

THE GENERAL TRADE.

THE Trade of Perth, about the middle of last century, was at a very low ebb. The only traffic of importance consisted in foreign spirits. Great quantities of gin and brandy were smuggled in from the north coast; and the boat-house, where the church of Kinnoul now stands, was a well-frequented rendezvous for smugglers. The old gentleman who at that time possessed the boat-house, bought largely from the smugglers; and having an extensive garden on his premises, he concealed the ankers under ground, and planted kail over them, which were frequently observed, during the season, to be but newly planted. This individual realized a fortune in the illicit traffic, and left considerable property in Bridgend. These smugglers brought home large cargoes of wine and spirits, direct from Spain and France, and supplied Leith and other places with these articles, at a rate below what the merchants there could afford to sell at. This created a strong suspicion that all was not fair. On the arrival of a vessel at the North Shore, with wine, after she had cleared the custom-house, and her cargo had been partly delivered, an officer from the custom-house at Edinburgh made his appearance, who inspected matters, and found that the vessel had been entered at less than one half the amount of duty chargeable upon the cargo. It now appeared that the officers of the custom-house had gone hand in hand with these traffickers in defrauding the revenue, and they were consequently dismissed from their situation. When the Trustees for the Encouragement of Manufactures gave premiums for the cultivation of flax, several vessels were freighted with lint seed and lint, from Rotterdam. In the spring, grocers, cloth-merchants, and others, speculated very largely in this trade, which at some seasons paid pretty well, while at others it was a dead loss. One old merchant, who, for upwards of thirty years, dealt extensively in lint-seed, has been heard to say, that, taking the one year with the other, he had not saved a penny by it. About the year 1784, there were upwards of 3,000 hogsheds of this article imported, besides some hundreds of barrels from Riga, but the latter was considered of coarser quality. Oatmeal and corn was also imported. At that time agriculture was in such a low state, that the produce of this country was not adequate to its consumption. No potatoes were cultivated, and but little wheat. A great deal of the corn sown consisted of grey oats, which yielded little meal, and that of an inferior quality. Corn and meal was brought from the Continent, which was imported without being kiln-dried, and had an exceeding bad flavour. The meal, on its arrival here, was put into damp gurnals, which made it

much worse, and frequently it became so polluted by mites and wevils, as to be unfit for human food. Many of these girnals were on the ground floors of houses in the Meal Vennel, from which that street derives its name. Great quantities of meal were sent to the Highlands. The natives came down in bands, with their shelties, bringing linen yarn with them, and small kegs of whisky of the finest quality, for which the excisemen were constantly on the look-out, and fierce struggles for possession frequently occurred. The Highlanders sold their yarn and whisky. The price they received for their goods was carried home with them to pay their rents, whilst they purchased their meal on several months' credit, for which they granted their bill—accepted, perhaps, by a dozen of names. The meal merchants, also, were in the habit of going up to the Highland markets to purchase yarn and collect the price of the meal then due. One of these gentlemen went regularly and collected his money, but always forgot to take the bills along with him, assuring the parties that he would mark on their bill the amount of money received. After his death, his son, who was a "limb of the law," summoned hundreds to make payment of the bills for which his father had already received the money; and, their oaths not being taken, they were forced to pay their bills a second time. Many an imprecation, both in English and Gaelic, was pronounced on sire and son. These Highlanders, when on a journey to the low country, formed themselves into bands, accompanied with perhaps a hundred little ponies for the purpose of carrying back meal. On their return, the ponies were loaded each with a boll of this commodity, and travelled in a line, the head of the one animal being fastened to the tail of the other. The Highlanders also came down sometimes, in hundreds, with small tumbrels of a primitive construction, for the purpose of taking home the lairds' coals. Each cart consisted of a rude frame of birch, with rungs set into it, at distances of about nine inches, the interstices being filled with ferns, which were warped through the frame-work; the sides of the cart were composed of upright spars of the same material, but the back and front were quite open. A circular piece of wood, with a hole in the centre for admitting the axle-tree, which was also made of birch, constituted the wheel. In one of these hurleys they would take home about twenty stone of coals. As the wooden trundles soon became elliptical by the action of the rough road on the side-wood, they communicated an up-and-down motion to these vehicles, which resembled that of a fleet of cobbles in a storm. The less provident took only a sack with them, which they laid across the pony's back. Except for the lairds' fires, little or no coal was used in the Highland districts; peats and wood constituted the principal fuel. The peat reek, however agreeable as a fla-

your in their whisky, smelt horribly rank in their clothes. About this time, there being no duty on the importation of grain, but premiums rather given to those individuals who imported the highest number of cargoes, great quantities were brought into Perth. Mr John Richardson obtained the premium one year for sixty ship-loads. Provost Ramsay, in another year, had freighted fifty-six vessels with grain. It is not to be understood, however, that these were all brought to the port of Perth.

Fishings.—These, for ages, have been a source of much income to the proprietors, and have afforded employment to many individuals. The salmon of the Tay are highly esteemed for their superior quality throughout the whole of Europe. During the last century, vast quantities were exported to different ports in the Mediterranean, and to Spain and Portugal. Previous to being exported, the salmon were cut in pieces, boiled, pickled in salt and vinegar, and packed up in small kits, which employed a great number of coopers, and men engaged in boiling and packing. In the operation of dressing the fish, the back-bones were extracted: these were sold to the inhabitants for a trifle, and supplied a good and cheap dinner to many a family in Perth. Twopence-worth of these “sheens,” as they were called, would have abundantly served a large family, and imparted an excellent relish to a *pundie* of ale. Salmon was then in such universal repute, that it was used at every diet. It was not unusual for people to eat salmon, “bite and sup,” with their morning brose. Were we to judge by the present diminished produce of the fishings, we could form no idea of the great quantities of salmon caught in former times. It may be safely asserted, that more fish were taken at the North Inch fishing stations, at that time, in the early part of the spring, than what are at present caught in the whole river during the same period. The fishermen had then liberty to consume as much as they choose for their own use. An instance is on record of one hundred and fifty fish being taken at one draught; and from fifty to sixty, and even seventy, were not unusual. Cart-loads were, every morning, driven from the Inch to the boiling-house. Frequently, when the coopers could not get a sufficient number of kits ready, the Maltmen’s cobbles were packed full of pickled salmon. There were two establishments for curing them, both of which were on an extensive scale. The roans of the fish were thrown into the river, which attracted vast numbers of large eels, and thus afforded fine eel-fishing to those who were fond of that amusement. Mr Richardson, who had the largest of the two curing establishments, kept two smacks for carrying the fish to the London market. These vessels sailed at stated periods for London, and took with them, besides their regular cargo of

