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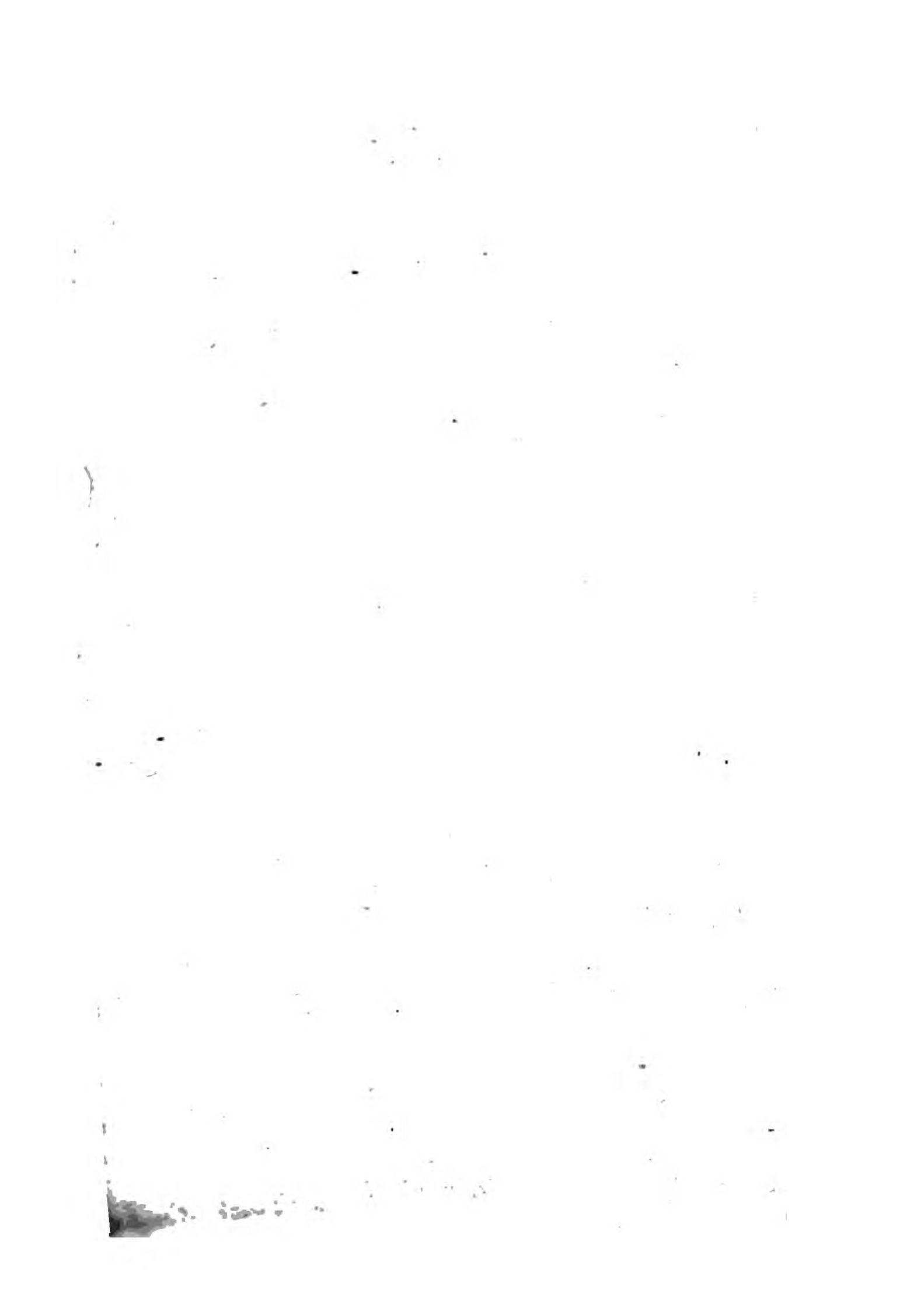


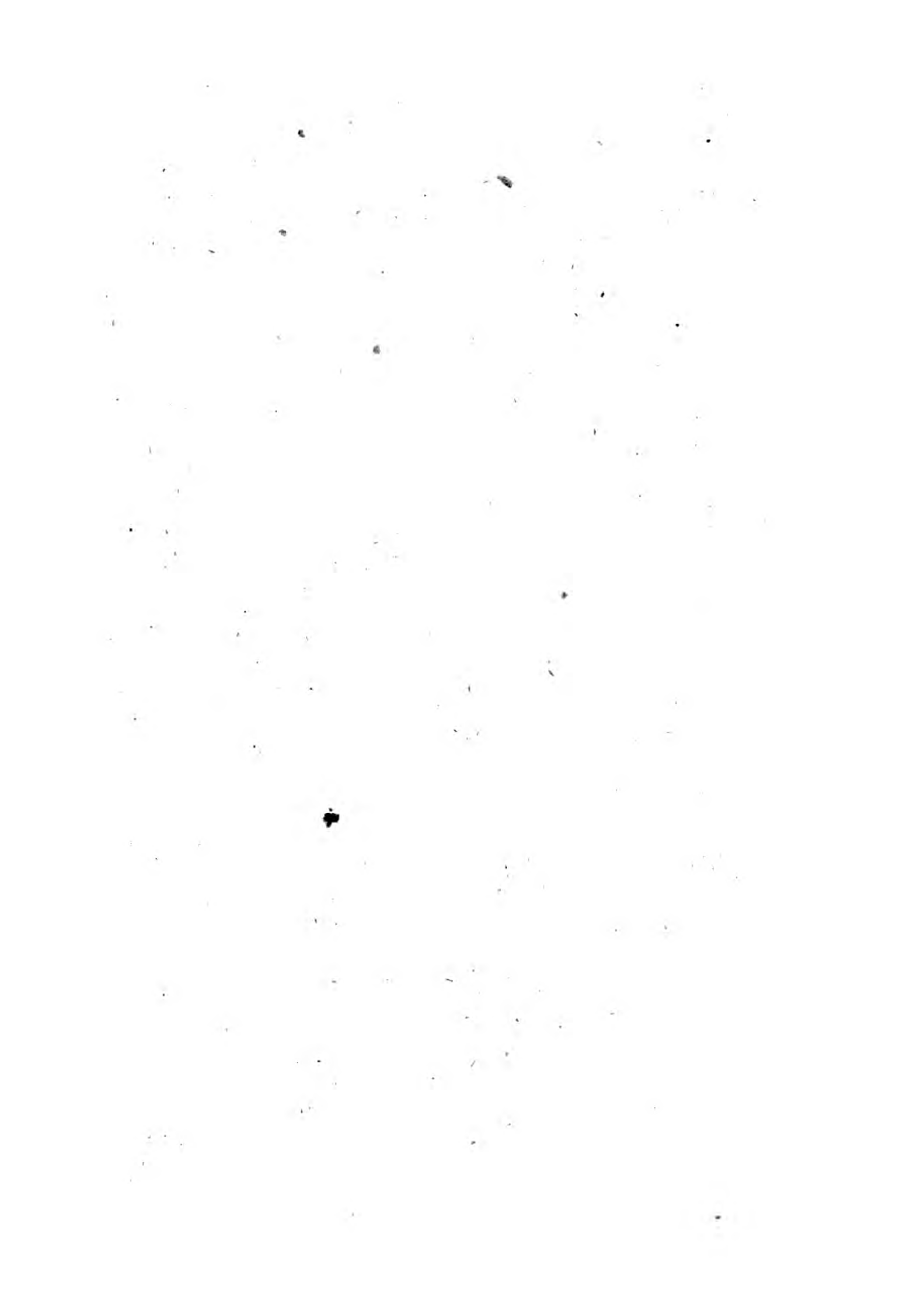
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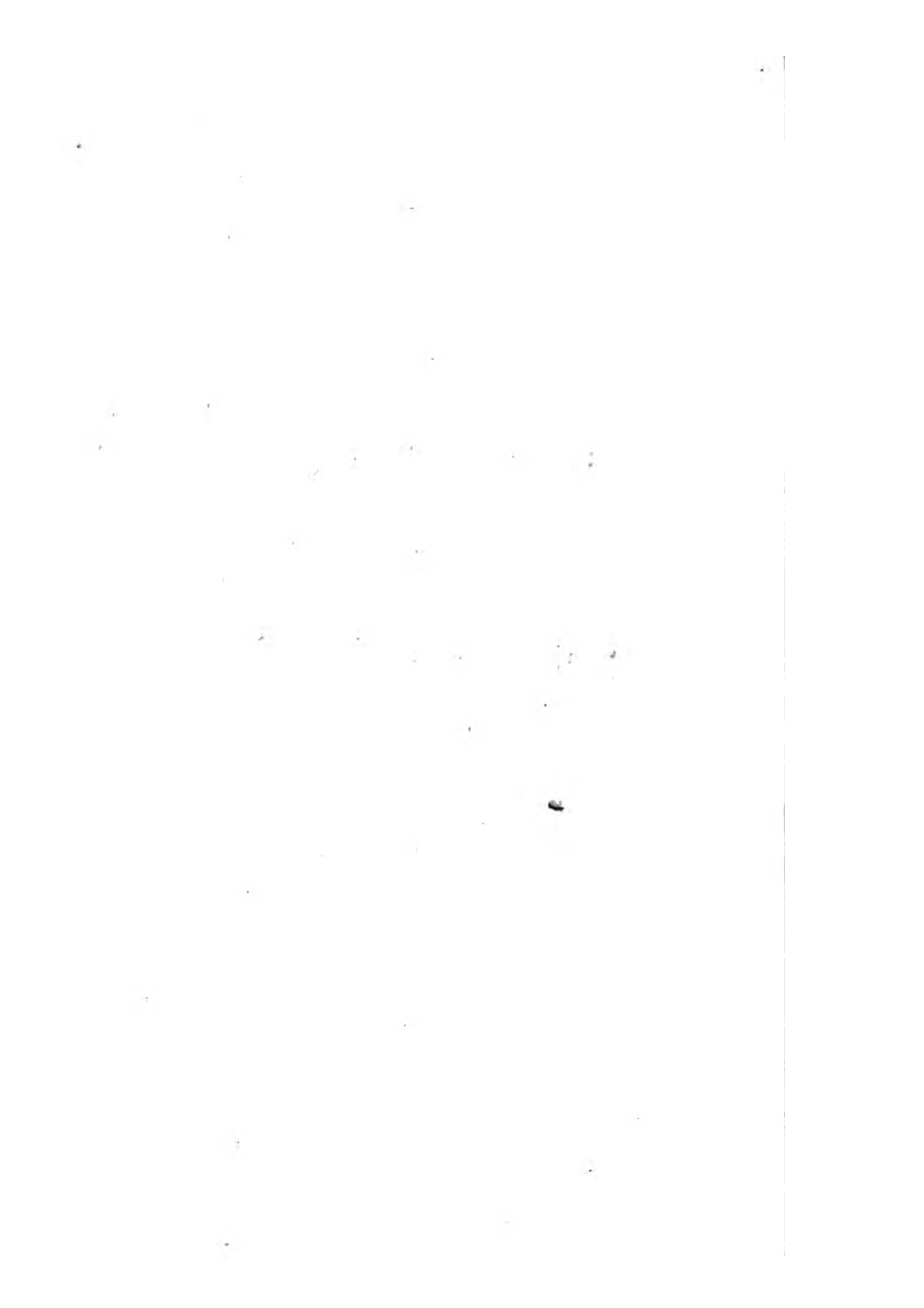
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**THE**  
**STATISTICAL ACCOUNT**  
**OF**  
**S C O T L A N D.**



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.  
DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
*MINISTERS*  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME SEVENTH.

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

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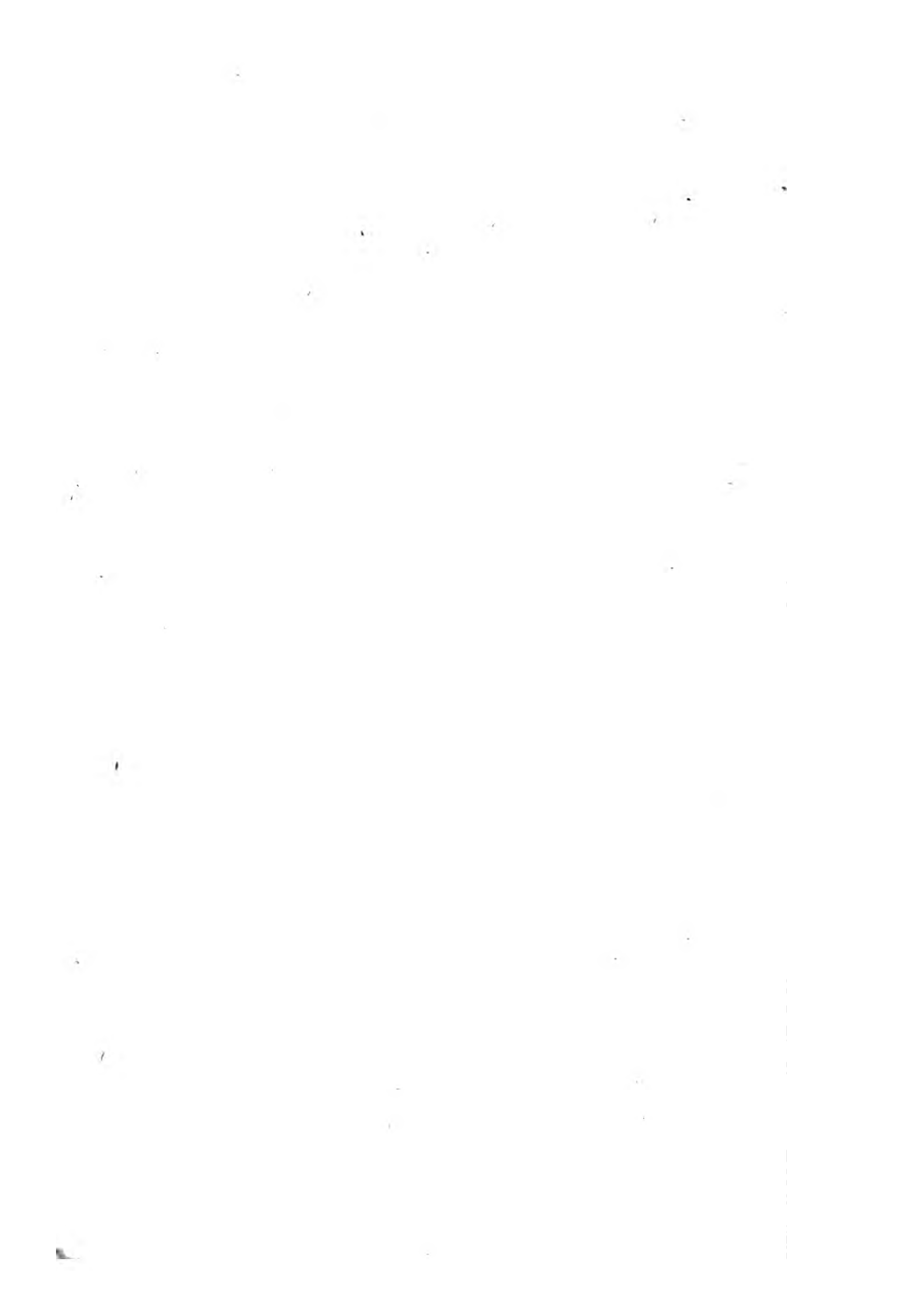
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MDCC,XCIII.





# C O N T E N T S.

| No.           | Name.              | Population in 1755. | in 1791-2. | Increase | Dec. | Page. |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|------|-------|
| 1             | Stevenston,        | 1412                | 2425       | 1013     | —    | 1     |
| 2             | Ardrossan,         | 1297                | 1518       | 221      | —    | 42    |
| 3             | Munnigaff,         | 1209                | 1420       | 211      | —    | 52    |
| 4             | Paisley,           | 4290                | 13800      | 9510     | —    | 62    |
| 5             | Abbey of ditto,    | 2509                | 10792      | 8283     | —    | 74    |
| 6             | New Kilpatrick,    | 1390                | 1700       | 310      | —    | 99    |
| 7             | Westruther,        | 591                 | 730        | 139      | —    | 109   |
| 8             | Walton,            | 479                 | 427        | —        | 52   | 116   |
| 9             | Glenheil,          | 509                 | 721        | 212      | —    | 124   |
| 10            | Stow,              | 1294                | *1400      | 106      | —    | 133   |
| 11            | Port of Monteith,  | 1865                | †1765      | —        | 100  | 139   |
| 12            | Glasford,          | 559                 | 788        | 229      | —    | 142   |
| 13            | Kilbirny,          | 651                 | 700        | 49       | —    | 149   |
| 14            | Drummelzier,       | 305                 | 270        | —        | 35   | 153   |
| 15            | Broughton,         | 367                 | 264        | —        | 103  | 156   |
| 16            | Contin,            | 1949                | ‡2500      | 551      | —    | 161   |
| 17            | Irvine,            | 4025                | 4500       | 475      | —    | 169   |
| 18            | Kirkgunzeon,       | 489                 | 520        | 31       | —    | 187   |
| 19            | Nigg,              | 1289                | 1090       | —        | 199  | 194   |
| 20            | Belhelvie,         | 1471                | 1318       | —        | 153  | 218   |
| 21            | Balmaclellan,      | 534                 | 495        | —        | 39   | 223   |
| 22            | Lochmaben,         | 1395                | 3000       | 1605     | —    | 234   |
| 23            | Urray,             | 2456                | 1860       | —        | 596  | 245   |
| 24            | Ratho,             | 930                 | 825        | —        | 105  | 250   |
| 25            | East Monkland,     | 2713                | 3560       | 847      | —    | 269   |
| 26            | Lundie and Foulis, | 586                 | 648        | 6        | —    | 281   |
| 27            | Moufswald,         | 553                 | 628        | 75       | —    | 290   |
| 28            | Cummertrees,       | 631                 | §1056      | 425      | —    | 304   |
| 29            | Ballingry,         | 464                 | 220        | —        | 244  | 312   |
| 30            | Gladsmuir,         | 1415                | 1380       | —        | 35   | 316   |
| Carried over, |                    | 39627               | 62320      | 24354    | 1661 |       |

\* This was the population in 1779. No return is made for 1792.

† The present population of Monteith is not expressly mentioned, but only in general that it is decreased; it is therefore stated 100 lower than that of 1755.

‡ The minister of Contin having only stated the number of examinable persons, the usual proportion for children is here added.

§ For the same reason a proportional addition is made here.

## CONTENTS.

| No. | Name.                                        | Population in 1755. | Population in 1791-2. | Increase | Dec. | Page. |
|-----|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|------|-------|
|     | Brought over,                                | 39627               | 62320                 | 24354    | 1661 |       |
| 31  | Dunblane, - -                                | 2728                | 2750                  | 22       |      | 323   |
| 32  | Inverury, - -                                | 730                 | 372                   |          | 358  | 331   |
| 33  | Roufay and Eglisay,                          | 978                 | 1072                  | 94       |      | 336   |
| 34  | Arbroath, - -                                | 2098                | *4676                 | 2578     |      | 340   |
| 35  | St Quivox, - -                               | 499                 | 1450                  | 951      |      | 353   |
| 36  | Cabrach, - -                                 | 960                 | 700                   |          | 260  | 361   |
| 37  | Banchory Tarnan,                             | 1736                | 1340                  |          | 396  | 369   |
| 38  | West Monkland, -                             | 1813                | 4000                  | 2187     |      | 375   |
| 39  | Dunrofsnefs, - -                             | 2295                | 3327                  | 1032     |      | 391   |
| 40  | Glasf, - -                                   | 1000                | 970                   |          | 30   | 399   |
| 41  | Oldhamstocks, -                              | 622                 | 498                   |          | 124  | 402   |
| 42  | Fodderty, - -                                | 1483                | 1730                  | 247      |      | 410   |
| 43  | Strichen, - -                                | 1158                | 1400                  | 242      |      | 416   |
| 44  | Lefmahagoe, - -                              | 2996                | 2810                  |          | 186  | 420   |
| 45  | Craignifh, - -                               | 769                 | 770                   | 1        |      | 436   |
| 46  | Crofs, Burnefs, and }<br>North Ronaldfhay, } | 1250                | 1389                  | 139      |      | 450   |
| 47  | Ladykirk, - -                                | 750                 | †803                  | 53       |      | 462   |
| 48  | Yarrow, - -                                  | 1180                | 1230                  | 50       |      | 500   |
| 49  | Carfefairn, - -                              | 609                 | 461                   |          | 148  | 513   |
| 50  | Bower, - -                                   | 1287                | 1592                  | 305      |      | 521   |
| 51  | Kirkwall and St Ola,                         | 1989                | 2550                  | 561      |      | 529   |
| 52  | Reay, - -                                    | 2262                | 2298                  | 36       |      | 570   |
| 53  | Aithfing and Sanfing,                        | 911                 | 1285                  | 374      |      | 580   |
| 54  | Muirkirk, - -                                | 745                 | 1100                  | 355      |      | 598   |
| 55  | Dundonald, - -                               | 983                 | 1317                  | 334      |      | 615   |
|     | Total,                                       | 73458               | 104210                | 33915    | 3163 |       |
|     | Population in 1755,                          | - - -               | 73458                 | 3163     |      |       |
|     | Increase in 1792,                            | - - -               | 30752                 | 30752    |      |       |

\* In this number, 638 inhabitants of that part of Arbroath, which belongs to the parish of St Vigean, are not included. The addition of that number would make the increase 3216.

† This was the population in 1787. The parish being now vacant, no return is made for 1791-2.

