 the number was 1306.

In 1777—A new, elegant, and commodious edifice for a Grammar-school was built by voluntary subscription.—This school-house cost L. 4000. It consists of one great hall, five teaching rooms, and a library, with smaller apartments.

In 1763—The number of boys at the grammar school was not more than 200.

In 1783—The number of boys at the grammar-school was 500.—It is believed, the most numerous school in Britain.

In 1788—A magnificent pile of building was finished, for keeping the public records and papers of Scotland, called the Register Office. It had been about 18 years in its progress, from the time of laying the foundation stone. It has cost L. 36,000.

In 1788—A large and expensive building was erected by subscription, called the Circus, for the purpose of exhibiting feats of horsemanship, and pantomime entertainments. The money

money received the first 4 months of this exhibition was L. 3000.

In 1792—The Circus was converted into a Play-house, and Edinburgh has now two regular Theatres.

In 1763—There were two newspapers, printed in very small folio, and the advertisements in each were from 10 to 20.

In 1783—The half of an Edinburgh newspaper, which was bought in 1740, for L. 36, was sold for 1300.

In 1790—There were four established newspapers.—And in 1792 six newspapers\*. The size of the paper is as large as any of the kind in Britain, and the advertisements in some of them are from 60 to 100, sometimes more, notwithstanding a heavy and increased duty both on the paper and advertisements.

In 1780—A regiment (the 8th) of 1000 men was raised by the voluntary contributions of the citizens, in two months.

In 1763—There were 396 four wheeled carriages entered to pay duty, and 462 two-wheeled carriages.

In 1790—There were 1427 four-wheeled carriages entered to pay duty, and 462 two-wheeled: And of wains and carts 6450. Till of late the wains and carts could not be ascertained.

In 1763—Few coaches or chaises were made in Edinburgh. The nobility and gentry, in general, brought their carriages from London; and Paris was reckoned the place in Europe where the most elegant carriages were constructed.

In 1783—Coaches and chaises were constructed as elegantly in Edinburgh as any where in Europe; and, it may be added, stronger

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N O T E.

\* The newspapers printed in Edinburgh, December 1792, are 1<sup>st</sup>, The Courant;—2<sup>d</sup>, the Mercury;—3<sup>d</sup>, the Advertiser;—4<sup>th</sup>, the Herald;—5<sup>th</sup>, the Caledonian Chronicle;—6<sup>th</sup>, the Gazetteer.

stronger and cheaper. Many were yearly exported to Peterburgh, and the cities on the Baltic; and there was in 1783 an order from Paris to a coachmaker in Edinburgh, for one thousand crane-necked carriages, to be executed in three years. This trade has since greatly increased.

In 1763—There was no such profession known as a Haberdasher.

In 1783—The profession of a Haberdasher (which includes many trades, the Mercer, the Milliner, the Linen-draper, the Hatter, the Hoſier, the Glover, and many others), was nearly the most common in town; and they have since multiplied greatly.

In 1763—There was no such profession known as a Perfumer: Barbers and Wigmakers were numerous, and were in the order of decent burgesſes: Hairdressers were few, and hardly permitted to dress hair on Sundays; and many of them voluntarily declined it.

In 1783—Perfumers had splendid shops in every principal street: Some of them advertised the keeping of bears, to kill occasionally, for greasing ladies and gentlemens hair, as superior to any other *animal fat*. Hairdressers were more than tripled in number; and their busiest day was Sunday. There was a professor who advertised *A Hair-dressing Academy*, and gave lectures on that *noble and useful art*.

In 1763—There were no Iron Foundries near Edinburgh;—The Carron Company's work was the only one of the kind in Scotland, and it had been established but a few years.

In 1792—There were many extensive Iron Foundries in Scotland, and several in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.→ Cast iron which was formerly imported, is now exported in great quantities.

In 1792—There are several Button Manufactories lately established in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh which were unknown in any former period.

In 1792—Manufactories of shawls and cassimirs have been lately established and brought to wonderful perfection.

It is estimated that the consunt of coals in Edinburgh (on an average) amounts to 500 tons per day.

In 1763—The Starch manufacture was little known or practised; and only about 37,000 pounds weight were manufactured.

In 1790—There were several Starch manufactories. The quantity entered was about 750,000 pounds weight.—The increase, 713,000 lib.

N. B. A very great proportion of this is used for hair-powder; but the quantity cannot be ascertained, as the whole is entered under the denomination STARCH.—

One starch manufacturer has paid at the rate of L. 700 of duty, every six weeks.

In 1763—The revenue arising from the Distillery, in Scotland, amounted to L. 4739 : 18 : 10d.

In 1783—The revenue arising from the Distillery amounted to L. 192,000; consequently 600,000 gallons of spirits must at least have been distilled\*. Since July 1786, the duty has been levied by licence on the contents of the stills. The quantity that might reasonably be expected from the number of stills entered should be thus:

In the Lowlands	1,000,000
In the Highlands	696,000

Total	1,696,000 gallons of spirits.
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N. B.

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N O T E.

\* In 1702—the year of the Union, the quantity of spirits distilled from malted corn was 50,844½ gallons.

In 1760—145,46 gallons

In 1784—268,503 gallons.

In 1791—1,696,000 gallons! as above.

N. B. The Legislature would surely act wisely, by lowering the duty on malt liquor, and increasing it on spirits.—Ardent spirits, so easily obtained, are hurtful to the health, industry, and morals of the people.

In 1763—The gross revenue of the Excise was about L. 130,200

In 1790—The gross revenue of the Excise was about L. 500,000.

At the time of the Union there were no Stamp duties in Scotland.

In 1790—The revenue on Stamps was above L. 80,000 per annum.

In 1763—There was one Glass-house at Leith, for the manufacture of green bottles.

In 1783—There were three Glass-houses;—in 1790 there were six; and as fine chrystal and window glass is made at Leith as any where in Europe.

In 1763—The quantity of Glass manufactured in Scotland amounted to 1,769,712 pounds weight.

In 1790—The quantity of Glass manufactured, amounted to 9,059,904 pounds weight.—Increase 7,290,192.

In 1763—There were three Paper mills in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

In 1790—There were twelve Paper mills in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh; and a vast quantity of Printing Paper was sent to London, from whence it used formerly to be brought. Some of these Paper mills are upon a more extensive scale than any in Britain.

In 1763—The quantity of Paper manufactured was 6400 reams.

In 1791—The quantity of Paper manufactured was upwards of 100,000 reams. Increase 93,600 reams.

N. B.



N. B. Notwithstanding the astonishing increase of stamp-duty, and of paper manufactured, yet Scotland must bring all her stamped paper from London. The very carriage of the stamped paper to Edinburgh, it is believed, costs Government L. 700 *per annum*, when it could be stamped at Edinburgh for a trifle, and the manufacture of paper thereby greatly encouraged. The present mode appears to be neither just nor politic.—By the articles of the Union, Scotland is entitled to have a board of Stamps.