fish, other descriptions of goods destined for that quarter. They were loaded on their return with goods for the Perth merchants; and frequently brought with them a plentiful supply of London porter, which Mr Richardson sold on favourable terms to the publicans, at from 50s to 56s a hogshead, who retailed it in their houses at four pence a bottle.—When the method of packing salmon with ice commenced, the boiling and cooper-work entirely ceased—ice-houses were built, and a large supply of ice collected in due season, to the mortification of the lovers of skating, who used to have fine scope for that amusement over the hollows of the Inches. The salmon of the Tay have diminished of late, both in size and number. Many instances are on record of fishes of 60 lbs. weight being caught, which seldom occur at the present day. On the lower part of the river, all the way down to the mouth of Tay, numerous stake-nets were set up, which caught immense quantities, and deteriorated the upper fishings exceedingly. This gave rise to contention between the parties, and a law suit was carried on for many years, which, after much expense, was decided in the House of Peers against the stake-net proprietors. Since that period, the fishings have still continued to decline, and of late years have been a heavy concern to the tackmen, although the rents have been much reduced. Within these few years, another kind of nets, which do much injury to the upper stations, has been introduced by the fishermen on the lower parts of the river. These nets are fixed in peculiar situations, where they remain till the reflux of the tide, when they are drawn on shore. The salmon get entangled in these nets while they are endeavouring, by entering the shallow water, to escape from the numerous porpoises which pursue them up the river. The value of the fishings having much increased, new shots were multiplied to a great extent, which has rendered many of them not worth attendance. The former proprietors of the North Inch fishings, fearing that the consequences arising from the building of the bridge would be ruinous to these fishings, sold them for a sum of money not equal to half the amount of their present annual rent.

Gloves and Breeches.—The Glovers during the last century carried on a very extensive trade in these articles. Perth-made gloves were celebrated all over the kingdom: numerous hands were employed in the cutting department, and a vast number of women earned a comfortable living by sewing them. Old Bailie Gray alone had seventeen men cutting gloves to keep his sewers in work, his son Robert for many years carried on a considerable trade after his father's death. The Glovers occupied almost the whole of the shops in the Skinnergate, besides several

very respectable shops in the High-street. Bailies Grant, Gray, Robertson, and Mr John Pirie were all extensive dealers in that line, besides the father of Mr Rough, who has at present rendered Dundee gloves so famous. This gentleman began business in Perth, but went to Dundee in his young days, whence his fame for gloves has spread far and near; while in Perth the trade has altogether ceased to exist. The last of the operative glovers, a William Prop, died a few years ago. The cloth merchants have now got the glove trade into their hands, with the exception of Bailie Young, who continues to sell gloves in the shop formerly occupied by Bailie Gray. In those days buckskin breeches were much in fashion, and the Perth glovers were esteemed for the tight neat manner in which their work was cut and sewed. Their usual sign was a pair of breeches, with a buck between the legs. A curious anecdote is told of a late glover, famous for making tights, and equally distinguished as a knight of the trencher. This gentleman having been employed to make a pair of buckskins to a dashing officer belonging to a regiment of fencible cavalry then quartered in Perth, had been too successful in making a close fit. The officer, while at mess in the George Inn one day, was cursing the glover, in the hearing of the landlord, for making his buckskins too tight; and swore he would make him eat them if he had him in his power. To which mine host replied, that Mr —— was very fond of a feed. This hint was enough; a note was sent requesting him to call at a certain hour to get his money. In the mean time all the buttons were cut off, the seams ripped up, and the leather cut in slices and boiled until it was quite soft, and afterwards done up with butter and rich sauce. The glover came punctual to the time, and was introduced into the room where all the officers were assembled for the occasion. That nothing might be suspected, they were apparently occupied at play with cards. On producing his account, he received the money, and was complimented on the very tight finish he had made. Calling in the landlord, the officer inquired if he had anything handsome with which he could treat Mr ——: he replied, his cook had just finished a dish of very fine tripe, done up in an entire new manner. "Bring it up," said the officer, "and let Mr —— have a lunch and a glass of brandy." The cloth was spread on a table in the room; the breeches and the brandy brought up; and the whole were soon dispatched with the usual dexterity. On rising, he returned thanks to the officer for his kindness; and was told in reply that he was particularly fortunate, for he had got his money in his pocket, and the buckskins in his belly. The poor glover was dumfounded at the information, and went away in a rueful state, to the great amusement of the assembled party. The thing took air,

and many a hard rub was given to the poor dealer in buckskins by his bottle companions.

Besides the trade of gloves and breeches, the glovers carried on an extensive business in dressing sheep and goat skins, and employed a number of hands on their extensive premises beside the mill lade, which they still retain, where a few individuals do a little in the skin trade. The goat skins were dressed with the hair on, and sent to the London market with the sheep skins, where they were used for knapsacks for the army, and for covering saddles. Several individuals concerned in the trade made large sums of money. One old glover built a house on the side of the lead where the spinning mill stands, and put upon it as a motto—“Wha would have thought it, that skins would have bought it.” To this trade was attached a manufacture of glue from the scrapings of the skins, but this has gone with the glove trade. Their works on the lade and in the glover's yard were then in full employ, and exhibited a scene of great activity. Now the whole is deserted; not a single individual is employed about the place.

Shoes.—Before the year 1770, the trade was confined entirely to the manufacture of shoes of a heavy description for the home market: many of these were made by shoemakers in the country, who had a pit or two for tanning their own leather. About that period, some companies with capital started, and built that large tannage on the Blackfriar's ground, now in Mr Johnston's possession. For many years this company did a great deal of business, and entered into the shoe trade for exportation and the London market. This company employed several hundred shoemakers in making light shoes for these markets. Bailie Bell, a shoemaker, erected another tannage on the grounds at County-place, and did a good deal of business both in the tannage and the shoe trade. Mr Robertson had also a tannage to the south of St Paul's Church, that gave employment to a number of hands. The operation of the Excise laws did up all the small tannages through the country, but created a new trade in that line. Shops for the retail of leather to small dealers became general. Another tannage on an extensive scale was established in Bridgend, also with a view to the export trade of shoes; and about the beginning of the present century, a second one was started in that quarter, on a smaller scale, but which has lately given up. For a number of years the property between the Tannage-bridge and the Glovers'-yard, which formerly was all occupied in the malting line, was converted into a tannage. The exportation of light shoes having been given up, anything that is now done in the shoe line is for home consumption, and

shoe shops now abound in every street. There appears some mystery about this trade. A heavy duty was put upon the leather, and the business was fettered with many absurd excise restrictions as to the manner of tanning the hides. Shoes immediately rose in price from 4s 6d to 8s and 9s a pair. The duty on the leather was all the cry. The men's wages were reduced, but still the price advanced, the duty forming the excuse. The duty, which was declared to be so oppressive, was at length repealed, but the price has not fallen, and the men's wages are still miserably low. Tanners have failed in every quarter, and the shoe shops are still complaining of bad trade. The import duties on foreign hides may perhaps explain this anomaly.

It has been already stated that a great deal of flax-seed was imported. Very fine flax was raised in the Highlands; and as there was then no out-door work for the women, spinning formed their constant employment. A number of merchants in Perth who dealt in the yarn trade, attended the Highland markets, and bought up the yarn, brought it down to Perth, and with such as they bought in the neighbourhood, which was spun by the women, who had little other employment, was packed up in bags and conveyed on pack horses to the Glasgow market for sale. About the year 1780, great quantities of 2 lb. yarn were spun for the Dundee market, where an extensive trade for coloured thread was carried on. About the same time a manufactory of dyed thread was established here, on a pretty extensive scale, which was given up in a few years as a bad concern, more on account of the bad management and villany of the acting partner, than by the failure of the trade. A system of pilfering was detected in this concern which made considerable noise in Perth at the time. The house where Malloch's warehouse stood in Canal-street, and several houses behind, were built for this establishment. A rumour arose that the place was haunted by a ghost; lights were seen in it during the night; and so strong was the impression amongst the workmen who were not up to the secret, that none of them would enter the premises alone in the morning. It was discovered, when too late, that a system of embezzlement had been carried on by the men who had the charge of the work, and the foreman of Mr Young's yarn-boiling work, next door. These individuals, with some accomplices, had carried on their depredations to a ruinous extent before detection.