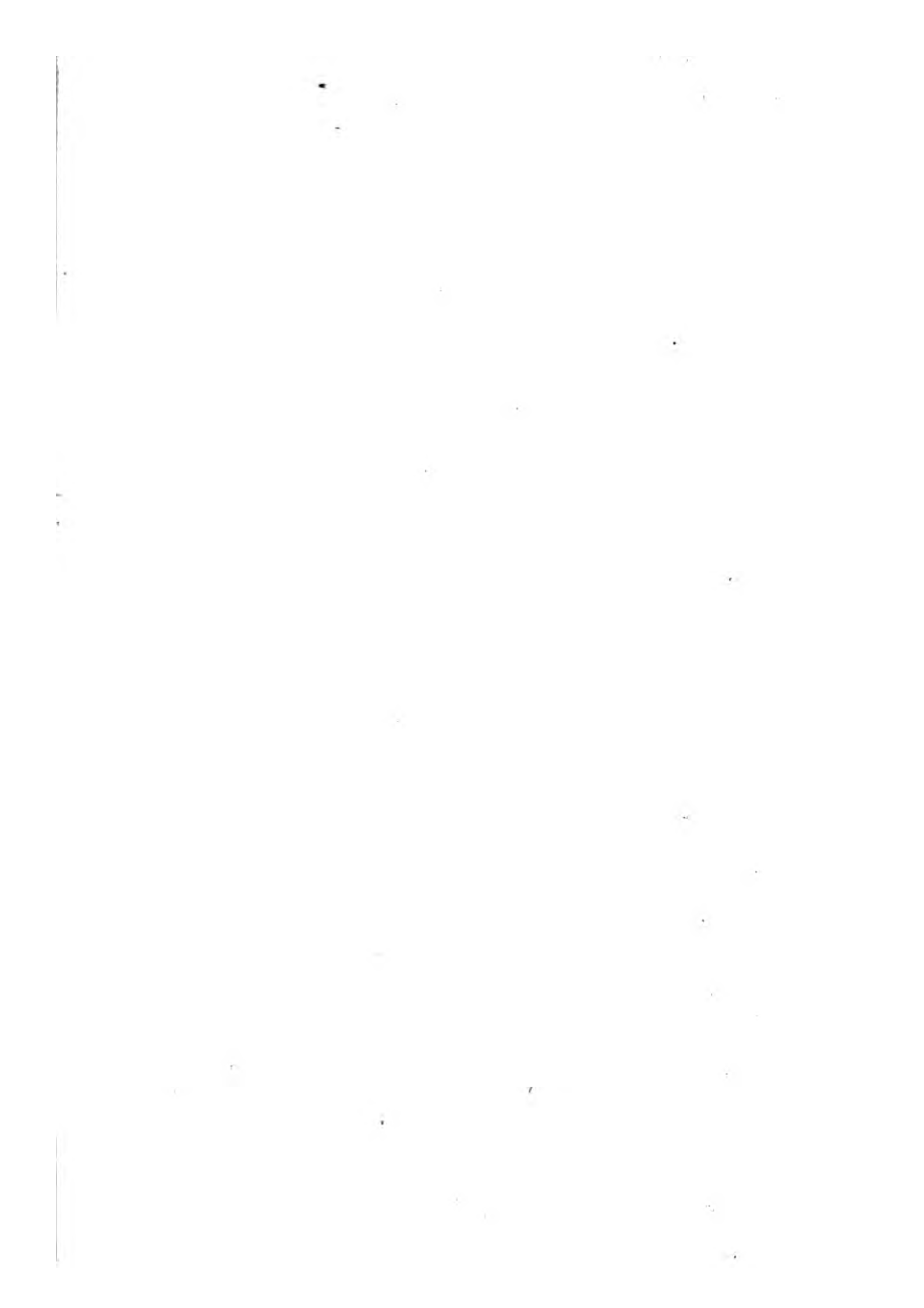


## ERRATA ET ADDENDA.

- Page 47 Line 2 *after* persons *add* the return to Dr Web-  
ster, in 1755, was 1294
- 134 II *after* upwards *add* the population in 1755  
was 1294
- 119 6 *for* war *read* year
- 312 II *for* *Judicorum* *read* *Judaeorum*
- 334 4 *for* were *read* was
- 395 I *for* 2295 *read* 2095

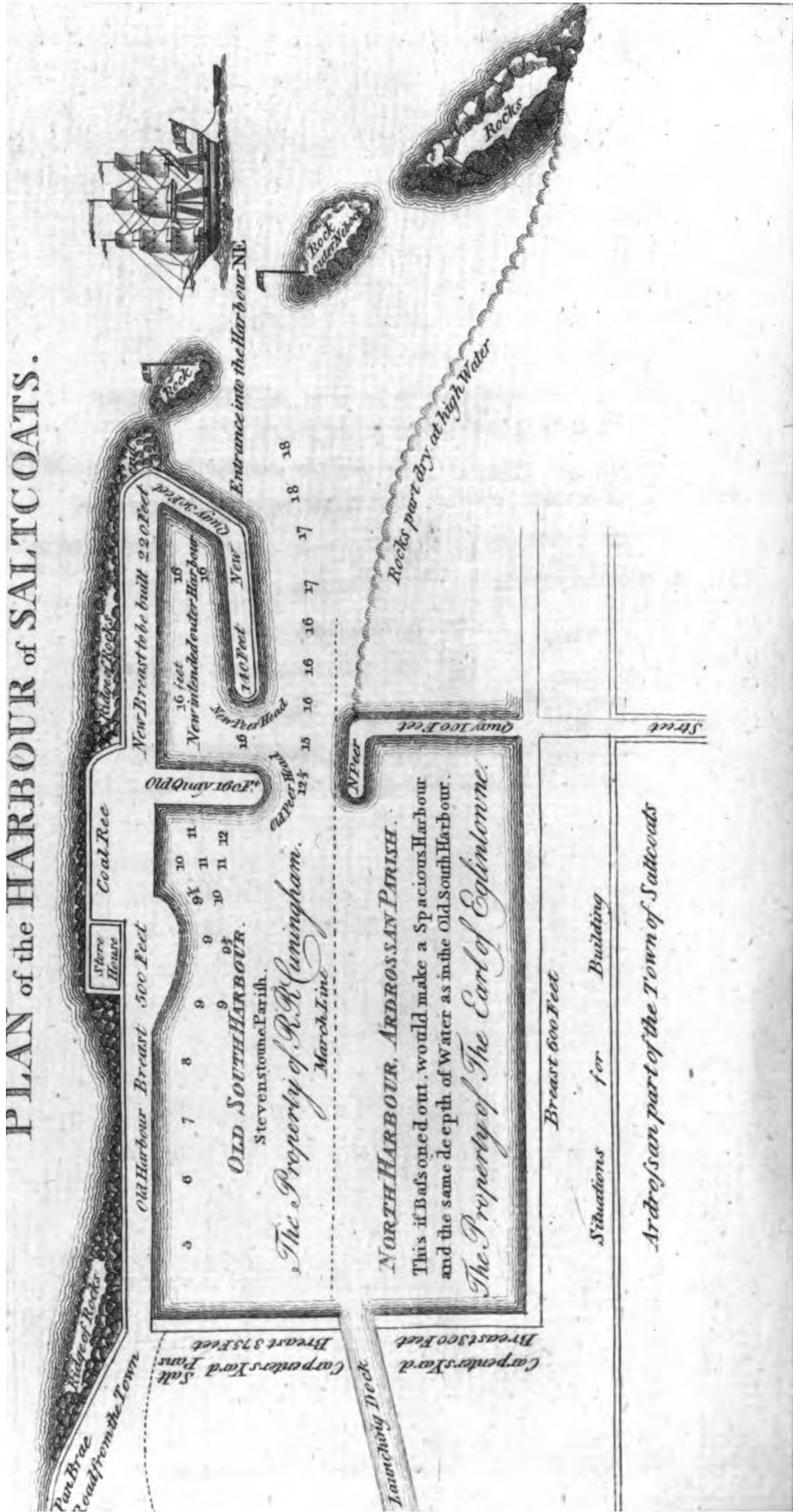




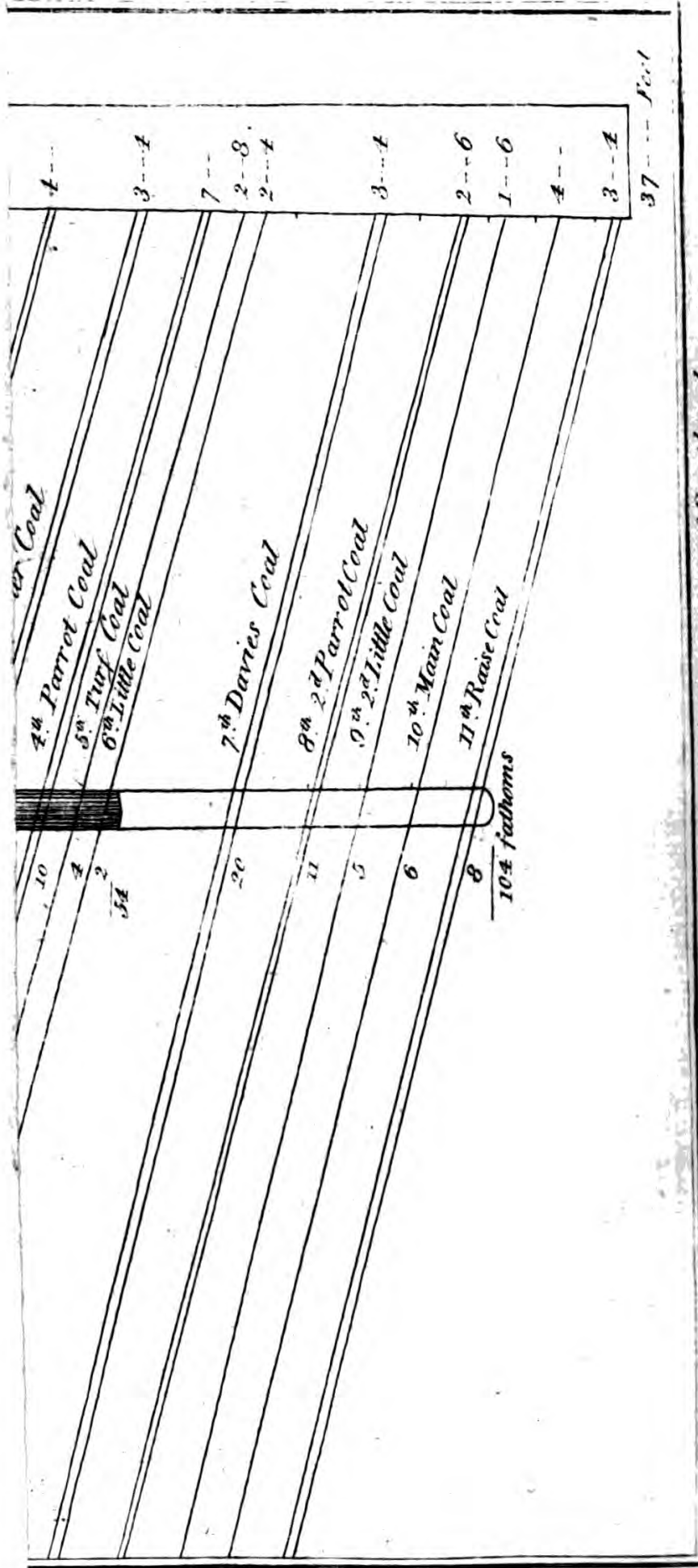




# PLAN of the HARBOUR of SALT COATS.







1st Coal

2<sup>nd</sup> Parrot Coal

3<sup>rd</sup> Turf Coal

4<sup>th</sup> Little Coal

5<sup>th</sup> Davies Coal

6<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Parrot Coal

7<sup>th</sup> Little Coal

8<sup>th</sup> Main Coal

9<sup>th</sup> Raise Coal

104 fathoms

4

3

7

2-8

2

3

2-6

1-6

4

3

37

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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

## S C O T L A N D.

PART VII.

---

NUMBER I.

### PARISH OF STEVENSTON.

*(County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Irvine.—Synod of  
Glasgow and Ayr.)*

*By the Reverend Dr JAMES WODROW.*

---

*Name, Ancient History, &c.*

**T**HE name of this parish is said to have been derived from a person called *Stephen*, who came from Ireland and settled here; or, perhaps, from the church having been dedicated to Saint Stephen. It was probably an appendage of the abbacy of Kilwinning. The House of Kerila, the only old castle in the parish (which was lately inhabited by the proprietors, the Hamiltons of Grange, but is now

a ruin), belonged, according to tradition, to the abbot. After the Reformation, the then Earl of Glencairn, who became proprietor of the whole parish, lived in it. The concave roof of the old hall in that castle, a very spacious square room, was ornamented with the coats of arms of the greatest part of the Scottish nobility. In the year 1678, the parish was very inconsiderable, if we may judge from the proportion of assessment it paid towards the maintenance of the Highland Host, and other exactions, during those unhappy times. It must then have consisted of farmers only, who do not make a tenth part of the inhabitants at present. The two populous towns of *Saltcoats* and *Stevenston*, have risen almost within the present century. There was, indeed, about a quarter of a mile east from the latter, a group of 14 or 16 houses, chiefly inhabited by persons who manufactured, or played on *the trump*, or Jew's harp, the ruins of which lately remained; and one of the coal-pits contiguous to their ancient dwellings, is still called the *Piper-beugh*. This parish lies on the northern shore of the Bay of Ayr; its form is a kind of irregular square, two miles and a half in length, and about as much in breadth; but beyond this, the sandy ground stretches two miles farther to the south-east, and terminates on a point of land opposite to Irvine Harbour. The two rivers Garnock and Irvine, meet near this place, and their waters immediately enter the Atlantic. The line of shore between the Harbours of Irvine and Saltcoats is about five miles, and thus is nearly double the length of the northern boundary. The town of Stevenston is central, with respect to the inhabited part of the parish. The church stands on an elevated ridge, immediately above the town, and commands a very extensive and delightful prospect of the whole bay of Ayr, narrowed by a long stretch of the mountainous coast of Carrick towards the S. E. distant about  
five

five or six leagues. Corresponding to this, on the west side, at a seemingly equal distance, appears the greatest part of the romantic Island of Arran, with its still more lofty and tremendous mountains, and broken creeks. Between this Island and Carrick, the sea opens unbounded to the eye; and the beautiful regular rock Ailza appears, as if set down exactly in the middle of the opening, about 40 miles distant.

*Sea Coast.*—The five miles line of shore is quite a sandy beach, on which the sea deepens in the most gradual manner imaginable. Hence, during a westerly storm, it is formidable to such ships as have the misfortune to be here embayed, as they strike the ground at a considerable distance from the shore, which is covered with a dangerous surf. The sandy beach begins at Saltcoats, and sweeps round by Irvine, along the whole coast of Kyle, for more than 20 miles, to the mouth of the river *Doon* or *Dune* beyond Ayr; interrupted only by a small peninsula of rocky ground at the *Trune*. The coast of Carrick, beginning at Doon, is rocky, as is likewise the coast of Cunningham northward from Saltcoats towards Greenock. The Harbours of Ayr and Irvine within their respective rivers, the mouth of which is crossed by a *bar* or bank of sand, cannot be entered but at spring tides; and the harbour of Saltcoats, which is a natural one, at an ordinary tide; and none of the three can at any time admit ships above 220 tons burden. Accordingly, when they are checked within this bay by a westerly storm, which sometimes continues for several days together, it is impossible for them to make the safe road of Lamlash in Arran, on the west, and equally so to clear the rocky shore of Cunningham, and the point of Pencrofs, six miles N. W. of Saltcoats, in order to get shelter in the Fairlie Road. There is only one particular place in this open bay, which will afford them  
shelter

shelter in such a situation, viz. under the *Lady Isle*, a small uninhabited rocky island, about two miles S. W. of the *Trune*, and near four miles N. W. of Ayr, on which there are two beacons or *spires*, erected by the town of Glasgow about 17 years ago. If the distressed ship can get to the south-east of this little Island, between it and *Ayr*, and bring these two spires to bear in a line with herself, she may drop her anchors with safety, within a cable's length of the shore, in water from 10 to 14 fathoms deep, on very good ground\*.

*Appearance and Soil of the Parish.*—The parish naturally divides itself into two districts, the upper inclosed farms on the north, and the low sandy plain on the sea. The last is narrower, but nearly double the length of the first. The ground of the upper parish is unequal, many parts level, mixed with little hills, and continued stretches of rising ground, toward the boundaries; and this track will soon exhibit a fine appearance, from the rising belts, and plantations of Mr Hamilton's estate, and his very elegant house lately built in the middle of it. The prevailing soil here is clay, not very stiff, but easily subdued. There are also several fields of kindly gravel and rich loam.

The lower fourth division is a continued plain, the inequalities made by the sand hills, as they call them, excepted, some of which are above 30 or 40 feet high. The soil here is pure sand throughout; yet the stratum of clay prevalent in the higher ground continues under the sand, and has been once bare, and cultivated nearer the sea than at present; for a section of the clay, in a regular curved line (the undoubted

\* Some ships saved themselves here, while fourteen others were wrecked, December 8th 1789, on the Kyle and Carrick coasts.

doubted vestige of ancient plowed ridges) is frequently laid open to the eye, on the sides of the canal and other deep drains.

A steep ridge of rocky ground, the greatest part of which is now covered with soil, runs for two miles nearly in a straight line from west to east, between these two tracks of the parish, and suddenly raises the upper plain to a considerable height above the lower. On the west end of this ridge, where it dips into the sea, is the town of Saltcoats, built on the rocks. More than a mile east, immediately under the ridge, is the town of Stevenston, adorned with trees, and two gentlemen's houses, with their parks at some distance, one on each side of it. All the rest of the plain, considerably elevated to the east, exhibits a waste and dreary prospect of sand, which blows in some places, and is prevented only by the deep-rooted *bent* growing through it, from being reduced to a dead level. At present, the sand-hills or mounds are continually sinking, and laying open to the eye the spires of Irvine, and other land objects, never seen before. In a course of time, the inland part of these sands, raised by the storms from the sea, will cover a little more of our cultivated ground; and the outer part of them, undermined by the spring tides, and blown by the dry N. E. winds, will gradually raise the bottom, and narrow the bounds of the sea, which has in fact retired in a very sensible manner within the last 30 years\*.

There

\* There is little ground to doubt, that these and the other adjoining tracks of sand consist of the soil of the upper country, carried by land floods down the large rivers of Irvine and Garnock into the sea, beaten back again incessantly by the tides, and thus reduced to their present state and form. At every land flood, the sea appears to the eye brown and  
muddy



There is little sea-weed thrown in upon the sandy shore, but abundance on the neighbouring shores of Ardrossan and Kilbride, where it is chiefly used as manure to their barley grounds. There are very few white fish caught in the open bay. From the shores contiguous to Saltcoats, we are sufficiently

muddy for a mile round the mouth of these rivers. Every appearance indicates, that, at a very remote period, the sea covered the whole track, for the upper soil is loose sea sand, without a stone in it—that, at a less remote period, perhaps several centuries ago, the sea covered the lower part of the track nearest Saltcoats, washed the whole rocky ridge above described, and stretching N. E. through low marshy grounds, went within less than a mile of Kilwinning, and thus left the east part of Stevenston sand hills more elevated than the rest, together with part of the parishes of Kilwinning and Irvine, in the form of a circular island, three miles in diameter, surrounded either totally by the sea, or in part by the Garnock, which seems to have then held a more westerly course than at present. The proofs of the insular situation of that part of the coast, and that it was probably a deer island, are these—The anchors of boats dug out of the lower marshy grounds—The name of the estate of Patrick Warner, Esq; the proprietor of a great part of the track, *Ardeer*, (the only Gaelic name in the parish)—The old house stood on a part of the rocky ridge, which juts out beyond the rest like a *promontory*—Two pair of branching deers horns, lately found; one pair with part of the scull sticking to them, dug out of the ground 30 feet deep; the other at a less depth, discovered by the course of Stevenston burn; both now in the possession of that gentleman—A cave under ground, discovered about two years ago, near the same gentleman's house, or a cavity in a solid rock of free stone, 24 feet long, 12 wide, and 6 high. The stone in the bottom of this cave, and in the sides, two feet up, is polished or worn smooth in such a manner, as leaves no doubt that it must have been washed either by the waves of the sea, now above a mile distant, or by the course of a river. The river is above three miles distant.—*Lastly*, An old atlas, said to have been in Eglinton Castle about the beginning of this century, in which there was a chart of the coast, exhibiting this insular appearance. It is doubtful, however, whether this change be so recent that it could appear in any chart; but the fact itself seems sufficiently established.

ciently supplied with shell fish of all kinds, except oysters. Of these there are very few on any part of the west coast. There is a small salmon fishing at the mouth of the rivers Garnock and Irvine, from whence they sometimes come along the whole shore of the parish, and are caught near Saltcoats Harbour. The salmon seldom make their appearance in these rivers till about the beginning of July. They are inferior in taste and quality to those caught in the other rivers of Ayrshire. In general, the season of the salmon is earlier, and their quality better, according as the rivers lie farther to the south, that is, according as they become clearer, and their channels more rocky, by their approach towards the mountainous part of the country. There is a small fresh water lake covering, perhaps, about 30 acres of ground, at the N. E. point of the parish, where it meets with the parishes of Kilwinning and Ardrossan. No fishes are caught in it, except a few perches and pikes.