In 1763—There were six Printing-houses in Edinburgh,

In 1790—There were sixteen Printing-houses in Edinburgh.

In 1763—The printed Cottons manufactured amounted to 150,000 yards.

In 1790—The printed Cottons manufactured amounted to 4,500,000 yards. Increase, 4,335,000 yards.

In 1763—The Royal Bank Stock sold at the rate of L. 160 *per cent.*—In 1791, Royal Bank *new* Stock sold at L. 240 *per cent.*

N. B. It would be too tedious to enter into a detail of the history and progress of this Bank.—The capital at present is above L. 600,000; and the liberal support it has given to the landed, commercial, and manufacturing interests of Scotland, has added greatly to the prosperity of the country.

The original shares of the Bank of Scotland, or Old Bank, of L. 83 : 6 : 8, sold, in 1763, at L. 119; and, in 1791, at L. 180.

N. B. This bank has lately obtained an act of Parliament for doubling its capital, or to raise it from L. 300,000 to L. 600,000.

The British Linen Company's Stock, in 1763, and for many years later, sold at L. 40 *per cent.* below par.

In

In 1792—L. 336 of the stock of this company sold for L. 545, that is L. 162 : 4 : 1½ *per cent.*

In the year 1769—The Douglas and Co. Bank was instituted, and the stock subscribed amounted to L. 150,000.—In a few years after, this bank by mismanagement failed; and it is said, this failure occasioned land to be brought into the market, to the value of L. 750,000.

Although this loss was hurtful to many individuals, the country was highly benefited; for the money having been bestowed principally on the improvement of the soil, the gain was lasting, and general.

In 1763—Heriot's Hospital, which holds a great deal of land in the vicinity of Edinburgh, gave feus\* of their ground at the rate of from 3 to 4 bolls of barley *per acre per annum.*

In 1790—Heriot's Hospital feued their land at the rate of from 8 to 10 bolls *per acre* yearly.

N. B. George Heriot, who founded this hospital for the education of boys, was jeweller to James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England. He furnished jewels to Prince Charles, afterwards King Charles I. when he went to the court of Spain, 1623.

These jewels were never paid for by James; but, when Charles I. came to the throne, the debt to Heriot was allowed to his trustees, in part of their purchase of the barony of Broughton, then crown-lands in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. These lands are now a part of the foundation of this Hospital, the revenue of which is at present between L. 3000 and L. 4000 *per annum.*

The sum that now produces this revenue, was, in 1627.  
L.

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N O T E.

\* A feu means a perpetual grant, on payment of a certain sum, or acknowledgement yearly, as may be agreed upon.

L. 29,325 : 10 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; which was lent out for many years at interest. The building of the Hospital, (from a plan by Inigo Jones), cost L. 27,000.—Interest of money then was 10 *per cent.*—There are 125 boys in the Hospital, who are maintained and educated from 7 to 14 years.

The Trinity Hospital is a charitable foundation for decayed burghesses, or their widows and daughters, not under 50 years of age. The revenue in land, houses, and interest of money is about L. 1100 *per annum.*—There are 54 old men and women in the Hospital,—viz. 14 men and 40 women.

The Merchant Maiden Hospital is a charitable foundation for the education and maintenance of daughters of Merchant burghesses of Edinburgh, from 8 years of age to 15. The revenue is about L. 1400 *per annum.* There are 80 girls in this Hospital at present.

The Trades Maiden Hospital, is a charitable foundation for the daughters of decayed tradesmen, members of the 14 incorporations. They are educated from 8 years of age to 15.—The revenue is about L. 650 *per annum.*—There are 60 girls in the Hospital.

Watson's Hospital is a charitable foundation for the education of boys, the sons or grandsons of decayed merchants members of the Merchant Company, The sum mortgaged for this purpose by George Watson, a merchant in 1727 was L. 12,000.—The revenue of this Hospital is now nearly L. 2000 *per annum.* The boys are maintained and educated from eight to fifteen years of age. When put out apprentices, an apprentice-fee of L. 25 is allowed; and, if they have behaved well during their apprenticeship, they are allowed L. 50 to begin the world. There are 70 boys in this Hospital.

The Orphan Hospital is a charitable foundation for maintaining and educating orphans (boys and girls) from any quarter of the kingdom. They are received at 7, and remain till

13 or 14 years of age. They are taught various trades. They make all their own clothes, shoes, bind their own books, &c. There are 160 boys and girls in this hospital.

The stock of the Royal Infirmary, which in 1750 was L. 5000, in 1790 was L. 36,000.—This Infirmary admits above 2000 patients annually; and, on an average, one only in 25 dies. This, on comparison with other hospitals, is not to be equalled in Europe. An account of the most celebrated hospitals in Europe has been published; and, in some, 1 in 11 dies; in others, 1 in 13, and 1 in 16. It is daily attended by three physicians; and the members of the royal College of surgeons attend monthly in their turns.—During the sitting of the College, (from October to May), two of the Professors of Medicine give clinical lectures, on the cases of a selected number of patients.

In 1763, One hundred students attended the Infirmary.

In 1791, Three hundred and twenty-three students attended the Infirmary.

In 1776, A public Dispensary was built by subscription, and supported by voluntary contributions.—This charity is for patients afflicted with chronic diseases, or such as render admission to an hospital improper or unnecessary. They receive advice and medicine gratis; and, in the year 1791, no less than 15,450 patients had been relieved.

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The first spring water brought to supply Edinburgh was in 1681. A leaden pipe of 3 inches bore was then laid from Comiston, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south west of the city, by one Bruschi, a German engineer, and there was no other pipe completed till about the year 1722, when one of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches was laid. These in time were found insufficient for supplying the inhabitants; and, in 1787, an iron pipe of 5 inches diameter was added.—

A

A second iron pipe of 7 inches diameter was laid in 1795; and additional springs 3 miles farther south than the former were taken in.—These pipes have cost the city of Edinburgh an immense sum of money, the last one having cost above L. 20,000. The reservoir on the Castle-hill contains about 300 tons, and the new one at Heriot's hospital contains nearly the same quantity. Edinburgh is amply supplied with as fine spring water as any in Europe, and Leith now partakes of the same advantage. On the 10th of May 1782, after 3 weeks of drought, these springs at the fountain head, yielded 1060 Scots pints (or 4240 English) per minute, or 3000 tons in 24 hours.—After supplying all the inhabitants, a large stream of limpid water runs down the streets for many hours day and night. The like is not to be equalled, it is believed in Europe, except at Bern in Switzerland\*.