Hat-making.—Before the year 1784, the whole supply of hats came from England. About that time a Mr Saunders from Glasgow settled here, and carried on the business for a number of years to a considerable

extent. Two of the workmen whom he brought with him also got into business, but on Saunders' death the trade fell off, and is now extinct in this quarter. We had a bonnet-maker fifty years ago, but bonnets falling out of fashion, he turned grocer.

Rope-spinning.—There has been from an early period a number of hands employed in this line, chiefly for small twine for fishing nets, and ropes for country purposes. About forty years ago, Messrs Dow and Davidson attempted the manufacture of ropes of a heavy description for the shipping, but did not then succeed. The increase of the shipping at Perth has since enabled Mr Buik to establish a considerable trade in tarred ropes and cordage; and a number of individuals are also employed in making small cordage.

Mr Buik has also a number of hands employed in sail-making, and preparing rigging and ships' stores of every description. Another gentleman, Mr Durie, has opened a large establishment for supplying vessels with stores. Being an experienced seaman, he is well qualified for providing articles of the best description.

Blacksmiths.—Before the year 1770, this trade was very limited, and the articles made were of the most ordinary description. At that time a smithy exhibited but a meagre appearance. A forge, bellows, study, and vice, with a couple of hammers, and a few files, comprised the whole of the working tools. In this branch of trade there has been an amazing increase, as also in the variety and elegance of the articles manufactured. The introduction of turning-laths into smithys has made a complete change in that line of business. The late Baillie Gray and his brother, were the first who improved the trade in that line. After his brother's death, the baillie built extensive premises at the foot of the High-street, where the different branches of smith work and brass-founding are still carried on. Other manufactures of the same kind have lately sprung up, where machinery of the most complicated description is produced. Fifty years ago, four blacksmiths, one coppersmith, one tinsmith, one jeweller, and three watchmakers, comprehended the working trade in the metals. Since that period each of these trades have greatly increased.

There was formerly a considerable trade in the tobacconist line. The mill at the foot of Charlotte-street was kept constantly employed in grinding snuff, and three houses kept a number of men spinning tobacco. Robie Davie's rappee was widely known both in town and

country ; but this trade is now entirely lost in Perth. Gillespie's rappee and plain brown came into repute, and fairly drove the Perth snuff out of the market, by the sale getting into the grocers' hands.

The manufacture of starch was another branch of trade, now extinct in Perth. There was an establishment in the Watergate on a pretty extensive scale for this article. Although it did not employ many hands, it was of considerable benefit to the poor, as the pourings were sold for a mere trifle, which were boiled into sowens for their families. Mr Miller, the proprietor, was such an inveterate smuggler, and was so often detected, that the Excise put him out of the trade, and no one has since attempted it here.

Soap was manufactured by William Arnot on a great scale. Besides the supply of his own shop, and the country sale, he sent considerable quantities to the London market. He had also a candle work, in which line he did much business, and also sent large quantities of rendered tallow to the London market. This gentleman was a general merchant, wholesale and retail, both in hardware and groceries, and enjoyed a vast run in his shop ; and through the Highlands he was so universally known and esteemed by the country people for his easy terms in dealing, that his name among the Highlanders passed into a bye-word. When any person refused trust, the common phrase was, " You be ne-good Willie Arnot."

Besides Mr Arnot, there were several others in the candle line, who did much business ; but of late years this trade has fallen off considerably, and is at the present time limited to two individuals. The introduction of gas has not only reduced the sale, but a considerable supply of candle are brought from Aberdeen, and many genteel families, where gas is not yet introduced, use wax and sperm candles.

The *Dyers*, who form a part of the Guildry, were, during the last century, employed in dyeing wool and yarn for the manufacture of cloth spun and made by each family for their own use. The men's coats were all hodden grey, which were spun in the house, given out to the weaver, and then sent to the dyer to be finished. The dyers had a wauk-mill where Mr M'Farlane's foundry is now erected, which was kept in constant employment. A finer kind of cloth was made for the gudeman's Sabbath-day coat, and was dyed of a very light blue colour, called Dunblane blue. The women wore camblet gowns and petticoats, also of their own spinning. From these sources the dyers had a pretty fair business ; but as these

fabrics were afterwards superseded by English cloths, and the spinning of wool given up in families, the dyeing trade for many years greatly declined, but of late has again recovered in another line, which shall be noticed in due time.

Milliners.—Sixty years back, this branch of business was entirely confined to the Misses Cornfute, who had a shop in the High-street below the Perth Bank, where St John-street now enters. Their trade was chiefly confined to head-dresses for balls and assemblies. Mantua-making was confined to two or three ladies, who were employed only by the first families—the tailors engrassing the gown-making trade.

Comb-makers.—For many years a very considerable branch of this trade was carried on by a Mr Marshall. Circular combs were long fashionable, both for boys and girls. These went round the forehead from ear to ear, and laid back the hair, which was worn very long, flowing over the shoulders, and required many combs to keep it in order.

Barbers were a numerous branch of the Wright Incorporation, and each of them employed a number of boys. Shaving, except in a very few instances, was all done by the barbers: and before the hair-powder tax was imposed, the hair of the respectables was dressed and powdered every day. Many of the ladies heads were dressed daily by the barbers, and even the humblest tradesmen had to get their hair dressed and powdered on the Sundays. The old men wore enormous bag wigs, which required constant powdering and curling. The lads, when their apprenticeship was out, went up to London, and returned, dubbed “wig-maker and hair-cutter, from London.” Some of these barbers were most barbarous in their operations. One of them in particular, who was known by the name of “Skin-him-alive,” often brought tears into the eyes of his customers. Shaving old Mr Jervie the minister one day, the worthy clergyman exclaimed, “Saunders, if this be skinning, it is tolerable, but if it be shaving, it is dreadful.” The tax on hair powder ruined the hair-dressers, as a trade. To make up for the loss of the principal branch of their business, they advanced the price of shaving, which to customers had been previously as low as a farthing. This induced many to shave themselves. Of late years they have recovered a little by the making of fancy curls.

Wrights.—Formerly the work in the cabinet line was confined to very ordinary articles. Much of the elegant modern furniture was then un-

known; there was no such thing as a cabinet ware-room with ready-made furniture till the year 1784, when Mr Wm. Gowrie opened one in Blair's-close. The journeymen had but very low wages, most of them not more than five shillings a week, and even this limited income was farther encroached upon by the pernicious practice then prevalent, of paying the men's wages in public houses, where they were frequently kept waiting until ten at night, which placed their families in a very miserable condition. For a long period there appeared to be a fatality attending this class of tradesmen. With few exceptions, they took to the bottle when they got into business, and tumbled away their time about public houses, conceiving, when they were enabled to employ a couple of hands, that it was beneath their dignity to be seen working at a bench. Many thus soon became embarrassed, and died bankrupt. To this class old Mr George Sandeman, then at the head of the trade in that line, was an exception. He possessed that property in the Watergate now occupied by Mr Hewat, and the back ground, used as a coal-yard. He had also a saw-mill on Annaty-burn, opposite the white dyke, and enjoyed the patronage of many of the county gentlemen, and genteel families in town.