*Climate and Diseases.*—In consequence of the dry situation, and the south and west winds which blow into the open bay for three fourths of the year, the air is in general salubrious, and the climate more mild by several degrees, than in the higher country; snow being seldom seen in the lower part of the parish for 24 hours. The climate is also more dry; the loaded clouds often passing on till they touch the hills. Nevertheless, rheumatisms, coughs, and consumptions are as frequent as in the inland parishes: *Epidemical fevers* perhaps more frequent. The ravages of the *small-pox* are sometimes dreadful, among the children of the families who neglect inoculation. The *measles* and the *chincough* are seldom, I might say, almost never, mortal. The *stopping*, or *croop*, a disease said to be attached to the sea-coast, has made its

its appearance twice or thrice within these 30 years, and cut off between 12 and 20 young children at a time.

*Sea-Bathing.*—Saltcoats is the principal watering place in Ayrshire. From 300 to 500 people usually resort there, during the Summer months, for sea-bathing, from the inland country, especially from the towns of Paisley, Glasgow, and Hamilton.

*Minerals.*—There is a mineral well in the north quarter of the parish, of the same kind with the chalybeate spring at Moffat, but weaker; and, probably, several other springs impregnated with iron, if one may judge from their taste, and the tinge they leave on the clay or sand from whence they issue. A vein of iron stone, from 10 to 14 inches thick, has been lately found between the coal strata. The upper parish abounds in different strata of *stone, whin, flag, and free stone*, both the softer and harder kinds, which are worked whenever there is occasion for them: And in the sandy grounds, near Mr Warner's house, there are inexhaustible quarries of post free-stone, fifty feet thick, of a very white and excellent kind, susceptible of a fine polish. This is carried into the inland country, for tomb-stones; and often by water, along the coast, to gentlemen's seats, for hearths, stairs, gates, &c. It is also exported to Londonderry and Dublin, and sells there at 1 l. 12 s. *per* ton of stone, which is 16 feet, *i. e.* 2 s. *per* cubical foot.—Beneath the rocks on which Saltcoats stands, and within the sea-mark, there is found a kind of black stone, which has the appearance of a coarse marble, but without the calcareous quality of marble or limestone. On the contrary, it stands any ordinary fire, and on this account is much used as *cheeks*, in which they fix their grates. Fitted up in this manner, these  
have

have perfectly the appearance of Carron grates. In the upper part of the parish, there is plenty of good limestone. Two of the proprietors have draw-kilns, which are kept going for a considerable part of the year, to answer the ordinary demand of lime for building, and especially for manure, which is purchased by their own tenants, and by the farmers of the country westward along the shore, where there is none of it. Notwithstanding this abundance, a small quantity of Irish limestone is imported at Saltcoats, as ballast, in the coal ships. The lime made of it is whiter than the Scots, and answers better for plaister-work, and for casting of houses and walls.

*Saltcoats.*—The principal object worthy of attention in this parish is the town of Saltcoats, and the *coal-mines* in its neighbourhood, which have furnished an article of exportation from that town to Ireland for near a century back. The town is singularly situated, on the limits of the two parishes of Stevenston and Ardrossan, and almost equally divided between them. There were leases of houses and gardens granted to a few families as long ago as the year 1565. But it is certain, from unquestionable traditionary testimony (that of parents to their children now living) that a century after that time, or about 130 years ago, there were only *four* houses in Saltcoats, which now consists of about 400. Yet at a much remoter period, *salt* was made there; which appears not only from tradition, but from the remains of considerable heaps of ashes south and north of the present town. It was then made by poor people, in their little pans or kettles. They dugged up the coal near the surface of the ground, at a very small expence, and lived in huts on the shore. Hence, probably, the name of *Saltcotes* or *Cottages*.

The improvement of districts, and even of countries and kingdoms, seems to depend, not so much upon a natural and regular tendency in the *progress of Society* towards improvement, as upon the happy spirit of particular men, raised up by Providence from time to time, endued with uncommon talents themselves, and capable of rousing the talents, stimulating the exertions, and directing the industry of others. Of this sort was a Robert Cunningham of Auchinharvie, who, by the death of his uncle Sir Robert Cunningham, physician to Charles II. became proprietor of this whole parish, during the latter part of the last century. Mr Cunningham, with a very enterprising genius, and persevering spirit, made trial, at a great expence, on the different seams of coal, bored, and also put down shafts or pits at considerable distances from one another, to ascertain their declivity, their thickness, their qualities, with the principal *troubles* or obstructions to them. These things he ascertained with an exactness that surpris'd his successors, who are still in possession of some of his papers, and have seldom found him far mistaken in his conjectures about this dark subterraneous field. He drove a level mine under ground, through his own and part of Lord Eglinton's estate, for a mile and a half, and thus laid the upper part of several of the seams dry. After this, he began to turn out a much greater quantity of coal than ever had been done before; and to open a door for the exportation of it, and thus compleat his great and useful design, he set about building a *Harbour* at Saltcoats, carrying on this work entirely at his own charges, amidst many difficulties and discouragements from its exposed situation; the Winter storms, for several years, demolishing part of what he had done during the preceding Summer. At last, he compleated the Harbour, about the year 1700; and, with some small reparations, it stands to this day,

day, a monument of his public spirit and enterprize. He built salt-pans, with all their appendages, to consume the useless part of the coal. By these expensive schemes, however, he hurt his fortune, and was obliged to sell a considerable part of his estate, reserving to himself the track of it nearest Saltcoats, with a servitude for working the coal on the rest.

For 60 years after his death, the coal continued to be worked in different places of the parish. A fire or steam-engine was erected near Saltcoats in the 1719, the second then in Scotland. The small cylinder of it was brought from London, only 18 inches in diameter, not much larger than their present pumps. It could, therefore, raise little water. The work was carried on with a cautious spirit, and moderate success, yielding a maintenance to miners, salters, and many others employed in carrying the coals; the shipping of Saltcoats increasing in the mean time gradually, but slowly, till about 20 years ago, when a new and very successful push towards improvement was made. This shall be explained immediately. But in order to render it intelligible, it will be necessary to attempt some description of the coal-field, which the writer of this has been enabled to do, from papers put into his hands by the present Robert Cunningham, Esq; one of the proprietors, and the sole conductor of the work.

*Description of the subterraneous Coal Strata.*—Coal has been wrought not far from the surface in most places of the parish; but the proper coal-field now, is the lower sandy division, the surface of which has been described, from Saltcoats on the west point, to the river Garnock on the east; an oval piece of ground, above four miles in length, and a mile

or more in breadth. In this field there are eleven strata or seams of workable coal, which usually *dip* (decline downward) one fathom in five, towards the south, or the sea, but in a circular direction, from the south-west to the south-east; and they all *rise* towards the land in the opposite direction. The first or uppermost of these seams *cropps out* \* nearest the sea, and the rest follow it towards the land, at regular distances; all the different seams being perfectly parallel to one another. The distance, or respective deepness, with the thickness of the several seams, will best appear from the annexed sketch.

The sketch exhibits a small section of the eleven seams, as they would appear to the eye if they were visible, with somewhat of their proportional distances. They yield coal of different qualities, all good and quick burning, except the last, *the raise coal*, which is duller than the rest, and chiefly used in making salt and lime; but it has also been exported. The present dip-engine pit is cradled on the pavement of the first seam. The figures on the left side, mark the distances of the respective seams from one another *in fathoms*, and consequently, their perpendicular depth, *at that place*, from the surface of the ground. The figures on the right hand mark the thickness, from the roof to the pavement, of the several seams, in feet and inches. From these things it appears, that from the pavement of the first seam to that of the eleventh, is 104 fathoms; consequently, if the engine-pit were removed so far to the *dip* as to take hold of first seam, or Bow-bridge coal, at a depth of 20 fathoms, it would take hold of the whole 11 seams at the depth of 124 fathoms, which is said to be less than the depth from which coals are raised at Newcastle and Whitehaven; and  
such

\* English technical term, *Bassets out*.

such a pit would command \* 37 feet of good coal, which is said to be more than they raise from the same depth at either of these places. And along with the coal they could raise, with little expence, a vein of iron-stone, lying upon the roof of the seventh seam of coal. But this is an enterprize which must be left to future generations. At present, the dip engine-pit, reaches only 54 fathoms, and takes in only five of the seams, viz. from the pavement of the first: And though the engine on that pit has a cylinder 5 feet in diameter, and a 16 inch working barrel, yet they were justly afraid that it would not be able to manage the prodigious weight of water; so that they have lately erected on the *rise* pit (40 fathoms deep), a second steam-engine, with a 4½ feet cylinder, and a 13½ inch working barrel, which it is to be hoped will do their business effectually; and they have at present a field of coal on the *level* and *rise*, which will probably serve them for a generation or two.

*Subterraneous Divisions of the Coal Fields.*—1. This very extensive field of coal, reaching from Saltcoats to Garnock, is cut into three parts, by two great galls or dikes that run through the whole field, nearly in a line from north to south. The first western division next Saltcoats, was wrought improperly in the 1719; and the greatest part of it remains, very much incommoded with water, open to future adventurers. It is bounded on the east by the *Capon-craig Gall*, a great dike of hard whin-stone, above 20 yards thick, at least where it appears at the surface, sinking perpendicularly into the earth to an unknown depth. This dike

\* In the eastern part of the field, there are two thin seams, besides those exhibited, lying between the 9th and 10th, one of 3 feet, and another of 2 feet 4 inches, which would make the thickness of the whole coal raised there 42 feet 4 inches.



dike does not in the least disturb the strata of coal where it cuts them, but has the happy effect of keeping off the great waste of water on the west side of it, from

2. The second centre division of the coal-field, by much the largest which is wrought at present. This is bounded on the east by the Piper-heugh gall, a dyke small and thin compared with the former, and the metal or substance of it soft. It is what the miners call a *bitch*, *i. e.* it disturbs all the strata of coal, of stone, and every thing else in its neighbourhood, so as to make them start suddenly about ten or twelve fathoms out of their former inclined plain: But they immediately go on again in a similar declivity, at their regular or parallel distances. In this division there is said to be an extent of a field of coal about 2000 yards on the level of the dip engine pit, *viz.* at 54 fathoms, and all clear to the *rise* of this.

3. The third or east division reaches from the Piper-heugh-step to another, called the Milldam-step, and gives them an extent of level of about 1500 yards. Here the coal, instead of its usual dip of one fathom in five, dips one in ten. The second and third seams become also so thin as to be worth nothing. And the whole coal, when it approaches towards the last named Milldam-step, becomes very much troubled, and turns into what they call *bumph*, a black useless substance. In all probability it continues in the same state to the east, as several unsuccessful trials have been made in the parish of Kilmwinning and on the Muir of Irvine, on the level of the Stevenston coal, and not a little money sunk in these experiments.

*Late spirited efforts in working the Coal-mines.*—But to trace

a little further the late improvements in this parish.—About the year 1770, the Auchinharvie estate, comprehending the western division of the coal-field, the harbour of Saltcoats, the Salt-pans, and every thing connected with the collieries, came into the possession of the present Robert Reid Cunningham, a gentleman who inherits a sufficient portion of the active and enterprising spirit of his great-grandfather, and has prosecuted his schemes with judgment, perseverance, and success. The servitude already mentioned, page 11. being then expired, Mr Cunningham entered into a copartnership for a long period with his neighbour Mr Warner, the proprietor of the rest of the coal-field. They made trial, by sinking pits between the 2d and 3d divisions, not discouraged by the prodigious depth of sand, which required three or four hundred men at the beginning to work night and day without intermission, in scooping a circle near a hundred feet in diameter at the surface, narrowing it gradually, till they reached the clay at the depth of 30 or 36 feet, and were thus able to secure themselves against the increasing force of the under water. Here they found excellent coal, but loaded with the expence of a considerable land carriage to Saltcoats, through deep sands. Mr Cunningham hesitated for some time between the two schemes of constructing a waggon-road, or cutting a canal. He fortunately fixed on the last, which was executed at much less expence than had been calculated, and free of all the formidable dangers that had been predicted. The canal was finished and navigated September 19. 1772, the first upon which any business was done in Scotland. It is a ditch without any locks, but very wide and deep in some places, from the inequality of the ground;  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles long, besides the long side branches afterwards cut to the mouth of every new pit that was opened; twelve feet wide at the bottom, the sides inclined at an angle of 45 degrees; the  
water

water four feet deep; the boats carry for the shipping, or the falt-pans, from twelve to fifteen tons; the land carriage 600 yards from the west end of the canal to the harbour of Salt-coats.

In the year 1778, these gentlemen made a new and successful trial, where nothing had ever been attempted before, in a field called the *Misk*, on the banks of the Garnock, at the eastern extremity of Mr Warner's estate and of the parish. There they erected a fire-engine on a pit forty fathoms deep, and wrought the first and fourth seams, (see figure.) They continued in the mean time to work on their western colliery till they were stopped by an unconquerable depth of sand. This obstacle they endeavoured to surmount by a very ingenious effort. They attempted to drive a very small canal underground, from the bottom of the pit along the level and pavement of the coal, and actually carried this canal more than 200 yards eastward; purposing, had things answered, to have driven it on, the whole way to the *Misk*; to have connected their two collieries by means of this subterraneous communication, and thus to have saved themselves the enormous expence of sinking pits from the surface along this track. But unfortunately their coal at that place began to degenerate, and turn into humph; so that they were forced to abandon this project, and execute another more obvious and practicable for the exportation of the *Misk* coal. This was, to cut two short canals above ground, from the Garnock to the mouth of their two pits, with flood-gates facing the river; and to build lighters of thirty tons burden. Into these the baskets full of coals are emptied, or poured, as they come up from the mouth of the pit, at a very small charge; and, sailing down the canals and the river, the lighters discharge their coals either into empty vessels lying at anchor in  
the

the bay, or, more frequently, into the Irvine ships, which have already taken part of their loading within the bar of their own river, and, for want of depth of water, are unable to complete it. Thus these gentlemen have increased the trade of the port of Irvine, as well as that of Saltcoats. This work, however, can only be carried on in moderate weather; but no dangerous accidents have hitherto attended it.

At these two collieries there are upwards of 200 men, exclusive of boys, employed, and about 50 horses: Near 20 of the horses under ground; the rest in the gins and land carriage. The secondary employment created by the exportation, and by the carriage of an extensive land sale, cannot be stated.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Tons.         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Produce of the Collieries.</i> —The quantity of round coal, splent coal, small or pan coal, raised from the West Colliery, taken at an average of twenty years, ending March 27. 1790, amounts yearly to about | 13,000        |
| The quantity of the same, raised from the East or Misk Colliery, taken at an average of eleven years from the same day, amounts yearly to about                                                                   | 10,000        |
| <b>Total annual out-put about</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>23,000</b> |

This is greatly on the increase, from the present good establishment of the work; the Western Colliery alone, during the present month, March 1791, having put out more than 500 tons weekly.

*Prices of Coal.*—The price of the coal here to the shipmasters

ters is 6s. *per* ton. The British duty about 1s. 2d. *per* chaldron. The duty by the Irish Parliament 8d. *per* ton. Additional duty or tax laid on by the Lord Mayor of Dublin for paving the streets, &c. 1s. 2d. The price in the Dublin market is fluctuating; never below 16s. *per* ton; seldom above 20s.; sometimes it rises to 30s.; and last winter, when the ships were kept in their ports by more than two months of westerly storms, it rose to 36s. *per* ton. The quantity of Ayrshire coal imported into the north of Ireland bears but a small proportion to what they receive from Whitehaven. The coal ships return here from Dublin in ballast. Except some very trifling articles of provision, they bring home the value of their cargoes in hard guineas.

*Salt.*—The dross or rubbish of the coal, mixed with a little good round coal, is used for making *salt*. The same stuff is employed to heat their steam engines, and to burn lime, and is sold for the last purpose at half price. A new salt-pan was erected about two years ago: They talk of building two more. At present there are four, all contiguous to the harbour, with a large reservoir, which, however, unless during the heat of summer, is of little service in strengthening or evaporating the sea-water. Though the pans are five miles distant from the mouth of the two large rivers; yet, during a track of rainy or of dry weather, there is a very considerable difference in the strength of the water, and consequently in the quantity of salt made from it.

|                                                                                  | Bolls. | Fir.    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| The quantity of salt made at the pans for four years, ending March 27. 1790, was | -      | 13049 3 |
| Average quantity made yearly, being a fourth of the above                        | -      | 3262 2  |

The

The yearly duty payable on the above, at 6 s. *per* boll, is 978l. 12 s. This, however, is the gross duty, some little discount being allowed for sea waste, prompt payment, &c. The quantity made will increase from the additional salt-pan. It is chiefly disposed of by an inland sale, reaching to the skirts of Renfrewshire and Clydesdale, till it meet the Borrowstounness salt from the east coast; which, for I know not what reason, seems to be made cheaper than on this coast, and can therefore bear the expence of a longer land carriage. A cargo of salt is sometimes shipped from Saltcoats to the coasts of Galloway and Nithsdale, but never to Ireland; on the contrary, over the whole west coast of Scotland, from Mull to the Solway Frith, the Irish salt is smuggled in such quantities as to be very prejudicial to the salt manufacturers and to the revenue. Considering the high price of coal in Ireland, it may seem strange that we should be rivalled and underfold in an article so much connected with coal; but it is to be accounted for from these circumstances; that the two processes of making salt and burning lime are combined in Ireland, and carried on with the same fuel, probably turf; that their salt is almost free from any duty; and, above all, they have the liberty of importing *rock-salt* from the English mines without any duty, or with a very trifling one. The mineral-salt dissolved in sea-water makes their process easy and cheap, an advantage from which the British manufacturer is cut off entirely. This grievance deserves the attention of those who have it in their power to remove it; and the means is very obvious, viz. the laying such a considerable but equitable *duty* on the exportation of the English rock-salt as would bring the prices of the Irish and British salt to par: For, though every indulgence ought to be given to the sister kingdom which her situation requires, it seems rather unreasonable

unreasonable to stretch this, so far as to hurt the manufactures and revenues of Britain.

*Extent of the Coal Country of Scotland.*—Though the account of the coal has been extended, perhaps, too far, because it is the most distinguishing feature in the ancient and present *state* of this parish, yet I cannot conclude it without taking notice, that the Stevenston mines are the northern limit of the coal country on the west coast of Scotland; as the Bargeny mines, near Girvan, are the southern limit. North of Saltcoats there are no coal strata \* to be found, to the extremity of the island. South of Girvan, none, till you cross the Solway Frith. There will be two *points*, corresponding to Saltcoats and Girvan, on the east coast: And within these four *points* the coal country of Scotland stretches, nearly from the S. W. to the N. E. across the island; in breadth between 30 and 40 miles †.

*Ship-*

\* I say *strata*. Some *veins* of coal, or of a finer similar substance, from six inches to two feet thick, have been found in the island of Mull, at Castle-Leod, and perhaps other places in the Highlands, among veins of lead, between fissures of rocks, and under what has been (perhaps erroneously) taken for jointed lava or basalt. But these *coal veins* are so short and inconsiderable, and the whole appearance of the metals, as they call them (the other subterraneous strata), is so different from the appearance in a coal field, that the veins must be considered as singular phaenomena, which may, indeed, exercise the ingenuity of the naturalist, but upon which no solid practical conclusions as to the existence of coal can be founded.

† The north line begins at Saltcoats, or rather at Campbeltown (nearly S. W. of us), runs through the parishes of Dalry, Kilbirny, Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan, crosses the Clyde about four miles west of Glasgow, passes through the east corner of Dumbartonshire, takes in (probably) all Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire, passes through the middle of Fife, along the high country to the south of the river Eden, and ends somewhere near Fifeness. The south line begins near Girvan, goes on to Demellington,

*Ship-Building.*—The spirited and successful exertions in the coal branch which have been described, the circulation of Irish gold, and the animating example of Mr Cunningham, gave a new spur to the industry and improvement of the parish. Other circumstances concurred; such as the American war. The Saltcoats people, finding an increasing demand for ships, which they could not build in America, nor buy at that time in Britain but at a high price, were naturally led to attempt to build them themselves, their harbour being remarkably convenient for launching them. Accordingly, they began to import ship timber from South Wales; and in a place where scarcely a boat had been built before, three carpenters yards were set up one after another, which have gone on successfully ever since. In these yards there have been built, from the year 1775 to the 1790,

| <i>No. of Vessels.</i>                   | <i>Tons.</i> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 6 ships, from 160 to 220 tons -          | 1155         |
| 37 brigs, from 55 to 180 tons - -        | 4630         |
| 18 floops, from 20 to 85 tons - -        | 1085         |
| 3 small vessels at present on the stocks | 225          |
| <hr/>                                    |              |
| Total 64 vessels.                        | 7095         |
|                                          | Value        |

Demellington, Sanquhar, Muirkirk, Lismahagoe. It cannot be traced farther, from the accounts of the miners. It ends, probably, near North-Berwick. More light will be thrown upon the subject, from the Statistical Reports of the different parishes when they are completed. The coal country in the north of England, from Whitehaven to Newcastle, is probably of a greater breadth than the Scottish, and seems to run across the island in a similar direction. There is also coal in the south-west of England, from Somersetshire to North Wales; but it is probably insulated, or in patches; at least, this is the case with two great beds of it, one in Colbrook-vale, at the Iron-bridge, in the north of Shropshire, and another in the south of Staffordshire, which have no connection with one another, or with the rest of the mines. It would be well worth while to trace the extent of this valuable mineral throughout the whole island.



|                                                |       |               |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Value of the above from the carpenter's hands, |       |               |
| at the low rate of 5 l. <i>per</i> ton         | - -   | L. 35,475     |
| Value of the iron, the masts, yards, rigging,  |       |               |
| fails, &c.                                     | - - - | As much more. |

All these vessels do not belong to the port of Saltcoats. Several of them were built by commission for other ports; and some of the largest of them were afterwards profitably sold by their owners, in England, Ireland, and Spain. The three carpenters yards generally employ 60 men. There are not so many at work at present, as the demand is less than formerly. One of the masters is about to remove to Belfast, but will soon be succeeded by another.