In

## NOTE.

\* The increase of inhabitants may, in some measure, be judged of from the above circumstance: Before the above period they must have been supplied with water from pit wells, of which great numbers were on the south of the Cowgate-street. The increase of inhabitants also appears from a list of families taken *Anno* 1687, in the six parishes of which the Old Town of Edinburgh then consisted. The number was as follows:

In the North-west parish, or Tolbooth kirk	Families 519
North parish, or High kirk	389
North parish, or College kirk	470
South-west parish, or Old Greyfriars	672
South parish, or Old kirk	625
South-east parish, or Tron kirk	664
	Total Families 3,333

At an average of six to each family, the number of inhabitants would have been at that time 19,998, within the walls of the city.—Like London, the suburbs are now more extensive than the city.

In 1775—The number of families in Edinburgh, Leith, and the suburbs, is  
far

In 1763—The shore-dues at Leith (a small tax paid to the city of Edinburgh on landing goods at the quays) amounted to L. 580.

In 1783—The Shore-dues at Leith were upwards of L. 4000.

N. B. There was a considerable importation of grain to the port of Leith in 1783, not less than L. 800,000 sterling having gone out of Scotland for this year's deficiency of grain. But the Shore-dues are often above L. 3,500 *per annum*, independent of any extraordinary importation.

From Nov. 1788 to Nov. 1789, they were L. 3455 : 14 : 4.

—This revenue, from its nature, must be fluctuating.

In 1763, and for some years after—There was one ship that made an annual voyage to Peterburgh; and never brought tallow, if any other cargo offered. Three tons of tallow were imported into Leith in 1763, which came from Newcastle.

In 1783—The ships from Leith and the Firth of Forth to the Baltic amounted to some hundreds. They make two voyages in the year, and sometimes three. In 1786, above 2500 tons of tallow were imported directly from the Baltic into

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Leith.

## NOTE.

far as could be ascertained, by a survey for road money, (many industriously avoiding the survey) amounted to 13,806; this, at the same rate of six to a family, (which is held to be a proper ground of calculation in Edinburgh) makes the number of inhabitants 82,836. Besides, this number, is exclusive of the Castle, all the hospitals, poor houses, infirmary, dispensary, &c.—Arnot, upon the same data, says 80,836—but this is a typographical error.—Since 1775, the city and suburbs have been much extended; and the inhabitants must also have greatly increased.

N. B. It is a striking fact, that either the former population of Edinburgh has been very erroneously represented, or the luxury of the present inhabitants has increased in a very uncommon degree; because, without much apparent increase of population, the valued rent of the city and suburbs, according to the cess-books, has been more than doubled.

**Leith.** The importation of Baltic goods into Leith is surpassed by only one, or at most two ports in Britain.

In 1763—Every ship from London or Petersburg to Leith brought part of her cargo in soap.

In 1783—Every ship that went from Leith to London carried away part of her cargo in soap.

In 1763—The quantity of soap manufactured was half a million of pounds weight.

In 1790—The quantity of soap manufactured was six millions of pounds. Increase five millions and an half.

In 1763—The quantity of candles that were entered amounted to 1,400,000 lbs.

In 1780—The quantity was 2,200,000 lbs.

In 1791—The quantity was 3,000,000 lbs. The increase of this article shews the progress of manufactures, for it is believed few candles are either imported or exported.

In 1783—The increase of tonnage in shipping, belonging to the port of Leith since 1763, was 42,234 tons; and since that period, has so greatly increased, that magnificent plans have been formed for enlarging the present harbour, which is found much too small for the number of ships resorting to it.—In 1791, the registered tonnage at Leith was 130,000 tons.

In 1763—There was no such thing known, or used, as an umbrella; but an eminent surgeon who had occasion to walk a great deal in the course of his business, used one about the year 1780; and in 1783, umbrellas were much used, and continue to be so, and many umbrella warehouses are opened, and a considerable trade carried on in this article.—The fashion is spread through Scotland.

In 1763—The wages to maid-servants were, generally, from L. 3, to L. 4, a year. They dressed decently in blue or red cloaks, or in plaids, suitable to their stations.

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In 1783—The wages are nearly the same; but their dress and appearance are greatly altered, the maid-servants dressing almost as fine as their mistresses did in 1763.

In 1763—Few families had men-servants. The wages were from L. 6 to L. 10 *per annum*.

In 1783 and 1791—Almost every genteel family had a man-servant; and the wages were from L. 10 to L. 20 a year.

In 1763—A stranger coming to Edinburgh was obliged to put up at a dirty uncomfortable inn, or to remove to private lodgings. There was no such place as an Hotel; the word indeed was not known, or was only intelligible to persons acquainted with the French.

In 1783—A stranger might have been accommodated, not only comfortably, but most elegantly, at many public Hotels; and the person who, in 1763, was obliged to put up with accommodation little better than that of a waggoner or carrier, may now be lodged like a prince, and command every luxury of life. His guinea, it must be acknowledged, will not go quite so far as it did in 1763.

The quantity of wheat made into flour at the water of Leith Mills, belonging to the incorporation of bakers, was as follows.

Mid Lothian Bolls*.	
In 1750	22,762
In 1760	33,887
In 1770	42,895
In 1791	48,257

This

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N O T E.

\* Two Bolls are nearly equal to an English quarter, or  $\frac{5}{16}$  parts less; or equal to about half a peck.



This gives the proportional increase at these mills only; for besides these, there are Bell's Mills, Silver Mills, Canon Mills, Leith Mills, &c. that grind flour for the city, all of which have increased their quantities in proportion. The bakers of Dalkeith, Muffelburgh, and Lafwade, also send flour and bread to the Edinburgh market. There must now be above 150,000 bolls of wheat annually consumed in this metropolis.

The quantity of butcher meat, can only be ascertained by the number of hides; and, for that reason, no account can be obtained of the quantity brought to the Edinburgh market by the country butchers, who bring a great deal thrice every week throughout the year.

The number killed in Edinburgh is as follows.

In 1775—8,354 oxen,—6,792 calves,—39,370 sheep—47,360 lambs.

In 1776, Edinburgh and Leith included,—10,091 oxen,—8,305 calves, 49,212 sheep, 78,076 lambs.

In 1790, Edinburgh only,—11,792 oxen; 4,500 calves, 37,390 sheep, and 49,200 lambs.

N. B. The number of hogs and pigs cannot be ascertained.

In 1778,—There were 8,400 barrels of oysters exported from the city's fishing grounds. This trade was increasing so much as to threaten the total destruction of the oyster-beds. The magistrates have therefore prohibited the exportation, and even the fishing of oysters under a certain size.