The *Joiners* were in a similar situation. The same person generally carried on both branches, when he could find employment.

Masons.—The same also may be said of the masons. From the year 1745 to 1780, but few buildings were erected in the town. Many old houses had been allowed to remain in ruins, half pulled down. In every direction these unseemly ruins met the eye, particularly in South-street. The masons wrought on day's wages, and took especial care not to hurry the job. From those who employed them they daily expected a morning dram, and their "eleven hours" in the forenoon. Such was their trifling, that it became a by-word, "That it was easy getting into the mortar tub, but ill getting out again." Amongst the master masons of that day, Daniel Scott was remarkable for keeping a job long on hand. One of his customers who had a job to do, was aware of this, and resolved to have it done by contract. Rather than lose the job, Daniel engaged with it, but soon found it would not suit. The men could not be prevailed upon to move beyond their deliberate habits, which were so inveterate, as to give rise to the proverb, that "An ounce of masons' sweat was worth an ounce of gold." Daniel explained to the men hourly that he had the job by the piece, but finding all would not do, he told his employer that he must give it up, as it would not pay. The employer gave in, and allowed Daniel to go on in his old way. On his next visit

to the men, he told them that "it was now old use-and-wont, and that they might take it canny." About 1784, new streets and buildings in various directions were contemplated, men who were not masons by trade began to speculate in buildings. They bought ground, and contracted with wrights and masons for the work, closing with those who undertook to do it on the lowest terms. Wages were then low, and material cheap, which was a great inducement to build. A mason's wages was seven shillings a week, a wright's amounted only to five shillings, and the best Memel logs could be purchased at nine pence per solid foot. Amongst these speculators, Mr James Mitchell, a manufacturer, took the lead. His first operations were in Blair's-close, where he built several houses, and the lofty one fronting Mill-street. Having sold these, he bought the ground in George-street between the Glovers'-hall and the close leading to the Skinnergate, then the only entrance from George-street to Mill-street. He built those three stances all at once. The season was very wet. At that time a custom prevailed of running up the vents with circular cases, which were pulled up as the work advanced. As no pains were taken to bind the building round the case, in a high house, with a double set of vents, the greater part of the walls were little better than a rickle of rubbish. In these houses of Mitchell's, this scheme, added to the effects of the wet season, proved fatal to the building, and at same time opened the eyes of the public to the worthlessness of the plan. The workmen were just finishing the chimney tops of the gable of the centre house, when the whole gable came down with a tremendous crash, carrying with it the men on the scaffolding, and driving out the front wall into the street. Four of the men were dug out of the ruins dead, and others were severely bruised. One old man, a labourer, fell from the top, and lighted on his feet on the pavement opposite, at the shop door of Mr Richardson, miraculously escaping almost unhurt. The noise resembled a peal of thunder, and alarming the whole town, thousands were soon on the spot. The standing portion of the front wall being considered dangerous, beams of wood were set up against it, and the street railed in for the winter season. This misfortune for a time damped Mitchell in his speculations, but he afterwards built three houses in Atholl-street, and three in Methven-street. At this time a stir was made about opening a better access to the south than the Watergate, afforded, and parties were divided as to whether they should open John-street, or widen the Watergate. Mr Mitchell made the town an offer to purchase the whole of the property on the west side of the Watergate, to pull it down, and rebuild it forty feet farther back, and lead a line from the bottom of South-street in a direction to meet Princes-street at the

English Chapel. Had this been then adopted, it would have made a far better thoroughfare than that of John-street, with its numerous quick turns. Interested parties, however, overruled the plan, and got John-street formed; and it was by means of this party interest that it was made so narrow. Bailie M'Ewen, mason, also began in the building line about this time. He had previously been employed by Mr Mitchell as his mason. He built the Horse Barracks and St Paul's Church, and erected several houses in John-street and on the west side of St Paul's church, and also a number in Marshall-place. Bailie Hepburn also entered extensively into this trade. About the year 1800, he built the whole of Atholl-place, the greater part of the Crescent, the north half of Rose-terrace, most of Barrosa-place and street, a number of houses in Marshall-place, and the west side of John-street north of the Church. He contracted for the Tabernacle meeting-house, which the Methodists purchased, but which had to be taken down and rebuilt. He erected the two houses in George-street south of Bridge-lane, and all the south side of that lane. Extending his operations to the other side of the river, he built Garie Cottage and three others, and also a number of the villas on the banks of the river, north of the bridge. During the war, the price of wood rose to an enormous price, Memel logs selling as high as four shillings and ninepence per foot. This led the builders to use much home wood, which in a short time will tell severely against the owners. Of late years a number of individuals have been engaged in this trade, who have erected the greater number of the houses in several of the new streets.

About the year 1770, a printing press was first established in Perth by Mr Johnston. At that time its operations were very slow and clumsy. A magazine was attempted by this gentleman, but it did not succeed. Mr Johnston shortly afterwards removed to Edinburgh, when the printing business fell into the hands of the Morisons, who continued the trade with great success. These gentlemen have published numerous excellent works, which conferred at the time of their publication a high literary character on Perth. Among these the Perth Encyclopædia was esteemed the best work of the kind in its day. It was edited by Mr William Morison, and is a noble monument to his memory, and a lasting honour to the city. This highly esteemed gentleman was cut off in the meridian of life. He lived to correct the last sheet of this work, and there is reason to fear that he sank under the excessive application called forth by the magnitude of the undertaking. Some works have been

edited and published by his brother, Mr David Morison, in a manner which reflects much credit on his literary talents.

The *Perth Courier*, a weekly journal, was begun, in 1809, by the Messrs Morison, and is still conducted by them. Its principles have been moderate Tory. It enjoys a moderate circulation, and is well advertised.

In the year 1829, the *Perthshire Advertiser*, another weekly journal, of liberal principles, was established by a number of gentlemen. This paper enjoys an average circulation, and is also well advertised. It is printed by Mr Taylor, and is thrown off on a machine which was invented and constructed by Mr James Bogle, brother-in-law to the printer. The peculiarity of this invention is great simplicity, combining in its principle all the excellences of the most expensive and complex printing machines.

In 1835, the *Constitutional*, a weekly journal, of extreme Tory politics, was established; but its success has hitherto been aught but satisfactory to the proprietors.

The printing business has been an increasing one in Perth for some years back, and it is probable that the proposed alteration in the newspaper stamp duty, and the reduction of the excise duty on paper, will stimulate it still farther. Besides the newspaper offices, there are at present two others on a smaller scale.

Copperplate and lithographic presses are also in operation.