*Other Branches of Manufacture.*—About the same time a rope-yard was established, which constantly employs, at an average, 25 men, and works up annually a cargo or more of hemp, imported in a large brig from Petersburg and Riga. The establishing a manufactory for working fail-cloth at Saltcoats, has been thought of; but there is not sufficient encouragement as yet for carrying this scheme into execution. Three or four men are employed at the rope-yard in making (sewing) fails. Some time after, a considerable brewery was built near Saltcoats, which continues to supply the towns and the country for several miles round with small-beer. A distillery was set on foot about five years ago, which, while it continued, consumed weekly a very great quantity of bear and barley; but when the duty on licensed stills was doubled, the proprietors found themselves obliged to give it up.

*Trade and Shipping of Saltcoats.*—The exports from Saltcoats, besides the coal and salt, are only a few herrings, with  
some

some bales of the Paisley silk and cotton manufactures, which go that way to Ireland. A considerable quantity of oats from the parish, is carried in boats every Spring to Arran and Kintyre for feed.

There is annually imported a cargo of hemp from Peterburgh ;

A cargo of iron from Gottenburgh ;

Three cargoes of fir timber from Memel ; and

As much ship timber from Wales as is needed.

The average of oats, oatmeal, and barley, for three years preceding January last, imported chiefly from Galloway, above 2000 bolls annually. From January to May 1791, imported about 3000 bolls. The Ayrshire boll is exactly the English quarter. A little linen yarn, and some trifles of provision from Ireland, are all the other imports recollected.

During the Summers 1788, 1789, 1790, three vessels, of about 100 tons each, were annually employed in the Newfoundland fishery. They were very successful on the Banks, in getting as many fish as they could carry ; but from some circumstances and accidents, the sales of their cargoes did not answer expectation, so that the adventurers have dropped this business at present.

For a considerable time backwards, Saltcoats vessels have been employed in the West herring fishery, to the number of 12 or 13 annually. This business is also on the decline, as there are now only about eight, and these have been unsuccessful for the last three years. The buffes from Campbellton and Rosa, have done better than the Saltcoats ones.

The

The reason of this may be, that the Saltcoats buffes are too large, from 80 to 90 tons, navigated by 18 men. The expence of their maintenance for more than three months, and that of the nets, falt, &c. exhaust all the profit of their small cargoes, together with the bounty, now in part withdrawn; whereas the Highland buffes are only from 60 to 65 tons, navigated by 10 or 11 men. But the principal reason may be, that the Highland failors and rowers are more expert at the bufiness than ours.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, the number and value of the vessels belonging to the port have doubled within these last twelve years, and doubtless the trade increased in some proportion to this. The number at present is

18 vessels below 100 tons  
23 from 100 to 200 tons

—  
Total vessels 41, the registered tonnage of which is about 4300 tons, navigated by above 320 men. About a dozen of the largest of these vessels do not frequent their own incommodious port, but find employment, in the carrying trade, in the ports of Glasgow, Liverpool, and London\*.

#### *Population*

\* The carrying trade has been greatly hurt by a late Regulation of the Congress, according to which, goods imported into America in *British* bottoms, pay considerably more duty than goods imported in *American* bottoms. The effect of this might be easily destroyed by a counter-regulation of the British government, to confine the benefit of their *debentures* entirely to goods exported from this island in British bottoms. Without some such regulation, this kind of trade, so important to Britain in raising a nursery of failors, is in some danger of being transferred to America, as our merchants already employ their ships, and let our's lie idle.

*Population and Police of Saltcoats.*

In the fourth or Stevenston side of the town there are

|                              | <i>Houses.</i>   | <i>Persons.</i> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                              | 169 inhabited by | 1131            |
| Ardrossan side               | 230 —————        | 1194            |
|                              | —————            | —————           |
| Total houses and inhabitants | 399              | 2325            |

There are no magistrates, nor any local police in Saltcoats; only one inconsiderable annual fair; no market-place nor weekly markets; no tonnage paid by the vessels. A shore-bailiff levies the small anchorage dues, and carries into execution such regulations as are necessary for the loading and sailing of the vessels; which regulations the owners or masters come under a written obligation to submit to. The Earl of Eglinton is proprietor, and receives rent for all the houses on the Ardrossan side, built by the possessors on longer or shorter tacks. His Lordship is also superior of the Stevenston side of the town, all the houses, except a few, paying him a small feu-duty.

*Population of the Parish.*—Annual average of the *Births* for the last 40 years.

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Annual average from January 1. 1751 |                   |
| to January 1761                     | 54                |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1761 to Jan. 1771  | between 53 and 54 |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1771 to 1781       | 55                |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1781 to 1791       | 94                |

Annual average of the *Deaths* for the last 40 years.

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Annual average from January 1. 1751 |        |
| to January 1761                     | 36     |
| VOL. VII.                           | Ditto, |
|                                     | D      |

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ditto, from Jan. 1761 to Jan. 1771 | between 35 and 36   |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1771 to 1781      | - between 29 and 30 |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1781 to 1791      | - 46                |

Annual average of the *Marriages* for the last 40 years.

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Annual average from January 1. 1751 |                       |
| to January 1761                     | - - between 12 and 13 |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1761 to Jan. 1771  | between 11 and 12     |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1771 to 1781       | - 14                  |
| Ditto, from Jan. 1781 to 1791       | - 18                  |

The marriages comprehend those only where the couple continued to reside in the parish. Those, where the bride left it, were purposely struck off the lists, to avoid confusion with other parishes.

In answer to the queries, this abridgement from the parish registers has been given, but no calculations can be founded on the *deaths*, as many of the parishioners die at sea, and in distant places of the world. The increasing population of this parish is chiefly to be ascribed to the influx of strangers from other parishes into a place where they have a reasonable prospect of work and maintenance; and the *rate* of this will be best seen from the following facts.

|                                         |              |                |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| It is certain, that the number of souls |              |                |
| in Stevenston parish in the year        | 1700         | was below 400. |
| No. when Dr Webster's survey was made   |              |                |
| in the                                  | - - - - 1755 | 1412           |
| No. of souls from actual surveys in the |              |                |
| year                                    | - - - - 1760 | 1325           |
| Ditto, in the year                      | - - - - 1765 | 1431           |
| Ditto, in the year                      | - - - - 1783 | 1884           |
| Ditto, in April                         | - - - - 1791 | 2425           |
|                                         |              | In             |

In April 1791, there were in Saltcoats,

|                                                                  | <i>Dwelling-houses.</i> | <i>Families.</i> | <i>Souls.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                                                                  | 169                     | 250              | 1131          |
| In Stevenston town -                                             | 174                     | 234              | 1019          |
| In the country, gentle-<br>mens, farmers, and<br>miners houses - | 46                      | 51               | 275           |
| Total in the parish                                              | 389                     | 535              | 2425          |

Of these 535 families, there are 506 *married* and widows, and only 29 heads of families *unmarried*, (of these about 20 females). The *children* under the age of seven are, in Saltcoats, very near a fifth part; in Stevenston and the country, very near a fourth part of the whole inhabitants. All the individuals do not actually reside in the parish; they have, however, no fixed house or residence but there.

*Different Classes.*—About ten years ago, a Relief Meeting-house was built near Saltcoats. There are about 80 families in this parish of that persuasion, 14 families of Burghers and Antiburghers, and a single Cameronian. Three persons in the parish were born in England, five or six in Ireland, and more than a half of the heads of families born in other districts of Scotland. There are 20 families of farmers, and six or eight cottagers, or persons in that stile; though they may hold their small possessions from a proprietor. The number of those individuals in the parish who are and have been sailors cannot be ascertained, probably between two and three hundred.

Employed

|                          |                             |     |                             |    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|----|
| Employed about the coal, | Tailors                     | -   | -                           | 10 |
| above                    | -                           | 200 | Carters and carriers in the |    |
| Besides these, there are | two towns                   | -   | -                           | 16 |
| 12 carters and 14 salt-  | Butchers                    | -   | -                           | 5  |
| ers.                     | Bakers                      | -   | -                           | 3  |
| Weavers, about           | Servants household, chiefly | -   | -                           |    |
| -                        | female, above               | -   | -                           | 50 |
| Wrights                  | Labouring men servants,     | -   | -                           |    |
| -                        | about                       | -   | -                           | 24 |
| Masons                   |                             | -   | -                           |    |
| Smiths                   |                             | -   | -                           |    |
| Shoemakers               |                             | -   | -                           | 10 |

There are none just now living in the parish who have attained to the age of 90; three or four very near it. *Two* died lately beyond that age, and *one* some time ago considerably beyond 100, viz. a Highlander, who had been at the battle of Killiekrankie.

*Horses, &c.*—The number of horses in the parish is 135; a good breed of milk cows, between the English and the country kind; no sheep, except the few reared for the gentlemen's tables. There are at present three, generally four chaises, none for hire as yet, except during the sea-bathing, and between 70 and 80 carts, taking in the whole parish. The canal has greatly diminished their number.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 12061. Scotch. The real land rent (valuing the ground in the proprietors hands at a very moderate rent) may be about 11701. Sterling. The rent of the houses in the two towns, from the increasing demand for them, is higher than in most places of the kingdom. The best of the houses, possessed by the owners themselves, pay no rent; but, according to a calculation, which may be depended on, were the whole 169 houses in Saltcoats let

let at the present high rate, they would give 800 l. Those in Stevenston (excluding the manse, and a gentleman's house contiguous to it) 460 l.; in all 1260 l. annually.

*Acres.*—There are seven heritors or land proprietors. They all reside in the parish except the Earl of Eglinton, whose property in it is but small. Of the six residing heritors, three draw about five-sixths of the rent. The arable or cultivated ground in the parish is now all inclosed; about 400 acres of it possessed by the proprietors; 20 farms, and about 100 acres in small inclosures contiguous to the towns. These may comprehend altogether near 1500 acres. About two thirds of this inclosed ground is in pasture or hay. The uninclosed and uncultivated sandy ground has never been properly measured. It is visibly larger in extent than the former, and may be somewhere between 1600 and 1800 acres. This extensive track, however valuable from the coal in its bowels, yields nothing from the surface but a scanty provision during the summer to about 50 cows; besides a rabbit-warren in the west quarter of it, out of which they kill annually near 300 dozen. The furs and the flesh are in value about 10 s. the dozen.

*Agriculture.*—The ground in the inclosures contiguous to the town is generally let from 30 s. to 2 l. *per* acre. The average rent of the farms is just now about 13 s. an acre. This will rise considerably at the expiration of the long and cheap leases of four of the largest farms. After that event, there will scarcely be an acre under a guinea, the usual rate of the new tacks or leases at present. The farms are not large. At the end of the present tacks they will be still smaller, the proprietors finding it their interest to subdivide them. By the late tacks, the farmers are bound to plow  
three



three years, and rest six. But, if they choose to manure an inclosure every third year with a specified quantity of dung, they may continue to plow it as long as they please. Of their own accord they lay down all the ground they rest with grass-seeds, chiefly rye-grass, the seed of which they save themselves, raising tolerable good crops of it on every kind of ground. The clovers, especially the red, does not suit their particular kind of clay; not that it is too strong, but there is something in the soil adverse to it, which no manure nor cultivation can conquer. On the loams, the gravelly, and even the pure sandy soil, there are crops of grasses raised abundantly rich and luxurious. The farmers pay their rents chiefly from the dairy. The turnip husbandry is never attempted, for a reason easily guessed at.

Oats is the principal grain which they sow. It covers, perhaps, three fourths of their plowed ground. On the rest they have bear, or barley, and beans, sown at the usual times. For ten years past, the farmers and proprietors have begun to sow a little wheat, under the disadvantage of being obliged to carry it 14 and 18 miles to a market. This is in part removed, by wheat mills erected nearer them. In consequence of the very superior profit of this grain on our dry grounds, the wheat culture is increasing every year. It is seldom or never sown here after a thorough Summer fallow, but after a potatoe fallow, the rows of the potatoes four feet distant, the spaces between them plowed four or five times, from the beginning of June to the beginning or middle of August, when the rows become luxuriant, and begin to unite. This, besides the preparatory plowings and dressing of the ground in the Spring. They use for fallowing and planting the potatoes, a small plough of the Scotch form, drawn by a single horse. Another practice they have very lately learned, which

which deserves attention and imitation. They break up the oldest, the richest, and dryest of their *leys* with a single tith, and immediately sow wheat upon it. They endeavour to plough deep, and to lay the ridges turned up by the plough as close as possible, to prevent the growth of the under grass during the Winter, which, however, seldom disturbs the crop. The ground is generally dressed with lime or dung, about a month or so before; but if the ley be old and rich, they reserve the manure for the subsequent crops. A crop of oats, in a wet season, would lodge on such ground: The wheat runs little hazard. This ley-wheat is sown in the beginning of September; that on the potatoe fallow in the end of October, sometimes in the middle and towards the end of November. There is never any severity of Winter here to hurt it \*.

*Manufactures.*

\* The following steep is generally used before sowing, and it effectually prevents the smutt in wheat. Dissolve, in a quantity of water sufficient to cover the seed, as much common salt as will bring the pickle to such a strength that an egg will swim on it. Pour in the wheat very slowly and gradually, stirring it in the mean time strongly and incessantly, and carefully skimming off all the light grain that rises to the surface. Let the wheat, thus purified, lie under the pickle about thirty-six hours; then take it out of the hoghead in small quantities, spreading it in very thin layers on the floor (before a fire, if convenient), and sifting on every layer as much quicklime as will dry or crust the drenched wheat, in such a manner that every grain can be easily separated and sown with the hand. Sow it immediately, if the weather will permit; if not, it will suffer nothing by lying for a few days in that state.

A respectable English agricultural writer has lately denied the efficacy of salt, or any other steep, to prevent smutt in wheat. Without conjecturing on different soils, and seed, and modes of preparation, I shall only say, that after more than 20 years trial of this steep, I never saw any smutt in the very small quantity of wheat I raise annually. On the other hand, I never examined a field where it was neglected without finding some; a rare ear or too, perhaps, the first year, but abundance  
the

*Manufactures.*—There was formerly a great deal of thin narrow linen, from 10 d. to 1 s. 1 d. a yard, made in this parish

the next. From motives of frugality, we dissolve dirty salt (the sweepings of the garnets, bought at a low price) in *sea water*. But I should hardly think this circumstance could make any difference.

A vast quantity of potatoes is raised in this parish, not only by the farmers, but every family in the towns have a patch of them, which they plant and dress themselves, in the neighbouring inclosures, if they can procure ground, if not, they go to a considerable distance. This not only makes a principal article of family provision, but is used here for feeding swine, horses, and especially milk cows.

The price of many articles of *provision* is lower, and that of *labour* higher here, than in many other districts of Scotland. The first is the consequence of plenty, joined with our distance from the great markets of Glasgow, Paisley, and Greenock. The last is the consequence of the increasing demand for labour. Eggs are from 3 d. to 4 d. *per* dozen; beef, and all butcher-meat, from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* lib.; pork somewhat dearer; butter from 7 d. to 10 d. the lib.; the Ayrshire pound is 24 ounces, or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds English; honey at 6 s. the Scotch pint, *i. e.* 5 pounds English; salmon, except at an early season, 3 d. the English pound. The price of most of these articles, and also of cheese and coals, has risen, within these last 20 years, about a third part. The price of eggs, butter, and also of horses, has doubled; and that of salmon, in consequence of an easier carriage from Ayr to Edinburgh, tripled.

The wages of the coal-hewers, or miners, are from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. a day; but they never work above five days in the week. The coal is now so well ascertained, that it is lately let by the piece at one of the collieries, much to the advantage both of master and workmen. Long before the late act of Parliament, the coal-hewers and their children in this district, were set free from their ancient servitude, by a voluntary deed of their master; and this much more effectually than that act of Parliament did. They are here quite on the same footing with all other workmen. The wages of the carpenters are 2 s. a day; Those of masons now risen to half a guinea and 11 s. a week, besides sharpening their tools. Wrights, 10 s. a week. Common labourers, 1 s. in Winter, 1 s. 2 d. often, 1 s. 4 d. in Spring and Harvest. Wages of house maid-servants, 3 l. a year and upwards; and of a labouring man-servant, not living in the

parish and neighbourhood, bleached by private families, sold at the fairs in the beginning of August, and sent to England, where it was chiefly stamped for handkerchiefs; but for a number of years past the demand for it has gradually declined, perhaps from their making it too slight. Still a little coarse linen is made for the market, besides the demand for the parish wear; and they are improving the texture of it. But above 45 of the weavers are now employed by the Paisley manufacturers in the silk, besides a few in the cotton branches. A number of young girls are employed also by them and the Glasgow manufacturers, in flowering and tambour work. Within these few weeks, the *Jeanies* have been introduced, and will give employment to boys and girls in spinning cotton. There is a bleachfield in Stevenston town, which has sufficient business from the parish and neighbourhood, bleaching between 8000 and 9000 yards yearly. The nets for the herring buffes are weaved by the Saltcoats children.

*Stipend, School, and Poor.*—The stipend, being mostly victual, is variable. The whole living, including the glebe, may be at an average about 96l. yearly. Messrs Alexander Hamilton of Grange, and Cunningham of Sea-bank, are vice-patrons.

the house, in money, meal, milk, and potatoes, about fourteen guineas yearly. This last is a general answer to the 3d page of the queries, because the families of these labouring servants live almost as well as any other common labourers. The earnings of their wives and children, must ever depend upon their turn for industry. Seldom, very seldom, is it in the power of an industrious mother of three or four young children, to earn, by spinning even fine linen yarn, more than 1s. 8d. a week. The poor families of Highlanders in Saltcoats, can live upon much less than the natives of the place, and seldom apply to the poor's funds.

patrons. The former has the next vice. The manse, after undergoing several expensive reparations, was at last pulled down, and rebuilt about four years ago, and is now a very good one. It is above 120 years since the church was built. A large aisle was added to it by the Saltcoats people, about 48 years ago. The school-house is an old and inconvenient one, and must be rebuilt immediately. The schoolmaster's salary is scarcely 5 l. yearly, and ought to be augmented. His scholars are not numerous in proportion to the parish, only about 50; but there are two, and sometimes three other schools.

The poor are sufficiently numerous in this populous parish. The funds for their supply are under the management of the minister and kirk session, who lay their accounts once a year before the principal heritors. There are from 9 to 12 pensioners on the list, who receive from 6 d. to 1 s. 6 d. weekly; and between 30 and 40 more who receive supply occasionally. Above 7 l. is paid annually for house-rents to the poor; 4 l. for the education of poor children, who are taught in the different schools at a lower price than the other children; and a small sum annually for medicines to the sick. The whole annual disbursements amount to 64 l. 8 s. at an average for 10 years back. The fund which chiefly supplies this expence, is the collections at the church, amounting, at the same average, to 50 l. 10 s.; which, with the other smaller funds belonging to the poor, give the sum of 70 l. annually. There is a charitable society in the parish, and two boxes belonging to the coal-hewers and the failors, which give a little assistance in this humane work, independent of the session; not to mention the private charity of the better sort, which, in a parish circumstanced like this, is very considerable and commendable, because the highest of them are well

well acquainted with the situation of the poor, and interest themselves in it.

From tacks of three of the best farms in the parish, written more than 80 years ago, and still extant, it appears, that the rent of these farms at that time, and probably of all the rest, was about a sixth part of their present rent.

*Morals, Manners, and Turn of the People.*—The writer of this, during a residence of more than 30 years, has had the satisfaction of observing a gradual, yet a very striking change on the face of the parish, by canals, and other efforts, which have increased the mining, trade, and shipping; by good roads, convenient bridges, well built houses, both in the towns and country; the whole upper parish, almost open, now properly inclosed; a better mode of culture easily introduced, and willingly followed by the children of the old farmers. These things have improved the situation of the inhabitants, with respect to most of the conveniencies and comforts of life; and they have been projected and executed by many different sorts of persons concerned in them, not only with a judicious and proper regard to their own interest, but with a liberal and laudable public spirit. He most sincerely wishes that it was in his power to give the same favourable testimony of their improvement in a higher scale—he means that of their minds and morals. But the constant influx of unknown persons from distant parishes, less under the restraints either of religion or character than the native inhabitants, is an unfavourable circumstance in the way of example. The manner of life both of the sailors and miners, furnishes some temptation to drunkenness and intemperance, and leads on to habits of these vices. The high wages of the miners, earned by disagreeable and severe labour, are too often immediately dissipated;

dissipated ; little laid up for the maintenance of their families, whose education is too much neglected. This, however, is with the exception of several individuals. The temptation is much increased by the cheapness of spirituous liquors, and the number of inns, and houses for selling spirits. Of these there are no less than 18 in Stevenston town, and 16 in Saltcoats, 34 in the whole parish ; an evil which ought to be somehow checked by a better police ; for it certainly has very melancholy consequences on the health, the industry, and the morals of the people. It soon renders them weak and crazy, turbulent and riotous, idle and worthless. It opens a door to pilfering, and all other vices connected with idleness.