There are immense quantities of Strawberries sold in the Edinburgh market, during the short period that they continue. They are sold, upon an average, at 6d the Scots pint, equal to four English pints, and without any stem or hulk as in other places. It is estimated that 100,000 Scots or 400,000 English pints,

pints are annually sold, in favourable seasons, in the city and suburbs; value L. 2500.—It is impossible to estimate the quantity consumed at the pleasure gardens and places of entertainment in the neighbourhood of the city.—It is known that an acre of Strawberries has produced above L. 50.

It is estimated that L. 1000 a year is paid in Edinburgh during the months of June, July, August, and September, for butter milk, or *four* milk, as it is called; it is sold at one penny the Scotch pint, or 4 English pints.

In 1763—Edinburgh was chiefly supplied with vegetables and garden stuff from Musselburgh and the neighbourhood, which were called through the streets by women with *creels* or baskets on their backs: Any sudden increase of people would have raised all the markets. A small camp at Musselburgh, a few years before had this effect.

In 1783—The markets of Edinburgh were as amply supplied with vegetables, and every necessary of life, as any in Europe. In 1781, Admiral Parker's fleet, and a Jamaica fleet, consisting together of 15 sail of the line, nine frigates, and about 600 merchantmen, lay near two months in Leith Roads, were fully supplied with every kind of provisions, and the markets were not raised one farthing, although there could not be less than an addition of 20,000 men for seven weeks.

The crews of the Jamaica fleet, who were dreadfully afflicted with scurvy, were soon restored to health by the plentiful supplies of strawberries, and fresh vegetables and provisions, which they received. Some merchants in London, who, either from motives of humanity, or esteeming it a profitable adventure, had sent four transports with fresh provisions to the fleet, had them returned without breaking bulk. It is believed that there is scarcely a port in Great Britain, London alone excepted, where such a body of people unexpectedly arriving, could

could have been so plentifully supplied, without increasing the price of provisions considerably to the inhabitants.

I shall now conclude this long letter. The subject of which it treats is curious, but from the mutable nature of human society, it must be continually varying.

It may however be entertaining and perhaps useful, to have marked a train of facts respecting our own short period of observation; although a few years hence, a contrast equally astonishing and interesting may be afforded. No history of the time could have given such a detail.—The rise and fall of nations, and the progress of human society, as connected with these changes, are subjects highly interesting to every contemplative mind. In my next I shall give you some observations on manners, during the same period.—I am,—with much esteem,

SIR,

Your Most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

WILLIAM CREECH.

LETTER

## LETTER SECOND.

*Actas parentum, pejor avis, tulit  
Nos nequiores, mæx daturus  
Progeniem vitiosiore.*

*Quid tristes querimonia,  
Si non supplicio culpa reciditur?  
Quid leges sine moribus  
Vanæ proficiunt?*

HOR.

SIR,

I SHALL now transmit to you a few facts respecting Edinburgh, during the periods mentioned in my former letter, which have a more immediate connection with MANNERS.

A great city in modern Europe has been described to be "A huge, dissipated, gluttonous, collected mass of folly and wickedness." Perhaps this description is applicable, more or less, to every city, as wealth and luxury increase.—For it seems to be a fact established by the history of mankind, that, as opulence increases, virtue subsides. Yet, one should not imagine, *a priori*, that this would always be the case.—But it strongly confirms the judicious observation of Horace.

*Est modus in rebus; sunt certi denique fines,  
Quos ultra, citraque nequit consistere rectum.*

All nations are at first poor, and their manners simple. As they advance to industry and commerce, to a certain degree; they become improved, and enlightened; but opulence introduces indolence, sensuality, vice, and corruption, and they then hasten to decay. In all matters of public or private life the proper *modus in rebus*, is the distinguishing test of good sense.

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The prosperity and happiness of every individual must, in general, depend on his virtue, as must that of the nation, which is composed of these individuals. A corrupted empire must therefore tend fast to ruin, witness the example of France, where all religion had long been a farce, and morals of consequence depraved.

Hence arises the necessity of watching over the manners, as well as the morals of the people, and particularly of the higher ranks, whose example is often pernicious.

But let us see, in a society comparatively small to many others, the effect of the increase of wealth upon manners, whether as tending to improvement, or otherwise. Many changes, however, may be totally unconnected with this cause.

In 1763—People of fashion dined at two o'clock, or a little after it;—business was attended to in the afternoon. It was a common practice to lock the shops at one o'clock, and to open them after dinner at two.

In 1783—People of fashion, and of the middle rank, dined at four or five o'clock: No business was done in the afternoon, dinner of itself having become a very serious business.

In 1763—Wine was seldom seen, or, in a small quantity, at the tables of the middle rank of people.

In 1791—Every tradesman in decent circumstances presents wine after dinner; and many in plenty and variety \*.

In

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N O T E.

\* In 1708—The year of the Union, 288,336 barrels of two-penny ale paid duty.

In 1720—520,478 $\frac{1}{2}$  barrels paid duty.

In 1784—97,577 $\frac{1}{2}$  barrels paid duty.

This is a striking proof of the decrease of malt liquor, and of the consequent increase of the use of wine, and spirituous liquors.

Compare this with the note page 594.

In 1763—It was the fashion for gentlemen to attend the drawing-rooms of the ladies in the afternoons, to drink tea, and to mix in the society and conversation of the women.

In 1783—The drawing-rooms were totally deserted; invitations to tea in the afternoon were given up; and the only opportunity gentlemen had of being in ladies company, was when they happened to *mess* together at dinner or supper; and even then, an impatience was sometimes shewn, till the ladies retired. Card parties, after a long dinner;—and also after a late supper were frequent.

In 1763—It was fashionable to go to church, and people were interested about religion. Sunday was strictly observed by all ranks as a day of devotion; and it was disgraceful to be seen on the streets during the time of public worship. Families attended church, with their children and servants; and family worship was frequent. The collections at the church doors, for the poor, amounted yearly to L. 1500, and upwards.

In 1783—Attendance on church was greatly neglected, and particularly by the men; Sunday was by many made a day of relaxation; and young people were allowed to stroll about at all hours. Families thought it ungenteeled to take their domestics to church with them: The streets were far from being void of people in the time of public worship; and, in the evenings were frequently loose and riotous; particularly owing to bands of apprentice boys, and young lads. Family worship was almost disused. The collections at the church doors for the poor had fallen to L. 1000.

In 1791—The collections at the church doors had risen to L. 1200\*.

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4 H

N. B.

## NOTE.

\* It may be mentioned here, as a curious fact, that, for more than half of this

N. B. The collections above-mentioned respect the established churches of the city only.—There are many chapels and meetings of different persuasions not included.

In no respect were the manners of 1763 and 1783 more remarkable than in the decency, dignity, and delicacy, of the one period, compared with the looseness, dissipation, and licentiousness of the other. Many people ceased to blush at what would formerly have been reckoned a crime.