Previous to the middle of the last century, there were no cloth manufacturers in Perth. The weavers were then generally employed in what was called customer work; that is, by taking in yarn to weave, and returning the cloth. At this period each family spun their own yarn, and got it wove to order. Even the nobility took a pride in having their linen and napery spun in the family. Amongst the master weavers in this line at that time, Deacon Vallance was famous throughout the country for his elegant patterns and skilful workmanship. He executed the greater part of the work for the neighbouring gentry, and ornamented their napery, by weaving their respective coat-of-arms into the fabric. Some of his looms could produce cloth two-and-a-half ells wide. At that period, two webs of damask table-cloths, ten quarters wide, were wove by two brothers, for the Earl of Kinnoull. In weaving these immense sheets, a man was placed at each side of the loom, each having a separate set of treddles, the one throwing the shuttle to the other. For their workmanship, the brothers received L.72, and Mr Vallance received a similar sum for his share. Besides table napery and towelling, very fine linen, termed Hollands, was manufactured. Mr Vallance had long en-

Joyed the Duke of Atholl's patronage; but, unfortunately, in one account which he presented, the cloth was called *linen* instead of *Holland*, hence the Duke's housekeeper maintained that the cloth had never been wove with a Holland reed. This inconsiderate expression in the account lost the Duke's custom. Mr Vallance, who had his factory where the Methodist chapel now stands, and occupied all the property south to Canal-street, was an original in his way, and possessed considerable genius for almost every mechanical operation. He took an active hand in every thing that occurred about Perth, and was always consulted in general matters. He did not confine his activity entirely to Perth, but extended it on many occasions in other quarters. He was one of those who went over to Edinburgh at the Porteous affair, and took an active part in the administration of that remarkable instance of retributive justice. The good old custom of making family cloth having decayed, Vallance became reduced in his latter days. The following acrostic record in the Grey Friars still honours his memory :—

“ Muse here assist me ; now I surely must
Relate brave Vallance' character that's just.

Renowned much ; justice will join his cause ;
Of tradesmen he in Perth deserves applause ;
Betrayed no trust was put into his hand—
Endeavouring always by the truth to stand :
Ready he was, and that at any hour,
To make redress, or to relieve the poor.

Vallance, whose virtuous actions shone so bright,
Always did stand up for the People's right.
Let monument, or some recorded verse
Loud unto ages his bright fame rehearse.
All craftsmen who him knew will yet declare
None in the country could with him compare.
Grief now, nor pain, no more his peace annoys,
Entered the choir, he lives in perfect joys.”

Besides the above-mentioned cloths, a kind of thin ell-wide linen, spun and bleached by families in the country, was made. This was sold in a half-bleached state to merchants in Perth, who sent it to the London market. There was also some linsey woolseys made by families for their own use; indeed the most becoming gowns were made of a species of this fabric termed fingering. Weaving at this period (1760) was esteemed both an honourable and lucrative calling: so much so, that a young nobleman, who afterwards succeeded to the estate of Kinnaird, wrought as an apprentice under Mr Vallance. Some time afterwards he paid his old master a visit, and went on one of the looms on pretence of trying if

he could still weave; knowing it to be an established rule that none of the men durst take money from any of the gentry who came to see the work, he took the opportunity of leaving a guinea under the temples, to enable the men to drink his health. About 1766, silesia linens were introduced by George Penny, who had accidentally met with a piece of that kind of cloth. This fabric succeeded for many years: at first they were bleached and sent to the London market, and thence to the West Indies. A few years afterwards the trade became general in Perth; numbers of weavers got a few looms and a warping mill, bought yarn, and sold their cloth for ready money, as fast as it could be produced. In this way a steady man, with six or eight looms, made out to live in competence. A number of houses got into the line of buying from the weavers and sending the work to the London market. Amongst these may be stated, Anderson and Lindsay; Provost Caw; Young, Ross, and Co.; Messrs Thomas and John Barland; Mr John Ross of Balgersho; and several others. Besides the silesias made in Perth, numerous weavers throughout the country were similarly employed, who brought their cloth into Perth for sale, on the Fridays, there being several houses where they were sure of finding a ready money market. So eager were these merchants, that they frequently employed men to intercept the weavers on their way. This system led to the formation of a new species of dealers termed hawkers, who bought from the weavers and sold again to the merchants. Besides this method of sale, they contracted with weavers who had a few looms, supplied the yarn, and took back the cloth at five per cent. commission. This trade was very steady for some years, but there were times, during the war with the Colonies, in which the merchants suffered severe losses. One of these occurred on the taking of St Eustatia, when many of the Perth manufacturers were much injured, and had to hold heavy stock for a long period. They never then thought of reducing the wages of labour, or turning off their men; though they might sometimes advise them to go to the harvest. After the introduction of block printing, this trade took a wide range. Vast quantities of silesias were sold in a green state for the Glasgow printers. These fabrics were wove in 700 to 1400 reeds, and averaged from 28 to 30 inches in breadth. About the year 1780, small spinning jennies were introduced, which led to the introduction of a new fabric called blunks. These goods were a combination of linen warp and cotton weft, and being preferred by the printers, their manufacture took a number of hands from the linen trade.— About the year 1782, the father of the writer introduced the cotton manufacture into Perth. The first piece of cloth made was six quarters muslin, wove in an 1100 reed. Part of this was bleached and sold for

ladies' gowns, at five shillings a yard : (it would now scarcely bring five pence.) Part of the same fabric was printed into shawls ; common colours brought ten shillings each, and chintz patterns a guinea.

At this time the erection of Stanley Mill was contemplated. The late Duke of Athole took great interest in the establishment. The celebrated Arkwright was to be one of the partners. Mr William Sandeman, the proprietor of Luncarty Field, a gentleman of great enterprise, had seen and admired the muslins referred to. The Duke of Athole and Mr Arkwright, having met at Perth, at the King's Arms Inn, Mr Sandeman introduced Mr Penny, and recommended his fabrics to the notice of these distinguished individuals, who expressed themselves highly delighted with his success. They inquired if he could weave them himself and teach others? On his answering in the affirmative, Arkwright said, that was all they could desire ; that the erection of the Mills might be immediately proceeded with ;—there could be no fear of success. The building was forthwith commenced ; and a number of boys and girls were sent up to Manchester to learn the spinning trade. Mr Penny afterwards introduced the manufacture of calicoes for the printers, which soon became general. Various fabrics were by times introduced in the cotton line. As the trade was at first very prosperous, a manufacturing mania seemed to pervade society. Every gentleman who had a second son of the requisite age, put him apprentice to the loom. The individual so often referred to, had at one time ten apprentices, the sons of gentlemen and merchants. Manufacturing establishments continued to increase till the year 1810, at which time upwards of sixty houses in that line were established in Perth, who not only employed the looms in town, but also ~~most~~ of those in the country within twenty miles. As this year produced a crisis in the manufacturing history of Perth, we shall go back to other branches that had previously sprung up.

About the year 1765, a company was formed for the manufacture of fine linen, which did not flourish long, being ruined by the ignorance of the manager, who took it into his head to make the cloth super-excellent, by picking out every thick thread or lump. To such a length did he carry this taste, that the weavers were terrified to take in their cloth, being certain of a day's work at picking. When the cloth went to market, the injury thus done to the fabric rendered it unsaleable.