Happily the disorder here is as yet confined to the very lowest class. The generality of the people are fully as sober, and perhaps more intelligent, as well as more industrious, than they were 30 years ago ; and having employment enough, they are in a reasonable degree easy and happy in their present situation ; while several of them are very ingenious in discovering, and attentive in improving the means in their power to better it. The luxury and profligacy of the great towns have not yet reached them. The fortunes of the better sort are small, indeed, but gradually increasing by frugality. The situation of the greatest part of the parishioners, with their habits of education, naturally create a prejudice in favour of the sea-faring life, and cherish, in young minds, the spirit of adventure. Numbers of them never return home, but marry, and settle in various places of the world. By far the greatest part of those who do return, behave decently in their families, and appear less infected with the vices of foreign countries than the generality of that class of men. During the American war, it was computed that  
about

about 200 Saltcoats failors (including the whole town) were on board the navy ; one in the rank of a captain, three lieutenants, and above a dozen inferior officers in the fleet.

*Hints for the Improvement of the Parish.*—The raising coals from a depth of more than 50 fathoms, by double horse gins, is very expensive. There is a small neat steam engine in the parish of Gorbals, a mile south of Glasgow, which, under the management of a single man, performs the gin-work in half the time, and with much greater effect than any horse gin ; raising large baskets full of coals alternately, from a depth of about 60 fathoms. At the sinking of a new dip-pit, this improvement may be worthy of the attention of our people, and, probably, many other improvements which the inventive genius of the present age may produce. Perhaps an able mechanic might, with little expence, combine the Gorbals machinery, which is very simple, with the machinery of every engine-pit, *i. e.* make a part of the water raised by the pumps to raise the coal at the same time. If this be impracticable, the hint will be forgiven from one who pretends to no skill in mechanics,

It is very practicable to bring a part of the uninclosed 1700 acres of sandy ground in this parish into good culture and pasture ; it would, indeed, require a great sum to be expended in inclosing, levelling, and manuring, but would in the end refund the expence many fold. Three or four of the farms, and part of the parks of the two proprietors, are already on the skirts of that ground. The soil, though pure sand, is very kindly, more fit for the grass-husbandry than the clay soil ; more fit for potatoes than any soil whatsoever. The loofest of the sand makes excellent garden ground. It will bear good wheat, which has been raised on an acre of it in the glebe, and several acres  
of



of it in the inclosures near Saltcoats. As to the levelling.— These Saltcoats inclosures were feued out, 15 years ago, in a state perfectly useles to the eye, full of large hills or mounds of sand. These the feuers annihilated in a few weeks, without almost either labour or expence. After any heavy rain, they led the scattered water, which drilled over from the higher grounds into a single very small stream. This they directed against the middle of one of the sand hills, which was gradually and soon undermined, of whatever height or bulk it might be. Thus reducing them one after another, they brought the whole inclosure to a dead level. The sand hills, indeed, at a greater distance from the higher grounds, cannot be so easily subjected to this operation; but there are acres and hundreds of acres which would need little levelling or smoothing\*.

*Enlargement of the Harbour of Saltcoats.*—The last thing deserving

\* As there is scarcely any sea-weed on the shore, the great difficulty would be to find manure sufficient to raise one single good grass crop, to bind the surface by the net-work of its roots, after which the ground would be gained. Lime, tho' beneficial, does not answer so well as dung, especially cow-dung. A village of manufacturers, enticed by cheap fuel, and a very low rent or feu-duty, each family set down by itself, (as all manufacturers ought to be), with small inclosures of three or four acres behind the houses, would soon, by means of their cows and potatoes, make their small inclosures as valuable as the Saltcoats ones. The rest, and by much the greatest part of the track, could not be brought into culture without much expence. But, as it is already inclosed in part, by the canal and its various branches, it might be planted with trees of different kinds best suited to the soil, especially the pine or fir kinds; and, though the sea air and storms would undoubtedly destroy a small part of the young trees most exposed to this danger, yet the rest would soon rise under the shelter of one another, favoured by the great inequality of that part of the ground, and, in proper time, turn this dreary, bare, barren waste, into a comfortable, extensive, and valuable plantation.

erving attention is the enlargement of Saltcoats Harbour. Though the first building of it, 90 years ago, was a great effort for a private gentlemen, it does not now suit the improved state of the trade and shipping. It consists of a quay, all of stone, about 24 feet thick, large hewn stones on each side, and an outer wall to shelter the ships, of a considerable height. This building runs along a natural ridge of rocks, in a straight line from N. E. to S. W. five hundred feet. At the S. W. end, it turns at a right angle, and runs through the sea, more than a hundred and sixty feet, forming a pier which points nearly north. Within this rectangular space is the present harbour, capable of containing 24 vessels, having a proper clay bottom, dry at low water, and from 10 to 12 feet deep at spring tides, admitting vessels of 200 tons. But, as only two large, and three smaller vessels can be loaded at a time, and the large ones must be hauled down to the very end or point of the pier, before they can complete their loading, and must fail too, at a spring-tide, in order to make room for the loading of the rest. This delay is a very great inconvenience in the coal trade.

To remove which, it is proposed to carry forward the first described line of quay two hundred and fifty feet beyond the pier, onwards to the S. W. along the same line of natural rocks, which still continues. Then, to turn it through the sea, northward and eastward with a single obtuse angle, till it comes so near the point of the pier as to leave room for ships to enter. This would form an *outer* harbour capable of containing 14 vessels more, in water from 15 to 16 feet, and much more commodious than the present one. For the present pier (stripped of its outer wall) would stand as a tongue or middle quay between them, from which vessels could take in their loading on each side; the largest always  
lying

lying in the outer harbour, which would admit ships of 300 tons. Every person may conceive in a moment of what advantage this would be to the trade of Saltcoats, where the vessels *now* frequently lie for several weeks before they can receive their loading; while, in the mean time, perhaps the price of coals is high at Dublin, and an English fleet of colliers arrives there before them, and brings down the price three or four shillings a ton. The public benefit also would be very considerable to the Glasgow ships, and to all other ships checked within the bay, as they sometimes are, by westerly storms. They would then have a better place of shelter to run into than under the Lady Isle, described page 3. and at times, too, when perhaps, from the course of the winds, that Isle was inaccessible to them.

Of late, a more than usual attention and ardour has been raised about this object, partly owing to the statistical inquiries now going forward. Within this fortnight, (26th May 1791), an accurate survey has been taken, and plans and estimates drawn out, which state the expence of this very important improvement at only about 2000*l*. Small as this sum may appear, it will require the assistance of public spirited persons. It is especially worthy of the attention of the Earl of Eglinton, who has such a particular connection with this rising town. The line which divides the two parishes runs across the present harbour from east to west. On the north or Ardrossan side, which is his Lordship's property, there is a sheltered place for ships, nearly double the extent of both the inner and outer harbours which front it. The bottom of this space is rocky; but, if it were deepened by raising the rock, which is free-stone, (and would be very useful in building the new harbour), and if a quay were carried out from the north side, till it should come not far from the  
point

point of the present pier, and the whole square basin completed, (which perhaps would not cost above another 1000 l.), it would make one of the most convenient and spacious harbours in the kingdom.

In the above report, *miles* always mean English miles, and *acres* Scotch acres.

## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF ARDROSSAN.

(County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN DUNCAN.

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish takes its name from a small promontory which terminates in a ridge of romantic rocks running into the sea, about a mile and a half from the town of Saltcoats. It probably obtained the well known prefix *Ard* from its conspicuous situation, having the sea on one side, and flat fields on the other; or from the rank of the ancient proprietors, who are said to have had extensive possessions in this country. It is situated about 18 statute miles from the town of Ayr, and six miles from Irvine. The different extensions and divisions of the parish are very irregular. The medium length, from north to south, is six miles or thereby; its greatest breadth about five, and its least does not exceed three miles.

*Surface and Soil.*—The surface of the parish is a mixture of hilly and flat country, in most places fit for the plough, in others only for pasture. Though more than nine-tenths of it be arable, and capable of high improvement, yet the far greater part even of the best lands remains in pasture. Be-

twixt

twixt the Castle of Ardrossan and the limits of the parish, on the east, is a beautiful inclined plain, mostly of very good ground. Towards the west, the hills are nearer the sea. About two miles from the coast, a ridge of small hills bound the prospect. The tops of some of them are planted with large clumps of forest trees, which have a very pleasing effect. Beyond these the surface is irregular; in some places coarse and marshy; in others dry, fruitful, and pleasant. The soil is various. Betwixt the point of Ardrossan and town of Saltcoats, grass and clover grow spontaneously within a very little of flood-mark. The sand is soon succeeded by a thin layer of earth, on a pebbly bottom. A little farther from the shore, it is mostly a loamy earth, with a mixture of sand. On the north-east and north sides of the parish, the soil is, in general, a strong deep clay, capable of bearing great crops when well drained and manured, but apt to produce only bent and other coarse grass where it is neglected.

*Agriculture.*—Though the soil of this parish be, in general, capable of very high improvement; yet, in many places, the state of agriculture, compared with that of other parishes in the same country, is much behind. Its present state, however, compared with that in the remembrance of some old men, shows that the farmers have not been altogether idle or ignorant. Forty, even thirty years ago, the land was almost in a state of nature, very low rented, and the parish almost destitute of inclosures. At that time farmers had very few inducements to ingenuity and activity. Towns and villages in the neighbourhood were very small, compared to what they are at present; consequently, the consumpt of the produce much less, and the price of vivres not above the half, in many instances not above the third of what they now bring.

Low

Low as these were, Ireland was able often to undersell them in the common necessaries of life, meal, butter, cheese, butcher meat, biscuit, &c.

*Roads, &c.*—Besides the want of inclosures, the want of roads may be justly reckoned a great bar to improvements of every kind. It was not till the year 1779 that a turnpike-road was in the whole parish. At present, all these put together do not much exceed five miles. The other roads to church and market, to lime and coal, in the winter, and even in a wet summer, are almost impassable. Besides, so long as the present system of farming was unknown or discredited in this country, labour in the fields was considered as mere drudgery, scarcely fit to procure a decent subsistence. The sons of farmers, rather than follow the profession of their forefathers, choose to be bred to the sea; and the success of a few fortunate adventurers was sufficient to draw numbers to that line. Their parents were not averse to the choice. Hearing of rise of the rents in their neighbourhood, dreading the same rise in their own farms, and insensible to the advantages arising from new improvements, they looked upon bankruptcy and beggary as the certain consequences of continuing farmers. Such are the probable causes why the state of agriculture is so much behind in this parish. But, of late years, matters in this respect have taken a very favourable turn, owing, in a great measure, to the laudable example of the residing heritors, gentlemen, and clergy in the neighbourhood, and a few spirited individuals who have made farming their study. Not only the inclosures about the town of Saltcoats, but some farms in the parish, are making rapid progress to a high state of improvement. In providing the means, Nature has indeed been very liberal. The shore abounds with sea-weed, a manure of the best kind for the adjacent

adjacent soil, particularly for raising barley crops. The interior part of the parish has, in many places, great abundance of lime and coal, which is wrought at a moderate rate. With such advantages, and a spirit of ingenuity and application, which is daily gaining ground, there is every reason to hope for a vast increase to the farmer, the proprietor, and the public.

*Patron, Heritors.*—The Earl of Eglintoune is patron and proprietor of far the greatest part of the parish. The valuation of the whole amounts to 2970 l. of which his Lordship's property makes 2014 l. 10 s. The remaining part of the parish belongs to four residing, and three non-residing heritors.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The living has never been augmented since 1650, but, on the contrary, has suffered several dilapidations. It is, *communibus annis*, about 75 l. Sterling, exclusive of manse and glebe. The parish-church is a neat, plain edifice, well finished, and large. It is situated in the west end of the town of Saltcoats. The present manse is in a ruinous state, but a plan is agreed on for a new one, to be built soon. The glebe and garden contain five acres one rood of good ground.

*School.*—The annual salary paid to the schoolmaster by the parish is 6 l. 3 s. 4 d. Sterling. His other emoluments and fees are very low. Forty-two years ago, however, the present incumbent accepted this office, after having received a college education, capable of teaching the languages, and the practical parts of geometry, trigonometry, and navigation, in the last of which he has been very successful. It is much to be regretted, that parish schools must, in all probability, soon

be



be occupied by men of no literature, and that an advantage which Scotland has long had over all other nations should be allowed to dwindle away for want of support. The parish school-house of Ardrossan is almost in ruins, but about to be rebuilt. It was the gift of the late Earl of Eglintoune, with a garden to the master.

*Population.*—The country part of the parish, especially towards the coast, is thinly inhabited. Farms of considerable extent are only used for pasture, and some of them rented by persons who reside at a distance. The farm-houses which are inhabited amount to 31, (besides 2 or 3 that are uninhabited) These are occupied by 219 persons, old and young, viz. 31 fathers, heads of families, 29 wives and widows, 23 sons above the age of 16 years, 24 below that age, 27 daughters above the age of 16 years, 26 below that age, 31 male, and 28 female servants of different ages. There are besides, in the country part of the parish, a few subtenants, herds, and cottagers, whose families amount to 105 persons, viz. 20 fathers, heads of families, 23 wives and widows, 4 sons above the age of 16 years, 20 below that age, 13 daughters above 16 years, 22 below that age, besides 3 female servants. Total amount of the country part of the parish, 324 persons, old and young.

*Saltcoats.*—On that part of the town of Saltcoats which stands in the parish of Ardrossan, there are 230 houses, the annual rent of which is computed at 740 l. These are occupied by 216 fathers, heads of families, 254 wives and widows, 150 sons above the age of 16 years, 153 below that age, 176 daughters above the age of 16 years, 187 below that age, 24 journeymen and apprentices, who only occasionally reside in the parish, and 34 female servants, making in whole 1194 persons.

persons. This, added to the number in the country, makes the whole amount to 1518 persons. The average number of births for 10 years is annually 37, deaths 38, marriages 14. Those who are baptised by dissenting ministers, and those who die at sea, are not included. The number of dissenters is uncertain.

*Manners.*—The inhabitants of Saltcoats are, in general, sober and industrious. Perhaps no sea-port town in Scotland is more so. In the whole parish of Ardrossan there are only five public-houses, most of which are indifferently frequented, and none licensed to deal in foreign liquors. Drunken riots happen very rarely even among the lower orders of the people. In sobriety and regularity, the better sort are truly exemplary.

*Trade.*—The Ardrossan side of the town of Saltcoats is chiefly inhabited by sailors, ship-carpenters, and weavers\*. Of the last, besides those employed in working the staples of the country, near 90 are employed in the silk and cotton branches by the Glasgow and Paisley manufacturers. These have not increased so much as was at first expected. They have all the inconveniencies of distance from the chief seats of manufacture: They are always the first who feel the disadvantages arising from a stagnation of trade, and the last who are benefited by its revival. A few shoes are made here for exportation.

*Antiquities.*—Some hill tops in the parish are evidently artificial,

\* For a more particular account of the trade of Saltcoats, see the statistical account of Stevenston by the Reverend Dr James Wodrow. In that parish the harbour, and nearly one half of the town are situated.

tificial, and very probably contain the remains of the chiefs who fell in battle at the time the Danes and Norwegians \* afflicted

\* Two hills are remarkable for a tradition in the country concerning them. The first is situated on the northern extremity of the parish, called Knockgeorgan. It is accessible only on one side; and, from its central situation, there is a most extensive prospect of the inland country, the Frith of Clyde, and Western Isles. The vestiges of an ancient camp are very easily traced on this hill, particularly the ramparts and gateways, and in the middle an artificial mound, from whence in times of distress, or when a Danish fleet was seen advancing towards the shore, signals of alarm were made. The other is on the eastern extremity of the same ridge of hills, called Round-hill, the top of which is entirely a piece of art, 28 yards in length, and 18 yards broad, and seems to have been constructed for a similar purpose with the former. From these two hills, by smoke in the day, and by flame in the night, signals were communicated from hill to hill till the whole inland country was alarmed. That hill tops, in convenient situations, were used for this purpose, is evident often from their names. For example, *Lowdown*, situated on the extremity of Ayrshire to the east, signifies *the hill of flame*. Betwixt Round-hill and Lowdown the country is almost a plain upwards of 20 miles. Not far from Round-hill is a small farm, called Tower-lodge, where it is said the centinel who had this charge constantly resided. It was originally a gift of the Crown, and to this day pays no cess, teind, or any other public burden.

The Castle of Ardrossan is of unknown antiquity, and seems, from what is still standing, to have been originally a huge building. Its walls were entire when Cromwell visited this part of the country, and fixed his head quarters at the county town. That usurper had rendered himself very unpopular by occupying the church of Ayr as an armoury; and, to conciliate the minds of the people to his measures, he beautified the town, by building the fort and parapet, which are yet standing. For this purpose, he threw down the walls of the Castle of Ardrossan, and carried the stones in boats over sea, so little were quarries known in these days, in which the county of Ayr almost every where abounds! The Earl of Eglintoune at that time resided in the small island of Cumbray, and must have seen with much pain a place of such strength and beauty belonging to him laid in ruins. After the restoration, the fort of Ayr,  
and

licted this coast with their ravages. From one of these mounds, on the top of a small hill near Boydston, bones were lately dug up.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The wages given to domestic servants vary, according to their age, strength, and abilities. A good plowman receives 4 l. Sterling; a boy capable of driving a plough or cart, a guinea; female servants from 15 s. to 35 s. for half a year's service. A journeyman mason receives 22 d. *per* day in Summer, 20 d. in Winter; a wright 1 s. 6 d.; a ship's carpenter 2 s.; common labourers from 16 d. to 1 s. a day. There being no market day, or market place, the supply and price of provisions are variable. The prices are pretty much regulated by the next market town (Irvine), though in general higher. Great quantities of meal and oats are sometimes imported from the coast of Galloway. This renders these commodities sometimes cheaper here than in inland towns; but in years of scarcity, such importation ceases, they must be dearer. In the Winter season, rabbits are sold without the skin at 7 d. a pair. It is singular, that in a country so populous and close by the sea, none think of making fishing a business, especially as fish are to be found in great quantities on the coast of Arran, and could never fail of finding a ready market. The inhabitants of Ayr long laboured under the same inconveniency, till a colony of fishermen from the North settled in that place. In the course of a few years these have enriched themselves, and continue to supply the town and neighbourhood of Ayr at a moderate rate. Saltcoats is a still more likely place for a colony of the same profession to succeed;

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for

and ground about, were granted to this noble family in reward of their loyalty, and by way of compensation for the demolition of the Castle of Ardrossan.

for besides that the country adjacent is equally, perhaps more populous, it is much nearer large towns and villages; Irvine, Stewartown, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch, Johnston, Paisley, &c.

*Poor.*—The number of poor have greatly increased of late years. They have as yet no other source of supply than voluntary contributions; and consequently, the stock formerly made up of the overplus of this is rapidly upon the decline. In the year 1741, five stated pensioners received 5 s. *per* month, divided among them; in 1751, thirteen received 14 s. 2 d.; in 1761, twelve received 14 s. 11 d.; in 1771, eleven received 14 s. 6 d.; in 1781, eleven received 15 s. 6 d.; in 1791, the monthly pensions exceed in whole 50 s. Besides the stated pensioners, some poor receive occasionally small sums to aid them in paying house rents. Poor children are taught to read.

*Improvements.*—To render the trade of Saltcoats regular, permanent, and productive; to maintain good order and comfort to the inhabitants; and to invite strangers to settle in a place so healthful and pleasant, various improvements, of no very costly nature, are absolutely necessary, and without which there is much reason to fear its decline. The present Harbour is by far too small for the number of ships, and might at no great expence be made one of the best of its size in Britain\*. There is no magistracy, or any established police in Saltcoats, though the number of inhabitants exceeds 2200 persons; and of consequence, the virtuous and inoffensive part of the community must frequently pocket injuries, because their poverty puts it out of their power to seek redress in a distant and expensive court. Vagrants and  
sturdy

\* See Statistical Account of Stevenston.

sturdy beggars may pilfer and oppress almost with impunity : in no place are they more clamorous and impertinent. Last winter, a murder was committed on the body of a poor young woman, who resided in town. The horrid deed was perpetrated in the fields, at no great distance. After the discovery, the supposed murderer with the greatest composure returned to town, where he lodged all night, and effected his escape next day, before the justices could possibly begin a precognition ; and every attempt since that time to apprehend him has proved fruitless.

Were the town of Saltcoats and environs erected into a corporation, as Port-Glasgow lately was, besides the suppression of small crimes, it would no longer give shelter to great ones. Men of wealth, virtue, and ability would be happy to exert themselves for the common good ; the inhabitants in general would be taught to respect, and find themselves happy, under lawful authority ; and in proportion as the town increases in riches and population, it would also increase in virtue and respectability.

## NUMBER III.

## PARISH OF MINNIGAFF.

(Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Presbytery of Wigton.—  
Synod of Galloway.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN GARLIES MAITLAND.

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*Name and Appearance.*

**M**INNIGAFF, or Monnigaff, is said to mean, in Gaelic, a stony muir, which is abundantly descriptive of the greater part of this parish. The country exhibits a very rugged appearance, being composed of rocky and heath covered hills, some of them of great height.

Length of the parish 24 miles.

Breadth, about 12 ditto.

Population in 1748, 828

———— in 1755, 1209

———— in 1792, 1420

Increase in 44 years 592

This increase is chiefly owing to the mines.

Average number of Christenings 40 yearly.

Valued rent - - - L. 7586: 10 Scots.