In 1763—Masters took charge of their apprentices, and kept them under their eye in their own houses.

In 1783—Few masters would receive apprentices to stay in their houses, and yet from them an important part of succeeding society is to be formed. If they attended their hours of business, masters took no farther charge. The rest of their time might be passed (as too frequently happens) in vice and debauchery; hence they become idle, insolent, and dishonest. In 1791, the practice had become still more prevalent. Reformation of manners must begin in families to be general or effectual.

In 1791—The wages to Journeymen in every profession were

#### N O T E continued.

this century, one of the smallest churches in Edinburgh \* has collected more money for the poor, at the time of dispensing the sacrament, than eight other churches did upon the same occasion in 1783.

With the best intention, a Sunday evening's sermon, (by the ministers of Edinburgh in rotation) was instituted for the instruction of servants, who might have been detained from public worship during the day; but, this it is said has been perverted by many to bad purposes, and made an excuse for idleness and vice.

There is another evening sermon, for the common people, supported by private subscriptions, which it is said has been attended with beneficial effects, owing to the care and attention of the managers.

There are two other Sunday evening lectures,—one in the Chapel of Ease.—and one in the Gaelic Chapel;—in this last the service is in the Eric language for Highlanders.

\* The Tolbooth Church.

were greatly raised since 1763, and disturbances frequently happened for a still further increase. Yet, many of them riot on Sunday, are idle all Monday, and can afford to do this on five days labour.

In 1763—The clergy visited, catechised, and instructed the families within their respective parishes, in the principles of morality, Christianity, and the relative duties of life.

In 1783—Visiting and catechising were disused (except by a very few), and since continue to be so: Nor, perhaps, would the clergy now be received with welcome on such an occasion. If people do not choose to go to church, they may remain as ignorant as Hottentots, and the Ten Commandments be as little known as obsolete acts of parliament.—Religion is the only tie that can restrain, in any degree, the licentiousness either of the rich, or of the lower ranks; when that is lost, ferocity of manners, and every breach of morality may be expected.

*Hoc fonte derivata, clades*

*In patriam populumque fluxit.*

In 1763—The breach of the seventh commandment was punished by fine and church-censure. Any instance of conjugal infidelity in a woman would have banished her irretrievably from society, and her company would have been rejected even by men who paid any regard to their character.

In 1783—Although the law punishing adultery with death was unrepealed, yet church-censure was disused, and separations and divorces were become frequent, and have since increased\*. Women, who had been rendered infamous by public divorce, had been, by some people of fashion, again received into society, notwithstanding the endeavours of our worthy Queen to check such a violation of morality, decency,

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N O T E.

\* Records of the Commissary Court.



the laws of the country, and the rights of the virtuous. This however, has not been recently attempted.

In 1763—The fines collected by the kirk-treasurer for bastard children amounted to L. 154; and, upon an average of ten succeeding years, they were L. 190.

In 1783—The fines for bastard children amounted to L. 600, and have since greatly increased.

In 1748—The first correction house for disorderly FEMALES was built, and it cost L. 198:0:4½.

N. B. This is the only one Edinburgh yet has.

In 1791—Manners had been for some years so loose, and crimes so frequent, that the foundation of a large new house of Correction, or Bridewell, was laid on the 30th of November, which, on the lowest calculation, will cost L. 12,000; and this plan is on a reduced scale of what was at first thought absolutely necessary.

In 1763—That is from June 1763 to June 1764, the expence of the Correction house amounted to L. 27:16:1½.

In 1791, and some years previous to it—The expence of the Correction house had risen to near L. 300,—ten times what it had been in the former period; and there is not room for containing the half of those that ought to be confined to hard labour.

In 1763—There were five or six brothels, or houses of bad fame, and a very few of the lowest and most ignorant order of females sculked about the streets at night. A person might have gone from the Castle to Holyrood-house, (the then length of the city), at any hour in the night, without being accosted by a single *street-walker*. Street robbery, and pocket picking were unknown.

In 1783—The number of brothels had increased twenty fold, and the *women of the town* more than a hundred fold. Every quarter of the city and suburbs was infested with multitudes

titudes of females abandoned to vice, and a great many at a very early period of life, before passion could mislead, or reason teach them right from wrong. Street-robbers, pick-pockets, and thieves, had much increased\*.

In 1763—House-breaking and robbery were extremely rare. Many people thought it unnecessary to lock their doors at night.

In 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, and 1787—House-breaking, theft, and robbery, were astonishingly frequent; and many of these crimes were committed by boys, whose age prevented them from being objects of capital punishment. The culprits were uniformly apprehended in houses of bad fame, in which they were protected and encouraged in their depredations on the public. During the winter, 1787, many daring robberies and shop-breakings were committed, by means before unthought of; but the gang were discovered, by one of them becoming evidence against the rest, and the others suffered capital punishment†.

In no respect was the sobriety, and decorum of the lower ranks in 1763 more remarkable, than by contrasting them with the riot and licentiousness of 1783, particularly on Sundays and holidays. The King's birth-day and the last night of the

#### N O T E S.

\* A late calculator estimates 40,000 prostitutes in London.—That is 40,000 wretched human beings in one city, not only lost to themselves and to society, but the cause of extending destruction to others. Is it not worthy of enquiry, how this astonishing change of manners should have arisen, and the probable consequences of its increase to the state? Vice soon spreads its influence from individuals to families—from families to cities—from cities to the empire,—and an empire corrupted is an empire lost.

In high life, the change of manners is equally astonishing, and alarming to the state,—witness the almost daily trials for *crim. con.*

It is believed that one great source of the evil pointed out will be found in the licentiousness of the press, in the present day; and another in the neglect of religious education.—A tax on novels would be a salutary measure in government.

† See Brodie's Trial.

the year were, in 1783, devoted to drunkenness, folly, and riot, which in 1763 were attended with peace, and harmony\*.

In 1763, and many years preceding and following—The execution of criminals was rare: Three annually were reckoned the average for the whole kingdom of Scotland. There were three succeeding years, (1774, 1775, 1776), in which there was not an execution in Edinburgh.

In 1783—There were six criminals under sentence of death in Edinburgh jail, in one week; and, upon the Autumn Circuit, no less than thirty-seven capital indictments were issued.

During the winter 1791—92,—there was not a robbery, house-breaking, shop-breaking, nor a theft publicly known, to the amount of forty shillings, within the city of Edinburgh; —Not a person accused of a capital crime; and, in the jail, only 20 for petty offences, and 19 confined for small debts †.