Both the Mill-wynd and New-row company started with the manufacture of linen sheetings. The buildings and houses on the east side of the Mill-wynd were erected for the purpose, and filled with looms. In these establishments sheets were made of all descriptions from 1000

to 2400 reed, and were wove from five quarters to four ells wide. For many years these houses carried on a steady trade in that line, the New-row company also extended their business to the manufacture of diapers and damasks, which they carried on a few years. Being outstripped in this line by the Dunfermline manufacturers, the New-row company directed their attention to the cotton trade, and launched extensively into the manufacture of cambric, book, and mull muslins, and calicoes; but in these branches they were also outstripped by the Glasgow people. The concern thus turning out unprofitably, was abandoned. Messrs Stewart and M'Naughton, who were bred to the business in this house, then commenced on their own account. About the year 1785, a new branch of the linen trade was introduced. These were thin five-quarters wide fabrics for umbrellas, which were filled with wax. As the cotton trade increased, they were superseded by green cotton ginghams. Before the introduction of cotton twist, a considerable trade was carried on in coarse stripes, checks, and napkins of blue and white, with linen warp and cotton weft, which were chiefly sold about Dundee, Forfar, Montrose, and along the east coast. So generally were these napkins in repute in that quarter, that at a *peasy wedding* to which Mr James Mitchell, a manufacturer of these fabrics, was invited, of 400 persons present, all the women had on Perth made napkins.

Previous to the year 1800, the introduction of the inkle manufacture was unsuccessfully attempted. An abortive effort was also made to introduce the carpet manufacture. About this time a mill was built at the foot of Mill-street, for spinning cotton, which was afterwards converted into a wool-spinning mill. For many years this business was carried on to considerable extent, giving employment to a good number of hands. The company having suffered some heavy losses, were compelled to stop payment. Soon after this, the building being found to be in a very crazy condition, was pulled down.

About the year 1806, Mr George Smith introduced the manufacture of imitation shawls; many of which were of very rich patterns. For some years much business was done in this branch, and the weavers obtained high wages, but the fatal 1810 overwhelmed Smith amongst the rest of our manufacturers. Before this period nearly 3000 weavers were employed in Perth, and great numbers of webs were also sent to the country. During the progress of the linen trade, there were six establishments for bolting linen yarn, each of which employed four hands, and averaged from 60,000 to 70,000 spindles of yarn annually. From this data it would appear that about 400,000 spindles of linen yarn were annually manufactured in Perth and neighbourhood, independent of the vast quantities of

siliesias bought from the country. These goods were required by law to be measured and stamped: the stamp indicated the length and breadth of the piece, and also contained the stamp-master's name. Two-pence half-penny was paid for stamping each piece; and if not of sufficient quality, the stamp-master had it in his power to cut it in pieces and stamp each portion which was of the proper quality. This establishment employed a few hands, but is now given up. On the introduction of cotton goods, it became of little value; these fabrics not being in existence when the law was made, were not liable to its scrutiny. Every piece of linen finished at the bleachfields had to be stamped in the same way.

Bleachfields.—The Tulloch was the first work of this kind in the neighbourhood. Luncarty was established shortly afterwards,—about 1760. Vast quantities of cloth were bleached at these fields: Luncarty soon became distinguished over the kingdom for superior finishing, and cloth was sent there from all quarters. At this field several hundred men were employed. For many years the whole Dunfermline manufactures were sent to this field to be finished. After the year 1775, Huntingtower and Ruthven bleachfields were established, and the whole found ample employment. About this period, the proprietor of the Tulloch introduced cloth printing; a few tables were set up, but this branch was entirely confined for some time to jobbing work. Books of patterns were lodged with their agents in various quarters, where women brought the cloth for their gowns, and chose the pattern. The printing of these averaged from 1s 6d to 3s 6d a yard, according to richness of pattern. The present generation, who have been accustomed to obtain the richest prints wonderfully cheap, will be astonished at the cost of a gown in those days. Say for instance, six yards of ellwide linen at 1s 6d a yard, 9s; and printing ditto at 3s 6d,—making 30s for a gown piece of only six yards. As business extended, the proprietors of the Tulloch began to work for the general market; and when calicoes came in they did a good deal in that trade.

About the year 1782, Mr M'Alpin came from Glasgow and established a printing concern in this quarter, on an unprecedented scale of magnitude. He bought the grounds at Cromwell Park, built a large dam-dyke across the Almond, and dug a mill lade down to his works at great expense. Machinery and printing shops rose like magic; printers and print-cutters were brought from Glasgow; and business commenced on a very extensive scale. A large house was built for spinning cotton twist; he bought largely from all the Perth manufacturers, and for some

time his business appeared to be extremely flourishing. Finding the grounds of Cromwell Park too limited for his operations, he bought the ground of Stormont-field; and cut a mill lade along the bank of the Tay at an enormous expense. Besides buildings for printing, he erected a large twist spinning factory; but by the time these various operations were completed, he was so completely embarrassed as to be compelled to abandon his property to his creditors, who brought it to the hammer.

After this, a company, comprising a number of the monied men in Perth, purchased Ruthven bleachfield, and converted it into a printfield. For many years this concern flourished, and became the greatest printfield in Scotland. Some years eleven hundred individuals were employed in the works, which contributed to the revenue £54,000 a year of duty. This company had a branch in Manchester, and agencies in various quarters of the globe. Immense quantities of goods were brought from Manchester: their man of business there had always a great command of cash, and when a bankrupt estate came into the market he was enabled to purchase on very low terms. They also bought from those in needy circumstances, who often made great sacrifices to keep their credit. Heavy lots of goods were thus obtained at twenty or thirty per cent. below prime cost. In Perth they went regularly round the manufacturers, and purchased once a month; and as their bills were always taken at the banks, the manufacturers were enabled to push business to any extent, as they had their yarn at six months' credit, and sold their goods at four months. For many years this company continued to flourish; but having latterly speculated very extensively in indigo and other Eastern produce—and although they could have realized a handsome profit, owing to a fatal error in their manager, they did not embrace the favourable opportunity of disposing of it, but continued to hold stock in the prospect of a further rise in the market, which the altered state of the currency rendered it hopeless to expect. These articles having fallen more than fifty per cent. below what they had cost, the company were at length constrained to part with them at what they would bring. By these untoward circumstances, they abandoned the printing business. The field was sold, and is now in the hands of a Glasgow company, who do a good deal of business, but owing to the facilities of the cylindrical press and other improvements, the number of hands is not half what was formerly required.