Real rent among nine heritors L. 5925 Sterling.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The climate in all the lower grounds is mild. The parish is seldom visited with any epidemical disease.

disease. The small-pox, indeed, is often attended with fatal effects in this neighbourhood, owing to the neglect of inoculation. Some unhappy scruples, flowing from a mistaken religious principle, prevent the people from doing that duty to their children which Providence has pointed out by this important discovery. Instances of longevity are frequent in this parish. One man, still alive, is said to be 118 years of age. This, however, rests chiefly on his own testimony, as no authentic record of his birth has ever been produced. His name is William Marshall; he has the remains of an athletic frame. In his youth he was a soldier; he says he served under King William in Ireland. If this was the case, he certainly does not exaggerate his age; but of this part of his history there is no better evidence than that of his age itself. That his age, however, is very great, there is this presumptive proof, that none of the oldest people in the country have ever contradicted his assertion.

*Rivers.*—The only river of any consequence is the Cree, which forms the boundary between this parish and Penninghame, and empties itself into Wigton Bay. This river is for some miles small, and runs through a bleak and dreary country, but is soon considerably increased by several large streams, which terminate in it. As soon as it has received this addition of waters, its appearance is changed in every respect. Instead of holding its course through rocks and muirs, it glides slowly and beautifully, for some miles, through a rich valley, abruptly bounded on each side by banks covered with wood. The river in this place is broad, and the whole forms a landscape truly romantic and delightful.

But beauty is not the most valuable characteristic of the Cree; it mingles the useful with the agreeable. It is navigable



gable for several miles up, which has been the source of all the agricultural improvements which have been made in this part of the country. It likewise produces excellent fish of different kinds; but the best and most abundant species is the salmon. These are found in considerable quantities. Even in the beginning of the season, when salmon are esteemed a rarity, they are sold at two-pence *per* pound; and, during the whole season, the price never varies.

The smelt or sparring, a very rare fish, is also found in the Cree. It is found only in one other river in Scotland, viz. the Forth at Stirling. It makes its appearance only during a few days in March, at which time they are caught in great quantities. They both taste and smell strongly of rushes; and this flavour, although uncommon, is to most people agreeable.

*Mountains and Mines.*—It has been already observed, that this parish contains several mountains, some of which are higher than any in the south of Scotland. Cairnsmuir is 1737 feet above the level of the sea; and there are one or two more which are 20 or 30 feet higher; but, arising from a more elevated base, their altitude is not so striking. There are many others of a less considerable height.—These mountains, though apparently barren, are not unproductive. Large quantities of lead have been dug from their bowels. The military road from London to Dublin passes through this parish for several miles. It was in making this road, in the year 1763, that a piece of lead-ore was accidentally discovered by a soldier, who was at work. This important discovery was first made in the property of Mr Heron of Heron. It produced, at one time, about

about 400 ton of ore *per annum* to Mr Heron, and those who were in company with him. At present, it yields them only about 30. It was found that the veins, leaving Mr Heron's lands, went into those of Mr Dunbar of Machermore; and there it is at present successfully wrought. Some years it produces from four to five hundred tons of ore. The ore, when smelted, yields, for every three tons, two of lead. It brings at market 18 l. *per ton* when smelted, and 8 l. in ore. It has been assayed, but will not bear the expence of extracting the silver. It is not carried above a mile by land till they put it on board small vessels; and then they generally carry it to Chester, to which place they can run, with a fair wind, in 18 or 20 hours.

*Woods.*—But lead is not the only production of our hills. Some of them, especially those in the vicinity of the Cree, are covered with useful wood. There is no land in the parish more productive than that which is employed in this manner. The greater part of this belongs to the Earl of Galloway, who lately sold the cutting of his woods for 6000 guineas, although the trees were then only from 25 to 30 years old. The wood is mostly *charred*, except a very small quantity which is used in the neighbourhood for domestic purposes. Besides Lord Galloway's, there is a good deal of other wood in the parish; but its value has not been so well ascertained. In all these woods, the most predominant species of trees are the oak and the ash.

*Sheep, Black Cattle, Horses, &c.*—Sheep are certainly the staple commodity of this parish. It is believed that their number is not less than *thirty thousand*. Although, from the shyness of the farmers to give an exact account of their flock, the information on this subject cannot be perfectly accurate, yet

yet it is certain that this statement is not extravagant. But, although sheep are evidently an object of so much importance to the farmer, yet little regard has been hitherto paid to the improvement of the breed. Indeed, no experiment has ever been made for this purpose. They have been contented with the breed which they found upon the grounds, which is certainly far from being good. They are of a small species, with black face and legs, and covered with wool of a very inferior quality. They are generally sold at three years old, at which age they are, at an average, worth 12 l. *per* score. They then weigh, if slaughtered, 12 pounds *per* quarter. The wool sells for 9 s. a stone; and it commonly requires seven or eight fleeces to the stone. The sheep are, I believe, universally *laid*, which, although prejudicial to the quality of wool, is deemed a necessary precaution against the inclemency of winter.

Besides sheep, there are a considerable quantity of black cattle bred in the parish. These have all the advantages common to Galloway cattle, which are well known to be remarkably handsome. They are short-legged, deep in the rib, broad over the loins, and, in general, without horns. They weigh remarkably well to their apparent bulk. The bullocks and heifers bred in this parish are sold at three and four years old, when they are sent to the English markets, where they bring an excellent price.

There are few horses bred for sale. In the upper part of the parish, there are still some remains of the true Galloway breed, which, although small, are remarkable for figure, spirit, and durability. They are the same with the Cornish, the Welsh, and Hebridian ponies, and are the ancient British breed. In the lower parts of the parish, where horses are

more

More wanted for the purposes of agriculture, they generally use good middle sized draught horses.

There are also bred in the parish some goats, which are supposed to answer better than sheep on the excessively rugged grounds which are frequently to be met with. Their number is not very great. They are worth 7*l.* or 8*l.* per score.

*Rent, Soil, Crops.*—The rent of land varies astonishingly in different parts of the parish. In some places it is let not by the acre, but by the mile, one farm containing several in extent each way. In the southern part of the parish, arable land brings from 20*s.* to 30*s.* per acre. The soil is such as might be expected from the appearance of the country. Barrenness is certainly its most striking characteristic. There is, however, a small stripe of land lying along the Cree, which is abundantly fertile. The soil of this is light and shallow, but kindly, and, in wet seasons, produces excellent crops. The part of this tract which lies nearest Wigton Bay is of a different quality, being a deep clay, and in some places covered with moss. This is not unfertile. The crops raised are oats, barley, rye, wheat, potatoes, and turnips. What number of acres are respectively occupied by each of these cannot easily be determined. By far the greatest number is employed in raising oats; and, next to them, in barley or bear. Wheat and turnips are not cultivated to any extent, and have been tried rather as experiments, than as forming a part of the general plan of husbandry. These experiments have been successful. The whole grain produced in the parish does no more than supply the inhabitants.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—The inhabitants of Gal-  
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loway have hitherto enjoyed, in a very great degree, the valuable blessing of peace and unanimity in their religious sentiments. Dissension of any kind has been less known than in almost any other part of Scotland. There are few Seceders in this parish from the established Church. There are, however, two or three families of Antiburghers and M. Millanites. One of the clergymen of the latter sect has his residence in the parish, although the number of his adherents is very small. He preaches occasionally in different parts of Galloway, and at home only by turns. The amount of the stipend is 72 l. 4s. Sterling. The glebe consists of 20 acres of land, 10 of which are arable. The value of the living, exclusive of the houses and garden, may be about 84 l. *per annum*. The number of poor persons upon the parish-roll is at present 25. These receive about 30 l. *per annum*, which is distributed to them quarterly. This sum arises almost entirely from the collections made on the Sabbath, a very small part of it only being the interest of some money left for their behoof. From this account of the matter, it appears that the poor are but very indifferently provided for. The heritors have never been assessed, although this is a measure which it would certainly be prudent and humane to adopt.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The prices of labour are various. In husbandry, during spring, summer, and harvest, the labourer receives 1 s. *per day* at ordinary works. For cutting peats, 1 s. 4 d.; for cutting hay, 1 s. 6 d. A woman at weeding, &c. 6 d. But, at reaping, both men and women receive 1 s. In winter, a man gets 10 d. The labourer who is hired by the year, and has a family, is generally paid by what is called a *benefit*. This benefit consists of a house, garden, 50 stone of oat-meal, 2 or 3 pounds in money, his fuel led home, liberty to plant 3 or 4 bushels of potatoes.

When

When he eats in his master's house, this is all that he receives; but, if he eats in his own, he is allowed to keep a cow, and has some addition made to his money or meal. These benefits are worth from 15*l.* to 16*l.* yearly. Upon this, when they are sober, which is mostly the case, and their wives industrious, they are enabled to bring up healthy and vigorous families, and to give them all the education which their situation in life requires. I do not know one instance of indigence in the parish which has not proceeded from misconduct, sickness, or old age. The happy circumstances of the people, however, are certainly much owing to the potatoes which they are allowed to plant. A great part of their sustenance is derived from this source. The husband generally takes care to have them well dunged, and his wife and children employ their leisure hours in keeping them clean; so that the cottagers potatoes generally look the best of any in the field.—A farm servant living in the house gets 8*l.*; a maid servant 3*l.* per annum.

*Language, Manners, &c.*—The language at present spoken in this parish is that which is common to all the low lands of Scotland. But, although it is a dialect of the English which is now spoken, there is no doubt that Gaelic was formerly the language of this country, and of all the west coast of Britain, but a few ages ago. Buchanan says, that this was the language of Galloway even in his time. The names of places in this parish confirm the truth of the remark.

The people of this parish are, in general, sober and industrious. They have been even able, in a great measure, to withstand the pernicious influence of British spirits, which, to the misfortune of this country, are too commonly in use. The lower classes possess a degree of information which is unusual

unusual among peasants. While engaged in tending their sheep they have long intervals of leisure. Many of them fill up these with reading and reflection. Hence they are always better informed than the mechanics, or even the labourers who are engaged in agriculture.

Many of the farmers are decent and intelligent men. They are mostly wealthy, and live in a very comfortable stile. Some of them pay a great deal of rent. One, in particular, pays 500 l. Sterling *per annum*, and has a stock of near 6000 sheep.

*Antiquities.*—There were formerly several *tumuli* on the banks of the Cree. In the year 1754, some of these were opened, and arms found in them, particularly three pieces of armour, all of which seem to have been offensive. One of them was formed very much like a halbert. The second was shaped on one side like a hatchet; but, subjoined to the back part of this hatchet, there was an instrument resembling a pavier's hammer. The third was like a spade, but much smaller in size. Each of these had a proper aperture for receiving a handle. When they were first discovered, they were so much covered with rust, with which they seemed to be much corroded, that it was impossible to distinguish of what metal they were made; but they were at last found to be of brass. They lay for many years in a farm-house in the parish; but it is not now known what is become of them. Near the place where these were found, some vestiges of an intrenchment are still to be discovered; and formerly, at no great distance from this, some large stones were placed, inclosing a circular piece of ground. These circumstances tend strongly to confirm the truth of an account which Buchanan, in his History of Scotland, gives of a battle which was fought near the Cree, by the Scots on one side, and the Romans and Picts on the other.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It has been already observed, that the great road from London to Dublin passes through this parish for several miles. The advantages of this are too obvious to need any remarks. We have also several other roads of great utility. One directly to Edinburgh intersects this parish for 12 miles. Another, which is now making to Ayr, also passes through it for several miles. This road is the effect of the patriotism and public spirit of the gentlemen of Galloway and of Ayrshire, as the whole expence is to be defrayed by their subscriptions. The utility of the object will well reward them for whatever it may cost. There was formerly no carriage road to Ayr without going round almost 40 miles. The great advantage of having a communication opened with so rich a country as Ayrshire will soon be experienced.

This parish produces neither lime nor coals. Lime, however, is got from England. It costs, at the shore, 13 d. *per* Carlisle bushel. The farmers generally lay on 50 bushels to the acre, but it is by far too little. Shells, which are found on the neighbouring shores, are also successfully used as a manure. They are brought in small vessels for some miles up the Cree; and, when landed, the best kind cost 1 s. 4 d. *per* ton. 25 ton are commonly given to the acre. The same error is committed here as in the lime.

The coals, as well as the lime, are brought from England. They might be procured on very reasonable terms, were it not for the duty they pay as on exportation, though they are only carried across a frith, from the English to the Scottish border. This duty renders them very high priced, and represses the spirit of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, in every part of Galloway.



## NUMBER IV.

## TOWN OF PAISLEY.

(County of Renfrew.—Presbytery of Paisley.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Dr JOHN SNODGRASS.

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE town of Paisley, one of the most considerable manufacturing towns in Scotland, lies in the shire of Renfrew, and about six miles and a half west from Glasgow. Its situation upon the banks of the river Cart is equally pleasant and commodious. It was erected into a burgh in barony by James IV. in the year 1488\*, at that time probably deriving all its importance from the rich monastery which had been established there for several ages; for George Shaw, who was then abbot of that monastery, obtained this privilege from the King. Even in Mr Crawford's time, who wrote the history of the shire of Renfrew near the beginning of this century, it seems to have been but an inconsiderable place; for he describes it as consisting only of one principal street, about half a mile in length, with several lanes belonging to it; whereas now the town, with its suburbs, occupies such an extent of ground, that

strangers

\* The burgh is governed by three magistrates and seventeen counsellors, and is not represented in Parliament.

Strangers are apt to consider it as, next to Edinburgh and Glasgow, the largest and most populous town in Scotland. Its buildings of late years have been greatly improved; its streets are well paved; and the different parts of the town and suburbs, where the river intervenes, are connected with one another by three bridges at convenient distances.

*Trade and Manufactures.*—The trade and manufactures of Paisley, which have always chiefly been in the weaving branch, are the main articles which render it of importance in a history of this nature. These may be traced from very small beginnings; but their progress in some periods has been rapid and astonishing. Not long after the Union, when a free trade was opened with England, the spirit of manufacture began to show itself there; and the fabrics which were produced were made upon such just and economical principles, and with so much taste and judgment, that they found a ready market not only at home, but likewise in the neighbouring kingdom. But the trade of Paisley, in that period, owed its chief encouragement to a set of men who were of great benefit to this country, though they are now discountenanced, and laid under severe restrictions by government; I mean, the pedlars or travelling merchants in England, many of whom having frequented Paisley as their staple, and having gained a little money by their trade, came to settle in that town, and bought up large quantities of its manufactures, which they vended among their friends and correspondents in England. Afterwards the merchants in Glasgow found their account in purchasing these goods, and sending them both to the London market and to foreign parts. Such was the state of the trade and manufactures of Paisley from soon after the Union till about the year 1760. The different articles of which they consisted, during that period,

period, were, at first, coarse checkered linen cloth, and bengals; afterwards checkered linen handkerchiefs, some of them fine, and beautifully variegated, by the manner in which the different colours were disposed, according to the taste and invention of the manufacturers. These were succeeded by fabrics of a lighter and more fanciful kind, consisting not only of plain lawns, but likewise those that were striped or checkered with cotton, and others that were ornamented with a great variety of figures; some of which last articles still continue to be manufactured there. Towards the end of the above mentioned period, the making of linen gauze was a considerable branch of trade in Paisley; and, before the middle of it, a new species of manufacture of great importance was begun by the inhabitants of this place, which they have continued to prosecute with peculiar advantage; I mean, the making of white sewing thread, known to the merchants by the name of *ounce thread*, as distinguished from the different kinds of coloured and white thread which have been manufactured chiefly at Aberdeen and Dundee. This valuable branch of trade may be said to have been imported into this country by a gentlewoman in that neighbourhood\*, who, about the year 1725, found means to procure from Holland the machinery which is necessary for carrying it on, and set the first example of it in her own family. Such a spirit of enterprise, of ingenuity, and of sober industry, marks a character of high distinction in the statistical account of any country. The manufacturing genius of the people of Paisley well knew how to profit by so worthy an example. That business was soon introduced there, where it has had its principal seat ever since, and is now carried on to a very considerable extent.—About the year 1760, the making of silk gauze

\* Mrs Millar of Bargaran.

gauze was first attempted at Paisley, in imitation of that of Spittalfields in London. The success was beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who engaged in it. The inventive spirit, and the patient application of the workmen; the cheapness of labour at that time, and the skill and taste of the masters, gave it every advantage for being naturalised there. The consequence was, that nice and curious fabrics were devised, and such a vast variety of elegant and richly ornamented gauze was issued from that place, as outdid every thing of the kind that had formerly appeared. Spittalfields was obliged to relinquish the manufacture. Companies came down from London to carry it on at Paisley, where it prospered and increased, it is believed, beyond any manufacture which any town in Scotland could boast of. Indeed, it not only became the great distinguishing manufacture of that town, but it filled the country round, to the distance of 20 miles; and the gentlemen engaged in it had not only warehouses in London and Dublin, but they had correspondents upon the continent, and shops for vending their commodities even in Paris itself. It is true, that the change of fashion, upon which this trade entirely depends, has of late had an unfavourable aspect towards it: But there is reason to hope, that it will smile upon it again; and, in the mean time, some of the principal houses in that place, while they are pushing their former branch as far as they can, have entered into the mullin manufacture with their accustomed ardour; but, I must add, considering that this is a branch which has as yet no fixed principles, with a judgment and prudence by which men of business are ever distinguished from rash and unwary adventurers.

It appears, from the best calculation that could be made, that, in the year 1784, the manufactures of Paisley, in silk gauze, lawn and linen gauze, and white sewing thread, a-

mounted to the value of 579,185 l. 16 s. 6 d. and that no fewer than 26,484 persons were employed in carrying them on. It is difficult to give an exact account of the state of its manufactures at present. The silk branch has evidently declined, but the mullin has so far come in its room, and the thread manufacture is considerably increased. There is, however, reason to conclude, that though it is daily advancing, it has not yet recovered its former greatness.

Besides these principal manufactures, there are some others carried on there of too much importance to be overlooked. For instance, considerable tan-works, four in number, two soap and candle works, a manufacture of ribbons, and another of inkle or tape.

These valuable manufactures have had a most beneficial influence over all the neighbouring country. By the increase of population and wealth which they have occasioned, the farmer can dispose of every article of his produce to the greatest advantage. This stimulates his industry, agriculture flourishes apace, and the value of land is amazingly increased. The spirit of manufacture is the secret spring which puts all in motion; and the weaver upon his loom, while he provides a comfortable subsistence for himself and his family, may be considered as ministering to the ease and to the elegance even of the gentleman who lives upon his country estate.

|                            |                  |                  |                  |             |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <i>Population</i> in 1695, | 2200             |                  |                  |             |
| ———— in 1755,              | 4290             |                  |                  |             |
| ———— in 1782,              | 11100            |                  |                  |             |
|                            | <i>Fam.</i>      | <i>Souls.</i>    | <i>Males.</i>    | <i>Fem.</i> |
| ———— in 1792,              | 3232             | 13800            | 6577             | 7223        |
|                            | <i>Under 15.</i> | <i>15 to 70.</i> | <i>Above 70.</i> |             |
|                            | 5129             | 8437             | 234              |             |

These numbers do not include the suburbs, which are to be referred to Abbey parish.

*Baptisms*

| <i>Baptisms and Marriages.</i> |                    |                 |                   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                                | <i>Bap. males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |
| In 1787,                       | 289                | 208             | 153               |
| 1788,                          | 243                | 274             | 137               |
| 1789,                          | 236                | 194             | 109               |
| 1790,                          | 204                | 232             | 148               |
| Number of dissenters, 2550.    |                    |                 |                   |

*Parishes, Churches, &c.*—The town of Paisley continued a part of the original or Abbey parish of Paisley till the year 1738, when the Magistrates and Council having purchased the right of patronage from the then Earl of Dundonald, a new church was built, and the town was erected into a separate parish. In 1756 another church was built, upon a very extended plan, to accommodate its multiplied inhabitants, in which, though it is one of the largest in Scotland, yet the most distant of the congregation can hear a tolerably good speaker with ease and distinctness; and, as it stands upon the highest part of the town, it was afterwards ornamented with a lofty and well-proportioned spire. In 1781, the number of the inhabitants still rapidly increasing, another church was built not quite so large as the former, but very handsomely and elegantly finished; and, in the following year, the town was divided, and erected into three separate parishes, viz. the Low Church, the High Church, and the Middle Church parishes. The three parishes are an area of about a mile and a half square, cut out of the old original parish, by which they are bounded; and the stipend of each minister, which has of late been augmented, is 130 l. without manse or glebe.

There are two large dissenting congregations in the town, those of the Antiburgher persuasion and the Relief. The first of these has existed there for upwards of 30 years; the other is of a late date; and they are both supplied with ministers

nisters who seem to have no further aim than that of discharging the duties of their office in a quiet and conscientious manner. There is likewise a small congregation of Cameroonians.

*Poor.*—A manufacturing town must always have a great proportion of poor belonging to it. When trade is brisk, great numbers of tradesfolk, and working people of all descriptions will naturally flock to it by reason of the encouragement which they expect to meet with; and it is contrary to the interest of its manufacturers to be very scrupulous in admitting them. Many of these, when trade becomes dull, or when sickness and debility overtake them, will necessarily be reduced to circumstances of penury and want. They must then fall a burden upon the public; and it is a matter of vast importance, that, while they receive an adequate subsistence, industry be not discouraged, and that they be maintained in a manner not only the least expensive to the community, but likewise the least sensibly felt.