In 1789—A society was instituted for promoting religious knowledge among the poor, or the ignorant and indigent members of the community. No society is more likely to be of benefit. They print books of moral and religious instruction, which are diffused among the lower ranks. This was a favourite scheme of the late Lord Kames, but it was never carried into execution in his time. A worthy lady left, in 1792, seven hundred pounds to promote the object of this institution.

In 1763—There was no such diversion as public cock-fighting in Edinburgh.

In 1783—There were many public cock-fighting matches,

OR

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N O T E S.

\* From 1788 to 1792, this folly had much abated, by the attention of the Magistrates to strict police.

† To contrast this with London, there were, April 20th, 1792, in Newgate, 406 prisoners, of whom 185 were debtors, 15 under sentence of death, 19 respited during his Majesty's pleasure, 80 transports, 80 under orders of imprisonment for certain determinate periods, and 27 for trial.—This is the account of one prison only in London.

or *mains*, as they are technically termed;—and a regular cock-pit was built for the accommodation of this school of gambling and cruelty, where every distinction of rank and character is levelled.

In 1790—The cock-pit continued to be frequented.

Before 1790—There never was such a thing known as professed bruisers. But in the course of that year a person from England opened a public school for teaching boxing, or pugilism, as it is termed; and he had several public exhibitions at his school, but few pupils. This *branch of education* does not correspond with the mild genius of Christianity, which we profess; and it can be looked on only with pity, even when practised among savages and barbarians.

In 1792—This folly, which had been borrowed from the south, was totally given up.

In 1763—A young man was termed a *fine fellow*, who, to a well-informed and an accomplished mind, added elegance of manners; and a conduct guided by principle; one who would not have injured the rights of the meanest individual; who contracted no debts that he could not pay; and thought every breach of morality unbecoming the character of a gentleman;—who studied to be useful to society, so far as his opportunity or abilities enabled him.

In 1783—The term *fine fellow* was applied to one who could drink three bottles; who discharged all debts of *honour*, (or game debts and tavern bills), and evaded payment of every other; who swore immoderately, and before ladies, and talked of his *word of honour*; who ridiculed religion and morality as folly and hypocrisy, (but without argument); who was very jolly at the table of his friend, and would lose no opportunity of seducing his wife, or of debauching his daughter if she was handsome; but, on the mention of such a thing being attempted to his own connections, would have cut the throat, or blown out the brains of his dearest companion, offering

fering such an insult;—who was forward in all the fashionable follies of the time; who disregarded the interests of society, or the good of mankind, if they interfered with his own vicious selfish pursuits and pleasures.

In 1790—Among the lower orders swearing had increased greatly.—And on trials in the courts of law, perjury had also increased.

In 1791—Immoderate drinking, or pushing the bottle, as it is called, was rather out of fashion among genteel people.—Every one was allowed to do as he pleased, in filling or drinking his glass. The means of hospitality and the frequency of shewing it had increased;—and excess on such occasions had decreased.

In 1763—In the best families in town, the education of daughters was fitted, not only to embellish and improve their minds; but to accomplish them in the useful and necessary arts of domestic economy. The sewing school, the pastry-school, were then essential branches of female education; nor was a young lady of the best family ashamed to go to market with her mother.

In 1783—The daughters of many tradesmen consumed the mornings at the toilet, or in strolling from shop to shop, &c. Many of them would have blushed to have been seen in a market. The cares of the family were devolved upon a house-keeper; and the young lady employed those heavy hours when she was disengaged from public or private amusements, in improving her mind from the *precious stores* of a circulating library;—and all, whether they had taste for it or not, were taught music at a great expence.

In 1791—There is little alteration. Every rank is eager to copy the manners and fashion of their superiors; and this has in all ages been the case. Of what importance, then, is correct and exemplary manners in the higher ranks to the good order of society!

In

In 1763—Young ladies (even by themselves) might have walked through the streets of the City in perfect security at any hour. No person would have interrupted, or spoken to them.

In 1783—The mistresses of boarding schools found it necessary to advertise, that their young ladies were not permitted to go abroad without proper attendants.

In 1791—Boys, from bad example at home, and worse abroad, had become forward and insolent. They early frequented taverns, and were soon initiated in folly and vice, without any religious principle to restrain them. It has been an error of twenty years, to precipitate the education of boys, and make them too soon men.

In 1763—The weekly Concert of music began at six o'clock.

In 1783—The Concert began at seven o'clock; but it was not in general so much attended as such an elegant entertainment should have been, and which was given at the sole expence of the subscribers.

In 1791-2, The fashion changed, and the Concert became the most crowded place of amusement.

The barbarous custom of *saving* the ladies, (as it was called), after St. Cecilia's Concert, by gentlemen drinking immoderately to *save* a favourite lady, as his toast, has been for some years given up.—Indeed they got no thanks for their absurdity.

In 1763—The question respecting the morality of stage-plays was much agitated. A clergyman, a few years before, had been brought before the General Assembly of the Church, and suspended from his office, for having written a tragedy, unquestionably one of the most chaste and interesting in the English language\*. By those who attended the Theatre, even

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without

## N O T E.

\* The Tragedy of Douglas, by Mr Home, then a clergyman.

without scruple, Saturday night was thought the most improper in the week for going to the play. Any clergyman, who had been known to have gone to the playhouse, would have incurred church censure.

In 1783—The morality of stage-plays, or their effects on society were not thought of. The most crowded houses were always on Saturday-night. The boxes for the Saturday-night's play were generally taken for the season, so that strangers often on that night could not get a place. The custom of taking a box for the Saturday-night through the season, was much practised by boarding mistresses, so that there could be no choice of the play, but the young ladies could only take what was set before them by the manager. Impudent buffoons took liberties with authors, and with the audience, in their acting, that would not have been suffered formerly.

The galleries never failed to applaud what they formerly would have hissed, as improper in sentiment, or decorum.

In 1763—There was one dancing assembly room; the profits of which went to the support of the Charity-Workhouse; Minuets were danced by each set, previous to the country dances. Strict regularity with respect to dress and decorum, and great dignity of manners were observed.

In 1786—The old assembly room was used for the accommodation of the city-guard. There were two new elegant assembly rooms built at Edinburgh, besides one at Leith; but the Charity Workhouse was unprovided for to the extent of its necessities.—Minuets were given up, and country dances only used, which had often a nearer resemblance to a game of romps, than to elegant and graceful dancing. Dress, particularly by the men, was much neglected; and many of them reeled from the tavern, flustered with wine, to an assembly of as elegant and beautiful women as any in Europe.

In 1763—The company at the public assemblies met at five o'clock in the afternoon, and the dancing began at six, and ended

ended at eleven, by public orders of the manager, which were never transgressed.

In 1783—The public assemblies met at eight and nine o'clock, and the Lady Directress, sometimes, did not make her appearance till ten\*. The young Masters and Misses, who would have been mortified not to have seen out the ball, thus returned home at three or four in the morning, and yawned and gaped, and complained of headachs all the next day.