Cromwell Park, which M'Alpin established, was sold by his creditors to Andrew Mellis and Son, who for some time carried on the business of bleaching, printing, and cotton spinning. Andrew Mellis's was one of

the oldest established houses in Perth; he had been long in the white cloth line, had for many years carried on an extensive thread manufacture, had a principal share in the Ruthven work when a bleachfield, and was considered one of the richest men in Perth; but the fluctuation of the times had such an effect on business that the firm became bankrupt, and the whole property was brought to the hammer. The father having previously died, was spared the misery of seeing the wreck of his fortune. The son got no settlement with his creditors, and seeing no prospect of doing anything in this quarter, removed with his family to Manchester. The printfield was again sold, and purchased by Hunter, Burt, and Co., who carried on the printing business extensively. The other field that M'Alpin set a-going at Scone was purchased by Messrs Thomas and John Barland, who carried on the business of cotton spinning and bleaching. Stanley mill was in full operation by this time. An unsuccessful attempt had also been made to spin linen yarn. In this state was the trade of Perth before the year 1810. During the war, the fluctuation in business had been so great, that commerce had assumed more of the hazardous character of gambling than of fair trade, often overwhelming merchants in the most inextricable difficulties. It was emphatically remarked that business was driven at the point of the bayonet. The news of a victory or defeat, or political convulsion, were alike the harbingers of ruin to many, by the fall in the price of goods on the one hand, or the entire loss of them on the other. The regular channels to the markets were often shut up by the exclusion of British goods from the continent; and the general chances of the war, had an irresistible tendency to involve in difficulties those engaged in trade. But in spite of these difficulties, a class of men got into business on the credit of others, who obtained material on long credit, and sold their goods on short bills; often sacrificing largely to obtain cash to keep moving. These people scrupled at no hazard; they had to go on, and sell at any price. The system of accommodation bills was greatly resorted to by these individuals; an instance of this may be quoted, which was witnessed by the writer. On a certain day, a knot of these worthies had a number of these bills to pay: every expedient was resorted to to raise money; each of them ranged the public houses which he frequented, in order to raise the necessary funds, it being common in these cases to apply in such quarters. At this time several individuals who sold a dram always kept a sum at command, lending a few pounds for a few days only, by which means they drew a pretty constant run of customers. A dram was always expected when the cash was borrowed, and another when paid; the individual thus paying dear for the accommodation. On the present occasion the party had

been pretty successful, and a supper was ordered in the Hammermest tavern, with wine and other things in accordance. In the course of the evening, the conversation turned on the means for getting the borrowed money paid up. One of the company who held a hundred pieces of cambric, offered to sell them to his right hand neighbour at 32s a piece, and take his bill for them at three months; which offer was instantly accepted. The purchaser immediately offered them to his neighbour; and in this manner these hundred pieces were sold sixteen times, and sixteen bills granted on a fictitious sale; for these very goods were sold next day by the original holder to the Ruthven company, and their acceptance discounted. But this system was suddenly brought to an end. The great political revolutions that were taking place on the continent, the Berlin and the Milan decrees, and Buonaparte's burning system, gave trade and credit such a shock, that many of the oldest established houses were overwhelmed; and in no place in the empire were these disasters more severely felt than in Perth. The company at Cromwell Park had a branch in London who suffered most severely. They had goods to the amount of nearly L. 100,000 value burnt at Cadiz. In their ruin many of the Perth manufacturers were involved. The banks in the general alarm were constrained to withhold their discounts. Failure on failure was daily occurring; and manufactured goods fell at once to less than half their former value. Those holding large stocks thus saw their capital melt away as if by magic. For some time previous the cotton manufacturers had flourished beyond example, giving employment to an immense number of hands, at very high wages. It was not uncommon for one manufacturer to coax away the weavers employed by another, giving them either a premium or an advance of money, in some instances to the amount of fifteen or twenty pounds. An ordinary workman could earn from four to five shillings a day; and a woman a shilling, at winding yarn. Such was the demand, that not a herd boy could be found in the country; all flew to the loom. Farm servants' wages rose to L. 30, besides meal and milk. In 1810, the price of weaving a certain quantity of cloth, fell suddenly from fourteen shillings to five shillings, and even at this reduction work was not to be procured. Fortunately for the weavers in this quarter, the building of the Depot was commenced in the midst of these misfortunes, and afforded employment to several hundred weavers. Even several manufacturers, who had previously been paying upwards of one hundred pounds a week in wages, were themselves reduced to the necessity of earning a subsistence by labouring in the quarries. In the midst of the general disaster, there were individuals who scrupled not to aggravate the evil by the most dishonourable con-

duet towards their creditors. Amongst these, one individual was distinguished: when he stopped payment, having a large stock on hand, he agreed to pay twenty shillings a pound by instalments, and granted mere nominal security for the fulfilment of the engagement. By the time the instalments fell due, he declared his inability to meet them, and offered a composition of nine shillings a pound. Goods having now advanced somewhat in value, and being likely to rise still more, he prevailed on two individuals to pay his composition, agreeing to share with them the profit on the goods when sold. By this manœuvre they realized more than would have paid the creditors in full. Having got into business again, by assiduous attendance on bible society, missionary, and prayer meetings, he acquired a high odour of sanctity in the kirk, whilst in private he was equally fervent in his devotions to the brandy bottle. In the course of a few years he had acquired considerable wealth; but at his death, instead of assisting any of those individuals whom he had formerly ruined, and some of whom were actually living on charity at the time, he left several hundred pounds to bible and missionary societies; besides handsome sums to his wife and friends.

The upright conduct of Mr Cleland, another gentleman who was overwhelmed in the general ruin, stands in honourable contrast to the above. Having got a settlement with his creditors, and again entered into business, he was so far successful, that, finding himself equal at the end of a few years to meet his former deficiencies, he called his creditors together, and paid them in full. The unpretending virtue of rigid honesty thus stands in bold relief above the subterfuges of pious fraud.

This unfortunate period, 1810, made a complete revolution in the trade of Perth. About sixty of the small manufacturers were driven out of business, leaving only about eight firms who were able to carry on business. The weavers were now obliged to apply for work from Glasgow, in which quarter an endless variety of cotton fabrics had been introduced. Perth had allowed the linen trade to pass into the hands of the inhabitants of Fife, and the power looms were beginning to take the calicoes from the hand-loom weavers, who felt their situation daily becoming worse. The Perth manufacturers began to feel that they were unable to compete with the Glasgow people in light fabrics, because a change of patterns and fabrics continually taking place, before the Perth manufacturers got into the line, the demand was filled up: they turned their attention therefore to the production of heavier goods, amongst which the manufacture of umbrella gingham has for many years been one of the staple branches, and for which Perth has acquired a distinguished character.

Imitation shawls, scarfs, and robes, have of late years been extensively manufactured, and a few houses do a good deal in pullicates, gingham, and crams. The manufacture of these fabrics has given an impetus to the dyeing business, which otherwise would have been nearly extinct in Perth. The whole yarn wove in this quarter being either dyed or bleached in the neighbourhood, a considerable source of employment is thus opened up. Several establishments put as much as 500 lbs. of yarn through hands per day. Of the houses employed in the light fabrics there are two, Messrs Cornfute and Blair, who carry on an extensive business in gingham, crams, pullicates and fine muslins, employing a great number of weavers. These goods are chiefly made for the South American market, and are sent direct to that quarter by these gentlemen. Only a very few linen fabrics are at present manufactured in Perth. Mr Fleming's lint-spinning mill being now in successful operation, with the prospect of several others being speedily erected, it is to be hoped the linen manufacture will be again revived. Prior to the year 1810, the number of weavers in Perth amounted to about 3000; at present they do not exceed 1800. When hand-loom calicoes were in demand, they afforded employment to aged people, whose sight had become unfit for the finer fabrics. This and similar work being now engrossed by the power loom, these tradesmen have in consequence experienced very great distress. Agents are now established in Perth who give out work for Glasgow houses in pullicates and gingham. Some very fine imitation harnesses are employed for Paisley and Edinburgh work; but the moment trade declines, these houses withdraw their agencies, and the men are left in a state of destitution. There are two houses in Perth who keep a great number of hands at work on harnesses of various descriptions, which gives employment to a corresponding number of boys and girls.