The plan of supporting the poor by the weekly collections at the church-doors, under the management of the minister and elders of every parish, has produced such salutary effects, that it certainly deserves the highest commendation. No set of men are better acquainted with the situation and characters of the poor than they. They therefore can judge exactly both what supplies they may need, and how they may be given them with most advantage. It is much to be regretted, that, while this mode of maintaining the poor, in many parts of Scotland, is discontinued, recourse is had to a scheme of supporting them by a discretionary tax upon the inhabitants, under the management of what are called overseers. The progress of this scheme is not a little alarming, as there is too much reason to fear that it will be productive  
of

of very bad effects. It puts charity entirely off its natural principle. It is calculated to multiply the poor, and to increase their demands, by holding out to their view a settled maintenance which they can call their own. It divests them of sensibility, by teaching them to claim it as their right, when they would be ashamed to appear in the character of beggars. Thus it is unfavourable to industry; and it will bring at length an intolerable burden upon the country. It is well known what evils are ascribed to the poor-tax in England. But Dr Windeborn brings a new charge against it, by asserting, that, though there are in no country such large contributions raised for the support of the poor as in England, yet there is no where so great a number of them; *and their condition, in comparison with the poor of other countries, appears truly the most miserable.* If a similar mode of providing for the poor should prevail in this country, there is little security against the same evils attending it which have been so long complained of in the neighbouring kingdom.

Paisley proceeds upon the old plan, of maintaining the poor as far as it is practicable in a populous town, and exhibits a proof of the excellency of that method. Though the town is divided, as has been already observed, into three distinct parishes, yet, in respect of the maintenance of the poor, they are considered as one. Their funds are thrown into one common stock; and the ministers and elders of the several parishes meet together from time to time to consider the necessities of the poor, and to give them suitable relief. The number of poor whom they have either occasionally relieved, or entirely supported, for the last two years, amounts to 240 each year, besides 13 children each year whom they put out to nursing, and 25 whom they sent to school. The collections at the church-doors were, at an average, 393 l. 12 s. 1½ d. each year, besides about 108 l. arising from proclamations



clamations of banns, mortified money, &c. So that the whole yearly sum by which 240 persons were enabled to keep house, 13 children were nursed, making, the second year, a burden of 26, and 25 educated, was only 501 l. 12 s. 1½ d.

It is believed, that no money is laid out with greater attention than this, or can go farther in promoting the true purposes of charity. The people who receive it are much better pleased than even to be more comfortably provided for out of their own houses. This is a spur to industry in those who are able to make themselves any help, and the money is raised in a way that can never be felt, three fourths of the whole sum being the yearly contributions of three large congregations at the church-doors, and given mostly in half-pence, except upon extraordinary occasions.

In such a town an hospital is certainly necessary for maintaining poor and destitute children, and as an asylum for the infirm and the aged, who have none to take care of them. For these purposes an hospital was erected there in 1752. The house is capacious: It is built in a free and airy part of the town, and has a large garden belonging to it. It is under the management of 15 directors, who are chosen annually; three from the town-council, one from each parish session, and the rest chosen by the council from among the inhabitants at large. It is conducted upon the strictest principles of oeconomy, and with great attention to health, cleanliness, and good order, and has hitherto answered the ends of its institution as much, perhaps, as any of the kind.

The following is a state of the expence, and of the persons maintained in it for the last three years.

*Children*

|       | <i>Child. from 4 to 12<br/>years old.</i> | <i>Infirm<br/>&amp; aged.</i> | <i>Expence.</i> |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1788, | 60                                        | 46                            | L. 471 1 2      |
| 1789, | 75                                        | 46                            | 524 6 0         |
| 1790, | 66                                        | 54                            | 520 7 4         |
|       | <hr/>                                     | <hr/>                         | <hr/>           |
|       | 201                                       | 146                           | L. 1515 14 6    |

From this account it appears, that the average

|                                               |          |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| expence of each person yearly was             | -        | L. 4 7 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Deduct for the labour of the house in 3 years | 223 10 8 |                        |
| And the expence of each person to the public  |          |                        |
| was only                                      | - - - -  | 3 14 5 $\frac{1}{2}$   |

The children are educated and brought up to industry from their earliest years. The charge of management is exceedingly small, as there is only a mistress and a schoolmaster at very moderate salaries, and a single house-maid; and the annual expence is defrayed by mortified money, and a small assessment upon the inhabitants. Such is the manner in which the poor of the town of Paisley are provided for and maintained.

There are, indeed, large sums of money distributed yearly by the several trades from their boxes, as they are called, among those of their number who are disabled from working. These institutions, however, are to be considered in somewhat of a different light; for, as they are intended to be a security against want, they are constructed upon such a principle, as that the person who receives supply, only draws out the money which he had formerly put in, along with part, perhaps, of the contributions of his brethren, which they all cheerfully give, in order to be assured of the same comfortable provision. A scheme of this nature may, at first sight, be thought liable to some of the objections which have been

been brought against the poor-tax, particularly, that it tends to promote idleness, and that the benefit which it affords may be drawn away by undeserving objects. But this does not seem to be the case in fact, and there is no arguing against experience. The pride of enriching the box, and of being a support to the trade, instead of a burden upon it;—a jealousy that pervades all its members, lest any of their money should be improperly given away;—the disgrace that attends an unnecessary application;—and the evident ruin of the scheme if such applications are not effectually discouraged, all cooperate for the prevention of any of those evils which otherwise, perhaps, might be apprehended from it.

*Schools.*—There is an established English school in each of the three parishes, which are well filled with scholars; and, as each schoolmaster is session-clerk of the parish to which he belongs, the emoluments of the two offices bring a decent and comfortable living. There is likewise a public grammar school, with a house and salary, and a school for teaching writing, arithmetic, &c. besides many private schools, which meet with good encouragement, and a Sunday school for those whose education is in danger of being altogether neglected; but such is the attention that is paid to the education of poor children in that town, that all the three parishes afford but a small number of the above description.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of the MANUFACTURES of PAISLEY, with their Value, and the Number of People employed in them. Communicated by a Gentleman of that Town in the year 1789.

N U M.

of Paisley.

| <i>Manufactures.</i>                       | <i>Employments in the manufactures.</i>                                                                | <i>No. of hands.</i> | <i>Produce in money.</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Silk Gauze.</i>                         | Weavers employed in this branch in Paisley - -                                                         | 5000                 |                          |
|                                            | Winders, warpers, clippers, overseers, &c. employed                                                    | 5000                 |                          |
|                                            |                                                                                                        | _____                | 10000                    |
|                                            | Value manufactured by every filk loom 70 l. Sterling<br><i>per annum</i> , at an average, is - - - - - | -                    | L. 350,000 0 0           |
| <i>Lawns.</i>                              | Weavers employed in these branches - - -                                                               | 2800                 |                          |
| <i>Cambrics.</i>                           | Winders, warpers, clippers, overseers, bleachers, &c.                                                  | 1100                 |                          |
| <i>Thread Gauze</i>                        | Spinners of the yarn used in this manufacture                                                          | 7384                 |                          |
| <i>&amp; Muffins.</i>                      | Makers of machinery, implements, heddles, &c. for<br>filk and lawn - - - - -                           | 800                  |                          |
|                                            |                                                                                                        | _____                | 12084                    |
|                                            | 1600 of those now employed in the muffin trade.                                                        |                      |                          |
|                                            | Value of the lawns, cambrics, and muffins manufactured is -                                            |                      | 180,385 16 0             |
| <i>White or Threads.</i>                   | Spinners, winders, bleachers, twiflers, and mill-drivers -                                             | 4800                 |                          |
|                                            | Value of this manufacture amounts to - - - - -                                                         |                      | 70,000 0 0               |
| <i>Hard &amp; Soft Soap &amp; Candles.</i> | Value of these branches will amount to - - - - -                                                       |                      | 48,000 0 0               |
| <i>Inkle, Ribbon, Tansworks, &amp;c.</i>   | Value of these Trades put together will be - - - - -                                                   |                      | 12,000 0 0               |
|                                            |                                                                                                        |                      | _____                    |
|                                            | Total yearly value of the Manufactures of Paisley                                                      |                      | L. 660,385 16 0          |

VOL. VII.

## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF THE ABBEY OF PAISLEY.

(County of Renfrew.—Presbytery of Paisley.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT BOOG.

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of Paisley is in length, from east to west, about nine miles, varying in breadth from half a mile to about three. Till 1736, the parish extended over the town of Paisley; but an additional church at that time becoming necessary, the town was erected into a separate parish; and the original parish has, since that period, been distinguished by the name of the *Abbey parish*, or, more properly, *the parish of the Abbey of Paisley*.

No satisfactory etymology has hitherto occurred of the name *Paisley*. The following has been suggested by a good Gaelic scholar: "A ridge of rocks that runs across the river, and forms a beautiful cascade, would, prior to the building of the town, be undoubtedly the most striking object that this place would present. The brow or face of a rock is, in Gaelic, *Pais-licht*. A church in front of the rock would be the church in *Pais-licht*. A church did stand here previous to 1160; it is named in the foundation charter *Ecclesia de Pafelet*, Latinized, in the records of the monastery, *Pasletum*, an easy derivative from *Pais-licht*, in all probability the original of the modern *Paisley*."

*Surface*

*Surface and Soil.*—It is generally of a gently waving surface, frequently swelling, especially in the neighbourhood of Paisley, into beautiful little eminences. A considerable part of it to the north of the town is a perfect level, having been anciently mofs, extending in the year 1719, when a survey of it was made, to about 300 acres; but now reduced to about 130 by the operation of burning, which, in dry seasons, is still carried on with success. The south part of the parish rises into a tract of hilly ground, known by the name of *Paisley* or *Stanley Braes*. The greatest elevation to which these grounds rise in this parish is about 680 feet above flood-mark at Paisley. Part of them is mofs and heath, but the bulk of them is good sheep pasture, and even a considerable part of them arable. The soil of the parish, as may be expected in such an extensive district, varies. It is in general thin, with a bottom of gravel, more frequently of till, very retentive of moisture. In the flat grounds, and along the banks of the rivers, it is rich and fertile; less so, thinner, and more stony, as it rises to the south.

*Air and Diseases.*—The air is moist, a necessary consequence of the prevailing south-west winds, which, coming loaded with vapour from the Atlantic, produce frequent and heavy rains. The effects of this moist atmosphere appear in rheumatisms, quinsys, pneumonic ailments, and all the tribe of inflammatory disorders. Upon the whole, however, this parish, and even the neighbouring town, cannot be said to be unhealthy. Contagions, indeed, at times visit this as other places, which run their usual course as epidemics; but none are remembered of any uncommon violence, except a pleurisy in summer 1771, and which, contrary to the received opinion, was truly epidemic. There are no disorders that can be said to be endemic, unless scrophula is to be excepted, which

which is still but too common. This has been ascribed to the water used by the inhabitants in Paisley: It more probably proceeded from, it certainly was greatly aggravated by, poor living, and by the damp shops which were necessary for the linen manufacture; for, since silk-weaving became the general employment, and increase of trade has introduced better living, this disorder is less frequent. From the same causes probably it is that swelled and sore legs, once extremely common here, are now but rarely met with. Dysentery raged with great violence in 1765; since that time it has been scarcely complained of. Nervous fevers at times appear, but they are neither very general nor uncommonly fatal. It is to be apprehended, that the confinement and sedentary posture of the weaver, and the laborious life of the bleacher, are frequent causes of consumptive complaints. Intermittents, which, from the damp air, and adjoining moss, might be expected to be common, are not so much as known.

*Water.*—The water in Paisley and the suburbs is but indifferent; and there is scarce any thing more wanted for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants than a plentiful supply of good spring water. But now, that every spring and rill is occupied and become valuable property, this is scarcely to be hoped for.

*Rivers.*—Besides the Black Cart, which, rising in Castle Semple Loch, partly bounds the parish on the north, and the rivulet Levern, which marks it on the south-east, the parish is watered by the river White Cart. It rises in the high grounds about Kilbride, and, entering this parish from the east, flows in a pretty direct westerly course towards the town. After forming a beautiful fall at Seedhill-mill, it turns northerly, and, about a mile below the town, enters  
Renfrew

Renfrew parish, and joins the river Gryfe at Inchinan-bridge. In the Cart are found perch, trout, flounders, and braises, or gilt-heads, but none of them in any considerable quantities, owing, no doubt, in a great degree to the bleachfields, print-fields, and a copperas work upon the banks of the river. As for the fine large pearls once found in this river, and which, according to our old historians, had been noticed by the most eminent jewellers in Europe, they have long disappeared, and the river has become a more certain source of wealth by its utility to an industrious and manufacturing neighbourhood. Of several smaller rivulets in the parish, none are so considerable from their size as to merit notice. Covered, however, as their banks every where are with thread, lawns, or muslins, they have all become highly valuable to their proprietors, and of great importance to the country.—The river White Cart was, by direction of the Magistrates of Paisley, surveyed by Mr Whitworth in 1786. He reported, that, by removing some rocks and shoals in the river, a depth of seven feet of water might be obtained in ordinary spring-tides; and, as the channel is but shallow under Inchinan-bridge, as it could not be easily or safely deepened there, and as, at any rate, vessels with standing masts could not pass under the arches, he proposed to avoid that part of the navigation by means of a navigable canal, which should leave the river a little above, and join it again below the bridge. The expence of the whole, including a draw-bridge across the canal, was estimated at 1900*l*. The plan being approved of, an act of Parliament was obtained, empowering the Magistrates and other trustees to carry on the work, and defray the expence by a tonnage of eight-pence *per* ton upon all vessels navigating the Cart, with an exception in favour of those loaded with coal. The work is now completed, but at an expence of about 4000*l*. The navigation is greatly improved, but



but not to the degree that was expected; and probably, to obtain an unobstructed passage at all times to and from Paisley, some further operations upon the river and canal will still be necessary. The tonnage lets at present for 155 l. But, from Whitfunday 1792 to that term 1793, it has been let for 250 l. Paisley has derived considerable advantages from the completing of the great canal between Forth and Clyde. The great and increasing demand for Baltic goods have rendered that navigation of more consequence to Paisley than it was perhaps at first supposed it would be. But, to give this place the full benefit of it, a branch would be necessary from the great canal to the Clyde, to terminate as nearly opposite to the mouth of Paisley river as the ground would permit. Perhaps it could not be brought nearer than Newshot Isle. The distance at this place between the canal and the Clyde is but about one third of a mile; its elevation above the level of the river nearly 22 feet. Two locks would therefore be necessary, and from these the chief expence of the work would arise. The advantages, however, would be great. The navigation would be shortened no less than five miles for vessels and rafts of wood coming to Paisley. Two days would be saved each trip to the proprietors of goods. The bulky articles of corn, wood, iron, coal, ashes, soap waste, &c. &c. which are intended for Paisley, Kilbarchan, Johnstoun, Beith, Houston, Neilstoun, &c. would be brought to Paisley by water-carriage, instead of being landed at Port-Dundas, and sent from thence by land-carriage. The manufacturers of Paisley might send a great part of their goods from their warehouses immediately by water-carriage to London and other places. A considerable increase of tonnage would arise to the proprietors of the great canal, and many important advantages to an extensive and populous tract of country.

*Woods.*

*Woods.*—There are no woods of any great extent in the parish; perhaps about 140 acres of natural oak, ash, birch, plane, &c. may be the amount of the whole, upon three or four different estates. The Forest of Paisley exists only in ancient records. Walter, Great Steward of Scotland, by the charter of foundation of the monastery of Paisley, grants to the monks “Decimas de omnibus terris infra *Forestum* suum de Paisley.” In Prynne’s Collections, we meet with “John le Hunter de la foreste de Paisley.” And, in 1460 and 1524, the tenant of Dunskaith-wood, in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, is bound by the abbot “Custodire sylvam et sustentare fossas circa dictam sylvam.” The names of Woodside, Oakshawside, and Oakshawhead, are the only traces that remain of those woods.

*Roads.*—The only turnpike-road in the parish is that running through it from east to west. Of late years, it has been kept in very good repair. The others, which depend upon the statute labour, are in a very indifferent state. This, it is hoped, will be remedied by a bill to be brought into Parliament next session for making some new turnpike-roads, converting the statute work into money, and regulating the application of it.

*Mines and Minerals.*—There are five coal-mines at present wrought in the parish. That at Hurler, belonging to the Earl of Glasgow; Quarreltown, to Mr Houstoun of Johnston; Achinloadmont, to Mr Fulton of Achinloadmont; Nutshiel, to Mr Dunlop of Househill; and one lately opened in the lands of Newton, the property of Mr Spiers of Elderlie. Of these, the two first merit particular notice.—The Hurler or Hawkhead coal lies about three miles south-east from Paisley. It is a stratum 5 feet 3 inches thick, declining

clining eastward, with a dip about one foot in seven. This valuable seam has been wrought, it is supposed, for considerably more than 200 years. In 1634, there were five miners employed; of late there have been from 20 to 30; and the yearly produce, on an average of 20 years, is about 10,000 tons. Inflammable and fixed air are met with in this mine; but the pits are so well ventilated, there being a complete communication between shafts half a mile distant, that, tho' accidents sometimes have happened, they are not frequent. It is well ascertained, that fire has been generated in these mines, and among the coals upon the hills, by the martial pyrites with which they abound.—The coal at Quarreltown is one of the most extraordinary masses of that mineral in Britain. It consists, in effect, of five contiguous strata. The thickness of the whole, measured at right angles to the surface of the strata, is upwards of 50 feet; but as, in some places, the seam forms a very considerable angle with the horizon, the thickness of the whole in these places, measured vertically, is about 15 fathoms. In consequence of this great depth, it is worked in different floors or storeys. Till of late, the work was carried on *horizontally* from the shaft, so as successively to intersect all the five strata. At present, the miner pursues the same stratum, rising with it. In the former mode of working, there were five several floors or storeys; in the present, there are only three; the first, third, and fifth stratum being wrought, and afterwards so much of the second and fourth as may be done with safety.—It is difficult to convey a clear idea of the manner in which this singular mass of coal lies. In a field of about 15 acres, it is found to dip in several different directions. At least, conceiving a nearly circular area of those contents, the coal, from the north, the east, and south quarters of that circle, dips pretty uniformly towards the centre. This, however, is, in some measure,

measure, interrupted by several hitches, at one of which the mass of coal is suddenly thrown up about 50 feet, at another about 30. These hitches interrupt not only the direction, but the degree of the dip. On one side of the first mentioned hitch, it is about one foot in three; on the other side, only one in six. Some years ago this coal took fire; and the pillars giving way, the ground sunk, and left the surface in a very rugged state. The excellent judgment and persevering industry of the proprietor have surmounted many difficulties that have occurred in working this valuable coal. It now employs about 30 pick-men; and there are commonly 12 or 14 horses below ground. The produce some years has been not less than twenty thousand tons.

Free stone quarries abound in the parish. The stone in most of them is of a good quality, lies near the surface, and generally dips towards the east. A quarry of coarse granite or blue whin, in what was formerly the Abbey garden, affords excellent materials for paving the streets. A stone, here called *Osmond stone*, found on the tops of the hills in this and the adjoining parish of Nielston, is used for hearths of ovens; but the Inverary stone is preferred to it.—We have several lime-stone quarries. That at Stanley, the property of the Earl of Glasgow, merits the examination of the curious. An enormous rock, projecting from the brow of a hill, contains the limestone lying in a mass of about ten feet thick, and dipping towards a centre, like the Quarreltown coal. Several mines have been driven into the rock; and these meeting in the heart of it, present a very singular piece of subterranean scenery. The limestone at Blackhall, the property of Sir Michael Stewart, is also wrought by mining, but not without danger, having only a clay roof. The Hurlet lime lies in a stratum three feet thick, incumbent on the seam of coal. After the coal is dug out, the limestone is blown

down with gun-powder, about one half being left to support the strata above.

*Fossils.*—Fossil shells, and other marine *exuviae*, are found in great quantities in all our lime-quarries; such as entrochi, which are numerous; anomiae, both with the perforated and entire beak; gryphites; milliperes; fungites; several varieties of pectens, and many others, which do not exist in their natural state upon our shores. All these abound in the lime-quarry at Floors, the property of Mr Houstoun of Johnstoun, and are generally found contained in a stratum of white clay immediately incumbent on the lime. Corals and shells have been found in sinking the shafts for the Hawkhead coal; the former in detached pieces of limestone, a few feet from the surface; the latter involved in the mass of schistus immediately over the coal, and at a depth of not less than 160 feet. Among these are the ortho-ceratites, turbinated cochleae, and several species of bivalves; all of them retaining their original form, and shining like the marcasite in common slate.—In sinking a shaft for that coal in 1786, the several strata occurred as follows:

|                                                                              | <i>Fect. In.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Earth and clay - - - -                                                    | 42 0             |
| 2. Sand and gravel - - - -                                                   | 8 0              |
| 3. Schistus or till, with some thin strata of lime<br>and iron stone - - - - | 105 0            |
| 4. Limestone - - - -                                                         | 3 0              |
| 5. Schistus, of an aluminous quality - - - -                                 | 3 1              |
| 6. Coal - - - -                                                              | 5 3              |
|                                                                              | <hr/>            |
|                                                                              | 166 4            |

In the limestone, No. 4. crystals of calcareous spar are found: They are deposited in open crevices, the sides of which are lined

lined with them. Rhomboidal spar, both opaque and transparent, is also met with. The schistus, No. 5. is extremely hard; but, when lying in a dry place, as in the waste of the coal-pit, it gradually decomposes, and acquires a flacky appearance. It is a beautiful vitriolic efflorescence, perfectly resembling plume alum, but seems to have more of the vitriolated *iron* than vitriolated *clay*. In this stratum of schistus, and in the stratum of coal, pyrites abound so much, that native copper is sometimes found. They lie not in any regular bed, but interspersed through the stratum, and are separated from the coal by the workmen. They are employed in a copper or green vitriol manufacture, established at Hurlet in 1753 by a company from Liverpool.—A bituminous substance is found both in the lime and whin-stone quarries. It drops in a fluid state from the limestone at Blackhall. In that at Hurlet it is found solid; sometimes so indurated as to be brittle; sometimes so soft as to cut with a knife; in either state highly inflammable.