In 1790 and 1791—The public assemblies were little frequented. Private balls were much in fashion, with elegant suppers after them, and the companies seldom parted till three or four, or five in the morning.

In 1783—The funds of the Charity Workhouse were insufficient to maintain the poor of the community entitled by law to public charity. The courts of law however, and all who call themselves members of those courts, pay no poor's money, nor lamp and guard money; although the most opulent part of the community; whilst they send at the same time, a very great proportion of managers to dispose of funds, to which they do not contribute; and crowd the house with their poor, to whose support they do not pay. This privilege is pleaded on old acts of parliament, at a period when the courts were ambulatory:—But now that they have been stationary for near two centuries, it is full time it were given up. There is no such privilege existing any where else in Britain. The courts of law in London claim no such exemption; nor would it be allowed if they did. The regulations and customs of Henry VIII. would ill accord with the present state of England.

## NOTE.

\* A new institution, that of a Master of Ceremonies for the City Assemblies took place in 1787.



Many of the facts, with which I have now furnished you, are curious.

They point out the gradual progress of commerce and luxury, and the corresponding effect upon manners; and shew by what imperceptible degrees society may advance to refinement, and in some points to corruption, whilst matters of real utility may be neglected.

Observations similar to the preceding may perhaps be made in every capital town or city in Great Britain; and, if the example I have now given is followed, much useful information may be gained respecting trade, manners, and police. This is the more to be wished for, as the prosperity and happiness of every nation must depend upon its virtue, and on the wisdom and due execution of its laws.

The information I have given is only an outline. It would have required a volume to have gone minutely into particulars.

Your zeal and public spirit have stimulated a research which never was equalled in any country, and it may prove highly beneficial to mankind in general. Every good citizen of the state is bound to wish well to the undertaking, and, according to his opportunities, to promote its success. My best exertions, on every occasion of such a nature, you may always depend on.—I remain,—with much esteem,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

Edinburgh, }  
Decr. 1792. }

Humble servant,

WILLIAM CREECH.

LETTER

## LETTER THIRD.

S I R,

I SHALL now, according to my promise, give you an account of the physical phenomena, that I have noted for some years. The knowledge of facts is the only foundation of true philosophy, and without this knowledge, theories and systems are vague and unsatisfactory.

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It is obvious that this globe which we inhabit has undergone great and astonishing changes. It is certain that most of the land we now occupy has once been covered by the sea, for many of the highest mountains are replete with marine productions.

That many of the rocks and mountains which we see, must have been occasioned by subterraneous fire, no person can doubt. For instance, the basaltic columns of the Giants causeway, the island of Staffa, the rocks at the harbour of Dunbar, the hills of Arthur's Seat and Craiglockhart \*, and many others, too tedious to mention. These are only named as being more immediately under observation.

Nothing can account for the regular form which the parts of these rocks have taken, but their being produced by fire, and this is supported by experiment. It has lately been found that when similar substances are brought into fusion, and allowed to cool gradually, they assume the same regular shape as these columns of rock. Some time ago, a furnace of flint glass having

## N O T E.

\* These hills are in the immediate vicinity of Edinburgh.

having been by accident allowed to cool, the matter was found to have taken the form of basaltic columns.

We have but very little knowledge of the great processes of nature, or the tremendous changes that have taken place in this globe, owing to the remote antiquity of the events, and the short period and imperfection of our records.

Volcanos have been observed as far to the North and South Poles as land has been discovered; and through all the intervening latitudes. It would hence appear, that there is a great body of active fire within the bowels of the earth; and we know the effects of it often appear at immense distances, and that it acts in a manner which cannot, or has not yet been accounted for. Volcanos, we also know, have disappeared in one place, and have burst out in another; and that every part of the globe is subject to such convulsions of nature.

The northern part of this island of Britain has not within the record of history been subject to any remarkable physical change, although it is evident that such changes have happened in it. The following recent facts, however, may not perhaps be thought unworthy of remark, and a few facts are of more value than a thousand hypotheses.

In 1782, at the time of the dreadful earthquakes in Calabria, the Mercury in the barometer in Scotland sunk within the tenth of an inch of the bottom of the scale; the waters in many of the lochs or lakes in the Highlands were much agitated.

In 1783—There was an immense volcanic eruption in the island of Iceland\*, which began on the tenth of June, and continued till the middle of August. A new island was thrown up in the neighbouring sea, and again disappeared.

Several

N O T E.

\* Iceland lies between the 63d and 67th degree of north latitude.

Several months previous to this eruption, a heavy dark bluish sulphureous fog had been observed to rest over the island when not dissipated by the wind; this fog, at times, was spread all over Europe. The year before this eruption, and a few months before the earthquakes in Calabria, a contagious disease called the influenza spread through Europe.

This volcanic eruption in Iceland is perhaps the most remarkable yet recorded in history. One stream of burning lava extended 40 miles in length, and 16 in breadth, and was in some places between 4 and 500 feet deep \*!

Upon the 18th of August 1783—A remarkable meteor or ball of fire was seen to pass from north to south, about half past eight in the evening. This meteor was seen all over Britain, and in many places upon the continent of Europe. This phenomenon happened much about the time of the termination of the volcanic eruption in Iceland, and it is remarkable, that this meteor was first seen to the north-west of the Shetland and Orkney islands, in the quarter of Iceland.

Upon the 12th of September 1784—A very extraordinary phenomena was observed at Loch Tay. The air was perfectly calm, not a breath of wind stirring. About nine o'clock in the morning, the water at the east end of the loch ebbed about 300 feet, and left the channel dry. It gradually accumulated and rolled on about 300 feet farther to the westward, when it met a similar wave rolling in a contrary direction. When these waves met, they rose to a perpendicular height of five or six feet, producing a white foam upon the top. The water then took a lateral direction southward, rushing to the shore, and rising upon it four feet beyond the highest water mark.

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N O T E.

\* The account of this eruption is, since the above was written, recorded in the *Philosophical Transactions of Edinburgh*.

mark. It then returned, and continued to ebb and flow every seven minutes for two hours, the waves gradually diminishing every time they reached the shore, until the whole was quiescent. During the whole of that week, at a latter hour in the morning, there was the same appearance, but not with such violence.

Upon the 11th of March 1785—The Tiviot, a large river in the south of Scotland, suddenly disappeared, and left the channel dry for two hours, and then flowed with its usual fullness\*.

Upon the 16th of June 1786—A smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Whitehaven in Cumberland, which extended to the Isle of Man and Dublin, and was also felt in the south-west parts of Scotland.