Within the last sixty years a rapid improvement has been made in the working of the metals; and the number of people employed in the various lines have been vastly increased. Formerly the coppersmiths were chiefly employed in making small stills for the Highlands; but the various alterations in the excise laws gradually destroyed this trade. Prior to the year 1793, distillation from large stills was confined to the south of Scotland. At these great establishments, a coarse spirit was made from a mixture of malt, raw grain, pease, beans, corn, potatoes, and turnips, all mashed together. Great quantities of this spirit were retailed in Perth, some of it as low as a penny a gill. It was exceedingly harsh to the taste, but to a certain class its pungency was as great a recommendation as its cheapness. To the north of an imaginary line, drawn by the

excise laws, small stills were allowed to be wrought. Perth lying in the privileged section, a number of forty gallon stills were erected. During the last year of their existence, twenty-three distilleries were in operation in Perth and vicinity, each containing two stills of that capacity, one for singling and the other for doubling. By the act they were allowed to distil 300 bolls of malt, duty free, in the course of the year,—a duty of forty pounds a year being paid on the still. When more than the 300 bolls was distilled, the malt duty was paid on the extra quantity. For some years this was a lucrative business to those engaged in it; the grains and lees, which were freely bought up by the cow-feeders, more than paying the duty on the still. They were thus enabled to sell whisky of the very best quality at fourteen-pence the pint, with an additional pint to the score, or twenty pints. This trade was alike profitable to those concerned, and beneficial to the community; milk, in consequence of the distillery refuse, being of excellent quality and abundant; and the bakers were also provided with an ample supply of the finest yeast. Owing to a little party spite, this trade was suddenly destroyed. It has been previously stated, that the *Friends of the People* maliciously burnt the effigy of the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, secretary of state for the time being. This gave so much offence to his lordship, that the excise line was immediately thrown eight miles further north than Perth, and thus these twenty-three distilleries were immediately stopped. Several were removed to Auchtergaven, but then they durst not bring any of the spirits beyond the prescribed line. This was a new source of evil. The people in Perth, who had been accustomed to drink whisky of the best quality, could not tolerate the idea of being restricted to the *liquid fire* then produced by the large distilleries. A bold and extensive contraband traffic was the consequence. The excisemen, who were always on the alert, seized great quantities, which were frequently sold by public roup. At these sales the publicans bought the whisky frequently much beyond its value, but with it they got a permit, and it was entered to them as stock; which they contrived to keep up with constant additions of smuggled whisky, taking especial care to bring it forward in quantities proportioned to their stock. Many and ingenious were the devices by which they contrived to elude the excisemen. Tin vessels were made like a case, to clap to the person's sides or round the body; bladders were hung from women's haunches; even beggar women were pressed into the service: but each of these shifts were frequently detected, and constant brawls occurred between the excisemen and the smugglers, frequently ending in serious disasters. This state of petty warfare—of collision and collision between the smuggler and the excise-

men, continued for several years, to the detriment of the morals of the people.

We have already stated that Perth was at one time famous for fine beer. Alterations in the excise laws drove the small brewers out of the trade; and for some time the whole business on the old system was confined to Mr Hugh Cameron in the Watergate. Breweries on a large scale being given a preference in the duty, Craigie, Clocksery, and Perth breweries for many years engrossed the whole of this business. Of late several others have commenced; there being at present, in addition to these, St Katharine's, St John's, the South Inch, and Westlay Place breweries. Considerable quantities of beer are also brought from Inchture, Scone, Methven, and Auchterarder. Of late a considerable trade has arisen of sending strong ale to London; and at each of these places ale of excellent quality is now made. In place of the smuggled, the town is supplied with very fine malt whisky from entered stills in various parts of the country.

Though the making of malt for the London market, formerly a staple branch of the trade of Perth, is now at an end, large quantities of barley are still shipped for various quarters. Owing to the improved state of agriculture, the importation of meal or foreign corn is but seldom required. Formerly the bakers considered the wheat grown in the district as unfit for their purpose, without a mixture of English flour. Both wheat and flour are now frequently shipped at Perth for the London market.

Previous to the year 1800, when St John's Foundry was established, Perth was supplied with cast metal articles from Carron and other quarters. There are at present three founderies in town, in apparently prosperous circumstances, with extending business. St John's has recently fitted up a new steam engine for their work, with the view of entering upon the machinery line; and Mr Macfarlane is endeavouring to establish a trade in building iron boats; he is presently engaged on a steam vessel of this description, in size nearly equal to the Tay steamer, to be propelled by an engine of sixty horses power.

To many intelligent people it has been matter of surprise that the woollen manufacture has not been attempted in Perth. The situation could not be better for procuring the raw material, being at the very mouth of the Highlands, where the stoutest wool is produced; and the surrounding strath and carse lands producing abundance of the finest quality. The price of labour is cheap; and there being an unlimited command of water, mills and power looms to any extent might be

wrought by steam. Coals can be had as cheap as in Dundee ; the freight of vessels is much the same to any foreign port, with an equal facility to the London market. Perth only wants a few men of spirit to set the linen and woollen manufactures agoing, to ensure its prosperity.

SHIPPING.

During the early part of last century, the shipping belonging to the Port of Perth was very trifling. Peats and wood from the Town's Muir, Craigie, and Kinnoul hills, were much used ; such quantity of coals as were then used were all brought from the Frith of Forth by vessels belonging to Alloa and Kincardine. When the vessels arrived, the seamen, if there was no vessel ready to take them, travelled home on foot, as their vessel had to lie until the cargo was sold from the hold. The coal shore was covered with weighing apparatus ; for each of these, a man, under a *coal deacon*, was stationed, who sold the coals for the owner, and weighed them for the purchaser, for which a certain rate of dues was paid by the former. This obnoxious tax was kept up even after this mode of sale was abandoned. When the coal trade was thus conducted, there was a chance of getting coals cheap in the summer season ; but sometimes in a severe winter, the price rose to the enormous sum of fifteen shillings per boll. In the winter of 1794, when the river was closed by ice for three months, and for many weeks when the roads were blocked up with snow, even at that price it was considered a great favour to get them from a cellar where a stock was laid in for a bleachfield. English coal were scarcely known in this quarter ; they came in trifling quantities by the Newcastle traders, laden with crockery ware. A few metts of coals were with difficulty sold for baking fires in genteel families. There was then a duty of two-pence a bushel on them, which made the price about two shillings and four-pence a mett. About the year 1796, this duty was taken off, when the price was reduced to eighteen-pence and lower ; but although the price fell, a considerable time intervened before people could be induced to use them generally, from not knowing the method of burning them. By degrees, however, they came into general use, and a trade of bringing vessels fully loaded from Newcastle commenced. It has been observed that the coals were sold from the vessel on arrival, but after the scarcity of that article during severe winters, the price rose so high that several individuals filled cellars with coals to sell out during the winter : it so happened that a season or two gave them a handsome return for their money. A young man named Inches took the whole of that ground now occupied as coal slips, as a coal yard, and freighted a number of vessels with Scots and English coals ; but as the

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