Upon the 11th of August 1786—A very alarming shock of an earthquake was felt about two o'clock in the morning, in the north of England, viz. Northumberland, Cumberland, and in Scotland, across the island; and as far north as Argyshire; and in all these places at the same instant of time. This shock extended above 150 miles from south to north, and 100 miles from east to west.

What an immense power must it have been to have produced such an effect!

Upon the 26th of January 1787—A smart shock of an earthquake was felt in the parishes of Campsie and Strathblane, ten miles north from Glasgow, about ten o'clock in the morning. A rushing noise was heard to precede the shock from the south-east. The night preceding this earthquake, a piece of ground near Alloa, on which a mill was built, suddenly sunk a foot and a half.

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N O T E.

\* According to the newspaper of the day. See *Edinb. Even. Courant.*

Upon the 26th of January, the river Clyde, above Lanark, became almost dry for two hours, and the mills were stopped; and afterwards the river again flowed as usual.

On the 25th of January 1787—The river Tiviot again became suddenly dry, and continued so for four hours, and then flowed with its usual fulness.

In 1787—The months of January and February were uncommonly mild; the thermometer at Edinburgh being in general 20 degrees higher than usual at that season.

On the 12th of February 1787—The mercury in the barometer at Edinburgh was nearly as low as at the time of the earthquakes in Calabria.

On the 8th of July 1788—The sea at Dunbar suddenly receded eighteen inches.

On the 8th of July 1788—An earthquake was felt in the Isle of Man.

In September 1789—There was a violent earthquake in Iceland\*.

On Thursday the 5th of November 1789, between five and six in the evening, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Crieff, at Comrie, and for many miles round that district, which is about fifty five miles from Edinburgh.—At Mr. Robertson's house of Lawers, a rumbling noise, like distant thunder, had been heard at intervals for two months; and at the time of the shock, a noise like the discharge of distant artillery was distinctly heard. Mr. Dundas and Mr. Bruce of Edinburgh were standing before the fire in the drawing-room, and they described the shock, as if a great mallet had suddenly struck the foundation of the house with violence.—At the vil-

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## NOTE.

\* See Letter from Copenhagen, Oct. 6. 1789, published in the newspapers about the end of October.

lage of Cromrie, the inhabitants left their houses, and ran to the open fields.

On the 11th of November, in the forenoon, in the same place, another shock was felt, which was more violent than that of the 5th. It was accompanied with a hollow rumbling noise. The ice on a piece of water near the house of Lawers was shivered to atoms\*.

*Extract of a letter from Florence, Oct. 2. 1789.*

“ We have received the melancholy intelligence, that, on the 30th of September, at three quarters after eleven o'clock in the morning, a violent shock of an earthquake was felt in the town of Borgo San Sepolcro, which lasted two minutes. The cathedral was partly destroyed, and some churches, with many houses and palaces, entirely so. In a village five miles from Borgo San Sepolcro, the earth opened and swallowed up above thirty houses, with all the inhabitants; and the remainder of that village, consisting of above 150 houses, was totally destroyed: The earth there opened in many different places, and a great quantity of cattle have perished, besides above 1000 persons †.

It is very extraordinary that on the same day, viz. the 30th of September, near three o'clock in the afternoon, two or three distinct shocks of an earthquake were felt at the house of Parsons Green, within a mile of Edinburgh. The house is situated on the north side of the hill called Arthur's Seat, which

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N O T E S.

\* See the Edinburgh papers of the above date.

† London Chronicle, Oct. 17. 1789.

which is composed of an immense mass of blue granite.—Several visitors were in the house to dine with the family, and the whole company ran down stairs from the drawing-room, and they met the servants from the kitchen, in the lobby, equally alarmed at what had happened. They described the sensation as if the house had received two or three violent blows in the foundation, so that all the furniture shook.

On Friday the 4th of December 1789, the ship Brothers, Capt. Stewart, arrived at Leith from Archangel, who reported that on the coast of Lapland and Norway he sailed many leagues through immense quantities of dead haddocks floating on the sea. He spoke several English ships, who reported the same fact.—It is certain that haddock, which was the fish in the greatest abundance in the Edinburgh market, has scarcely been seen there these three years \*.

On the 10th of November 1792, three repeated smart shocks of an earthquake, accompanied with a hollow rumbling noise like that of distant thunder, was felt at Loch Rannoch in Perthshire.

*Extract of a letter from the same neighbourhood.*

COMRIE (*Perthshire*), Nov. 30. 1792.

“ We have, of late, been greatly alarmed with several very severe shocks of an earthquake. They were more sensible and alarming than any felt formerly, and the noise attending them was uncommonly loud and tremulous. It appeared, probably, more so from the stillness of the atmosphere, and the reverberation of the surrounding mountains. The houses were greatly shaken, and the furniture tossed from its place. The

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weather

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N O T E.

\* In February 1790, three haddocks were brought to market, which from their scarcity sold for 7s. 6d.



weather had been uncommonly variable, and changed from high gusts of wind to a deep calm, a few days before the severest shocks of the earthquake. The air was moist and hazy, and the clouds seemed charged with electricity. It is not improbable, that these earthquakes arise from large caverns below this place, into which the exterior waters penetrate, and are converted into vapour, or steam, capable of the highest degree of expansion, and must press forcibly upon every thing which opposes their dilatation. By this theory, the famous *Delmonica* accounted for the earthquakes of Calabria in 1783, which was received, by the learned world, as more satisfactory than any proposed by Sir William Hamilton, and other philosophers. Whatever be the cause, the effect is certain; and it must be no small force that can shake a country to the extent of between twenty and thirty miles."

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I do not mean at present to draw any hypothesis or theory from what I have stated above, but merely to bring facts into one general view, and to induce others to make observations of the same kind. I am, with much esteem,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

Edinburgh, }  
Decr. 1792. }

Humble Servant,

WILLIAM CREECH.

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In p. 600. l. 9. for 1782, r. 1792.

APPENDIX.—N<sup>o</sup>. II.

## PARISH OF RICCARTON,

PAGE 117.

**I**N the course of his visitation this summer (1792), the incumbent took an accurate survey of this parish; from which it appears that there are in it in all, souls

	1300
Males	638
Females	662
In the country	928
In the village	372
Below 10 years of age	343
Betwixt 10 and 20	283
Betwixt 20 and 40	396
Betwixt 40 and 60	182
Betwixt 60 and 70	57
Betwixt 70 and 80	34
Above 80	5

The parish contains exactly 4736 acres, all arable excepting 138 acres, of which by far the greatest part is mofs.—The real rent is about L. 4327 sterling *per annum*. There are in the parish 207 horses, 848 black cattle, and only 69 sheep. There are 60 ploughs, and 131 carts.

END OF THE SIXTH VOLUME









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9/11/24

B. D. Dec. 2 1914