*Figured Stones.*—At Harelaw, a farm belonging to the Earl of Glasgow, are found stones in considerable quantities, with well defined vegetable impressions. The impressions are upon a concave surface, and evidently formed by its application to the convexity of a stem or branch of a tree. In some specimens, they present the appearance of a kind of rhomboidal net-work; in others, that of regular indentations, nearly resembling what we may conceive would be retained by a soft body from its application to the cone of the fir-tree. A body of a compressed cylindrical form, which has communicated these impressions, is sometimes found: It is figured upon the surface in a manner corresponding to these indentations: And, though no plant precisely resembling it is now known in this country, it is evidently a portion of a petrified branch

or small trunk of a tree. The stones thus marked are commonly free-stone; sometimes, but more rarely, iron-stone. Vegetable impressions have also been observed upon the pyrites of the Hawkhead coal\*.

*Husbandry.*—The husbandry of this parish, as of all the west of Scotland, was, about the middle of this century, in a most unprosperous state. The indigent circumstances of the farmers, their indolent habits, the want of roads, of wheel-carriages, and proper implements of husbandry, all conspired to obstruct the improvement of the soil. Till about 1770, lime, coal, grain, &c. were generally conveyed on horse-back. The old servitudes of carriages, kail labour, thirlage, &c. still existed, with many practices discouraging to the farmer, and strongly marking the languid state of agriculture. The spirit of improvement, however, which, about that time, appeared in Scotland, reached Renfrewshire; and a very favourable change has now taken place. The introduction of artificial grasses, and the culture of potatoes, have produced a more diligent and accurate husbandry, and banished the pernicious distinction of croft and outfield †. Before 1766, there was scarce any hay sown; and the natural grass hay then sold at 3d. *per* stone. The general price of hay, of late years, has been 5d. or 6d.; at present it is no less than 9d. Potatoes, about 40 or 50 years ago, were brought in boats from Kintyre to Paisley market. About 30 years ago, farmers

\* The particulars relative to the mineralogy of the parish have been chiefly communicated by the ingenious Mr John Wilson, factor to the Earl of Glasgow.

† The distinction between croft and outfield prevailed very generally in the old and imperfect husbandry of Scotland. The *croft*, consisting of a few acres nearest the farm house, was perpetually in crop, and received the whole manure of the farm. The *outfield* was the open pasture land, which was occasionally plowed in patches for oats till they were exhausted, and then left to rest.

mers began pretty generally to cultivate them in the field. No crops, it is probable, have proved more profitable to the farmer than these.—The scheme of farming most commonly followed is,—oats out of lee,—beans and pease,—barley with clovers and grass seeds. After one crop of hay, the field is generally pastured for three or four years, and then broke up with the oats. Little wheat is sown, but rather more of late than formerly. Rye, flax, and turnip, are but very little cultivated; hemp not at all. Oats are sown in March, more generally in April: Barley from about the 20th of May to the 10th of June: Wheat in September or October, either after fallow, after potatoes, or out of lee. Lime is commonly applied upon the lee for the oats; dung and manure to barley and wheat. The old Scots plough is generally used, many farmers having a prejudice against the chain-plough, as less fit to overcome the impediments to tillage with which much of the soil in this neighbourhood abounds. It has, however, of late been introduced with success, with the improvement of a cast-iron mould-board. The crop, in general, is got in in September and October; sometimes, as was the case this season, (1791) not till the beginning of November. In 1781, it was all in in August, and was one of the best known. In 1782, the harvest was not finished till the very end of November; and, during that month, there were considerable falls of snow.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 11,944 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scots; the real rent 9700 l. Sterling, belonging to 30 landed proprietors, 15 of whom possess each above 100 l. Scots of valuation. The rent of the best arable land is about 2 guineas *per acre*; something more in the immediate neighbourhood of Paisley. The best pasture ground brings about 30 s. *per acre*. Lands of inferior quality from 12 to 20 s.; and the  
high



high pasture ground about 5 s. Garden grounds around the town let at about 5 l. *per acre*. Till within these few years past, a great proportion of the garden-stuffs used in Paisley was brought from Glasgow. The number of farms seems rather diminishing, but not in any great degree. Their extent is, in general, from 40 to 100 acres. Few farmers pay more than 120 l. *per annum* of rent; the most of them about 50 l. or 60 l. All of them are sufficiently sensible of the advantages of an inclosed farm, and willingly pay  $7\frac{1}{2}$  *per cent.* to the proprietor for money laid out in that species of improvement. In consequence of this, the parish is all inclosed either with hedges or stone dykes.

*Farmers.*—Though the rise of rents has been great, most of them having been doubled within the last 30 years, yet the farmers are more independent; they pay their rents more regularly, live better, and are better cloathed than formerly, the effect, no doubt, of a more vigorous and successful husbandry. Still, however, they are far, very far from enjoying the comforts of life in the degree to which such an industrious and valuable order of men are entitled. The prices of grain, their chief commodity, do not rise; and if, in consequence of the greater wealth and population which the manufactures have introduced, their cheese, butter, and eggs, bring a higher price, this is probably more than counterbalanced by another effect of the same cause, the immoderate rise upon servants wages. A little more regard to the interest of the farmer will not, perhaps, be found so very inconsistent with that of the manufacturer as seems to have been imagined of late, when all this part of the country was in a flame during the dependance of the corn-bill, the operation of which not one in a thousand understood. The number  
of

of farmers in the parish is about 140; of ploughs, 148; horses, 507.

*Servitudes.*—The ancient servitudes, so oppressive and harassing to the farmer, are almost entirely abolished. The only one of any consequence that remains is that of thirlage. The Abbey Mill exacts from most of the lands thirled to it a malture of the one and twentieth peck, besides dues to the servants of the Mill. This Mill, let by the abbot and convent about A. D. 1500 for four chalders eleven bolls of meal, and one chalder malt, yearly, pays at present a rent of 432 l. Another mill in the neighbourhood lets at 220 l.

*Manufactures.*—The manufactures carried on in this parish are, the weaving of silk gauze, muslins, lawns, cotton stuffs, and thread gauze, in all their varieties; thread making, cotton spinning, bleaching, callicoe printing; the making of candles, white soap, black soap, and starch. An account of the rise, progress, present state, and produce of the principal manufactures, is communicated from the town of Paisley. We subjoin their present state in this parish.

In the various weaving branches there were employed at Whitfunday 1791, in the suburbs of Paisley, 1108 looms, which, added to 2494 employed in the town, gives 3602 in all. But it is to be observed, that the extent to which the weaving branches are carried on by the manufacturers in Paisley, is not to be judged of from the number of looms in the town and suburbs. Besides about 150 in the country part of the parish, there are great numbers employed by them in the villages of Nielstoun, Bar-head, Beith, Dalry, Kilwinning, &c. &c. In 1744, when all the business was confined to the town and suburbs, there were 867 looms at work.—The thread making employs 9 mills, which, added

to

to 128 employed in Paisley, makes 137 in all. The number in 1744 was 93. The spinning of cotton was introduced into this parish in 1783. The principal seat of that manufacture is at Johnstoun, a neat and regularly built village about three miles west from Paisley, upon the estate of Mr Houston of Johnstoun. The feuing of that village was begun in 1782, and it contained at Whitfunday last 293 families, or 1434 souls. There are five companies established in it for cotton spinning. Two of these carry on their principal operations by water-machinery. In the two mills employed in them, there are going at present 11,672 spindles; but, when the whole machinery in both shall be compleated, there will be 22,572. The number of persons, young and old, at present employed in both mills is 660. There are besides about 120 spinning Jeenies employed throughout the parish; but the number is daily increasing; and, when the machinery is compleated which the buildings already erected are calculated to contain, there will be about 150 Jeenies, exclusive of those in the two great mills. The number of persons employed in this branch at present is, in all, about 1020.

It is painful to think, that a manufacture which gives employment to so many hands, and which may be a source of great wealth to individuals, may be productive of very unhappy effects upon both the health and morals of the children employed in it. This there is some reason to apprehend. The numbers that are brought together, especially in the larger mills, the confinement, the breathing of an air loaded with the dust and downy particles of the cotton, and contaminated with the effluvia of rancid oil rising from the machinery, must prove hurtful, in a high degree, to the delicate and tender lungs of children. Add to this, that mills which produce the water-twist are kept going day and night; and children must be had who are willing to work through  
the

the night, and sleep during the day. Tempted by the wages, parents send their children to this employment at a very early age, when they have got little or no education; and the close confinement deprives them of the opportunity of acquiring more. Ignorance, disease, and mortality, are but too likely to prove the effects of this manufacture, if carried on by unfeeling and selfish men. The characters of the gentlemen engaged in it in this neighbourhood give reason to hope, that every method will be employed which humanity and good sense can suggest to prevent these evils.

The bleaching business in this parish is carried on to a very considerable extent. There are 10 fields for whitening muslins and lawns, and about as many for thread, almost wholly employed by the manufacturers in Paisley. About 300 persons are at work in this branch of business, of whom about 240 are women, who are hired for the season.

A soap and candle manufacture pays about 2000 l. of duty *per annum* to Government, and has, in some years, paid upwards of 3000 l. A black and hard soap manufacture, 4500 l. *per annum*. The starch manufacture is but lately established.

The distillery business is to be mentioned under this head; it has for some time past been carried on to a great extent, and the spirit manufactured in great perfection. A considerable quantity of it is exported, but too much of it is consumed at home. Dram drinking is common; alehouses numerous. They are the resort of the vagrant, the idle, and the profligate; they gradually become a snare to the sober and industrious, and are producing the worst effects upon the health, the morals, and domestic comfort of the people. This growing evil might, in some measure, be stopped, by limiting the number of alehouses, and imposing some restraints as to the

hours during which they should be kept open. The justices have power to do so. The steady exertion of these powers is what is wanting.

There has for some years past been a very considerable importation of goods from the Baltic. The many and large buildings erecting for the cotton spinning have produced a great demand for wood and iron; the bleaching and soap-making, for tallow and ashes.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—Oat-meal, best quality, 17 s. 4 d. *per* boll; milk cow, 8 l.; beef and mutton, 6 d. *per* lib.; chicken, 6 d.; hen, 1 s. 6 d.; fresh butter, 10 d.; cheese, 4½ d.; eggs, *per* dozen, 5 d. to 9 d.; salmon, *per* lib. 6 d. to 16 d.; potatoes, *per* boll, 10 s.; day-labourer, 16 d. to 18 d.; mason, 2 s. to 2 s. 3 d.; maid servant, half year, 2 l.; best farm servant, yearly, 10 l.; an industrious weaver will make from 25 s. to 30 s. *per* week; a man at bleaching from 6 s. to 9 s.; a woman from 4 s. 6 d. to 9 s.

Medium prices of the best oat-meal for 28 years past.

|               |   |                      |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| 1762 to 1768, | - | L. 0 16 8            |
| 1769 — 1775,  | - | 0 16 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1776 — 1782,  | - | 0 15 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| 1783 — 1789,  | - | 0 16 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

Thus it appears, that, though the price of provisions is high, the price of labour bears its full proportion to it, and enables the labourer to provide sufficiently for his family. A journeyman-weaver in Paisley that is moderately industrious and oeconomical, to which character, indeed, there are but too many exceptions, can bring up his family with ease, and afford to live in a manner far above that of very decent farmers. Children can have employment at the age of nine or ten. The prospect of a family, and its attendant expences, is no discouragement to marriage: Hence, in general, they  
 marry

marry young; and probably both births and marriages will be found to bear as high a proportion to the number of inhabitants in this as in most districts.

|                                                                                               | <i>Families.</i> | <i>Souls.</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <i>Population</i> in 1695, - - -                                                              | 435              |               |
| — in 1755, - - -                                                                              |                  | 2509          |
| — in 1781, - - -                                                                              | 1536             |               |
| — in 1791, - - -                                                                              | 2255             | 10792         |
| In the country part - - -                                                                     | 870              | 4689          |
| In the suburbs of the town -                                                                  | 1385             | 6103          |
| The numbers in Paisley town being                                                             | 3232             | 13800         |
| The total of town and suburbs, without<br>the country part, was at Whitfunday<br>1791 - - - - | 4617             | 19903         |

Since Whitfunday 1791, when the numbers stood as above, there has been an addition of some hundreds to the town and suburbs.

Of the above number 10,792, the present population of the parish, there are 5259 males, and 5533 females. If the proportion of females appear large, it is to be ascribed to the number of women employed in the bleaching business, which is the reason also why, in some of the districts, the number of souls is so great in proportion to the families, the persons employed in the field being reckoned part of the bleacher's family.

There are 4197 persons below 15 years of age, 6455 between 15 and 70, and 140 above 70. In the suburbs, there is, above the age of 70, one in 84.76; in the country, one in 68.95.

In 579 families, a portion of the country part of the parish, there are 48 bachelor housekeepers, and 531 married couples. Among these, there have been 2211 births. The average of births,

births, therefore, to each married couple is 4.16. In 1385 families in the suburbs, there are 111 batchelor housekeepers, and 1274 married couples. Among these there have been 5470 births. The average to each married couple is 4.29.

The number of souls to each family in the country is 5.38; to each family in the town and suburbs, is 4.31. In the year 1744, this last was only 4.01, a change to be ascribed probably to families keeping a greater number of servants now than formerly.

Of servants, household and labouring, male and female, there are 970. This number includes the persons employed in the bleachfields. Excluding these, there may be about 415 household, and 255 labouring servants.

The Births and Marriages for the last 50 years are :

| <i>Period.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1741 to 1750,  | 669            | 177               |
| 1751 — 1760,   | 932            | 348               |
| 1761 — 1770,   | 1179           | 399               |
| 1771 — 1780,   | 1561           | 590               |
| 1781 — 1790,   | 3109           | 987               |
| 1791,          | 405            | 132               |

The proportion between the births of last year and whole population is as one to 27.14; and between the marriages and population as one to 81.75.

The Deaths in this parish cannot be accurately ascertained, the inhabitants in the Town and Abbey parishes burying indiscriminately in the several church-yards. But the whole number of burials in the two parishes during the last 15 years is as follows :

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1777, 335 | 1779, 306 | 1781, 358 |
| 1778, 273 | 1780, 404 | 1782, 360 |
|           |           | 1783,     |

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1783, 534 | 1786, 590 | 1789, 487 |
| 1784, 411 | 1787, 504 | 1790, 600 |
| 1785, 350 | 1788, 443 | 1791, 599 |

The inhabitants of the two parishes amounting to 24,592; therefore the proportion between the deaths of last year and the population over the whole district of town and country, is as one to 40.98.

In the ten years, 1771 — 1780, the deaths to the births over the whole district are as one to 1.46. In the ten years, 1781 — 1790, the deaths to the births are as one to 1.54.

To a place furnishing such variety of employment, there will be a considerable influx of inhabitants from other parts of the country. There are a few from England, more from Ireland, a great number from Ayrshire, and probably still more from the Highlands. Their numbers have not been ascertained. If they may be judged of from the degree in which the actual population exceeds the annual births multiplied by 26, there will be about 260 in the Abbey parish, and 930 in the town.

In the enumeration that has been made of this parish, 1770 persons are marked as seceding from the established Church. If those only are reckoned Seceders who have themselves made choice of their religious profession, the number will be considerably fewer. If *all* the children of seceding parents are to be counted Seceders, the numbers will be somewhat more. In this last manner were the returns from the several districts in this parish *generally* made. The above number includes dissenters of every denomination: They are mostly Burghers, Antiburghers, and members of the Relief Congregations. There are two sects of Independents, some Cameronians, a very few of the Episcopal persuasion, and perhaps two or three Papists. The Burgher-Sceders, and  
the



the two sects of Independents, have each a place of meeting in the parish.

*Church and School.*—The stipend of this parish was originally 16 chalders of meal; but, in 1641, Mr Calvert, then minister, agreed to give to a second, or colleague minister, five chalders, and “that according to the act of the High Commission,” and one chaldar provided the entrant should be agreeable to the presbytery, the parish, and himself. Several augmentations have been made to the original stipend of this charge; so that now it consists of eight chalders of meal, 16l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling of money, and 4l. 3 s. 4 d. for communion elements. There is no house or glebe belongs to it. The stipend of the first charge is ten chalders of meal, 4l. 13 s. 4 d. for communion elements, with a manse and glebe. The glebe lets for 10l. The manse was built in 1712, has had several repairs, got a pretty complete one in 1783, and is now a tolerably commodious house, though inferior to some manses lately built in the neighbourhood. The Marquis of Abercorn is patron of both livings.

The schoolmaster of the town of Paisley was, before the disjunction of the town, considered as the parish schoolmaster. Since that time, there has been no established schoolmaster in the parish, though there are many private teachers and well frequented schools.

*Abbey.*—A particular account of the Abbey of Paisley would fill many pages. It was founded as a priory for monks of the order of Clugni about the year 1160 by Walter great Steward of Scotland. It was afterwards raised to the rank of an abbacy; and the lands belonging to it were by Robert II. erected into a regality, under the jurisdiction of the abbot. After the Reformation, the abbacy was secularized

zed by the Pope in favour of Lord Claud Hamilton, third son of the Duke of Chatelherault, in reward of his steady adherence to the cause of Queen Mary; and, in 1588, it was by the King and Parliament erected into a temporal lordship, and Lord Claud was created Lord Paisley. The revenues of the abbacy were very considerable: They consisted of the tithes of twenty-eight different parishes, with the property of the lordships of Paisley, of Kilpatrick in Dunbartonshire, and of Monkton in Ayrshire, extending each to a hundred merk land; and the forty pound land of Glen in Lochwinnoch; with the lands of Achengown, Grange, &c. and a considerable detached property in different parts of the kingdom. All this property, with the patronage of the several churches, fell to Lord Claud Hamilton, last abbot of Paisley. It continued in that family till 1653, when his grandson James Earl of Abercorn sold the lordship of Paisley to the Earl of Angus, who next year sold it to William Lord Cochran, Kilpatrick to Sir John Hamiltoun of Orbistoun, Monkton to Lord Bargenny, and Glen to Lord Semple and others. Great part of the lordship of Paisley was, at different times, sold off by the family of Dundonald; and what remained of it was in 1764 repurchased by the late Earl of Abercorn. The fabric of the Abbey owed much of its magnificence to Abbot George Schaw, who, about 1484, enlarged and beautified the building, surrounding the church, the precincts of the convent, the gardens, and a small deer-park, with a noble wall of hewn free-stone. The Abbey was, after the Reformation, successively the seat of the Earls of Abercorn and Dundonald. The late Earl of Dundonald demolished the ancient gateway, and, by feuing off the immediately adjoining grounds for building, entirely changed the appearance of the place. As it was thus rendered totally unfit for a family residence, it has since that time been let out into separate dwellings, and  
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is now in a very mean and almost ruinous state. The wall stood almost entire till 1781, when the garden being feued off for building upon, by the late Earl of Abercorn, the wall was sold to the feuers, and the stones of it employed in their houses.

*Poor.*—The poor of the parish are numerous, a necessary consequence of the extensive manufactures, and of the ready employment afforded to labourers of every description. In 1776-77-78, the sum expended for the relief of the poor amounted, on an average, to 71 l. 11 s. yearly. In 1779-80-81, to 85 l. 7 s. In 1782-83-84, to 136 l. 12 s. In 1785-86-87, to 238 l. 3 s. In 1788-89-90, to 381 l. And, in 1791, to 440 l. 3 s. Of this sum 284 l. was paid to the poor upon the parish roll; about 46 l. was distributed in occasional charity; about 74 l. was applied for the maintenance of foundlings and deserted children; and 36 l. for clothing, house rents, school wages, burials, and such incidental expences. The small pittance allowed in the beginning of these periods to the inrolled poor, in a place where all the articles of living are dear, could scarcely be called an aliment. It was from 2 s. to 10 s. *per* quarter; the average, to each person, being about 5 s. At present, the allowance is from 4 s. to 26 s. *per* quarter; the average being 12 s. 7 d. The number of inrolled poor is between 90 and 100.

Till 1785, the poor were supported by the collections at the church door; by the interest of some donations in the management of the kirk session; by the dues for the proclamation of banns of marriage, and a small sum arising from the use of the mort cloths. At that period it was proposed to put a stop to the practice of vagrant begging, and as for that end it was necessary to provide for the support of the poor in their houses, a parochial assessment was resolved upon,

a measure the more reasonable and necessary in this parish, as among the many affluent landholders belonging to it, only one or two who resided within the parish, did ever contribute any thing for the maintainance of the poor. The first assessment was 152 l. from which sum it soon rose to 415 l.; but this, like other taxes, is not completely effective. It has stood at that sum for the last three years; and if the attention that has hitherto been given to the management be continued, and the same care taken to admit no improper objects on charity, it is hoped there will be no necessity, for some time, to impose a greater. The collections amount to about 80 l. yearly.; the dues of proclamation 18 l.; mortcloths, 11 l.; and the interests of money, with a trifling sum arising from fines imposed by the kirk session, about 15 l. The produce of the whole funds is thrown into one sum, and distributed by the kirk session, and 21 overseers, chosen equally from the heritors, farmers, and householders. A small salary is paid for collecting the assessment, and paying out the money, the only expence that attends the management. The mode of assessment and distribution is so similar to that in the parish of Jedburgh, that the minute differences are not worth noticing.

Besides these parochial funds for the relief of the poor, there is a considerable subscription yearly to the Paisley Dispensary, an institution that has subsisted since 1786, and been attended with very happy effects among the lower classes of the industrious inhabitants of this place. The yearly amount of the subscription to that charity, from the town and suburbs, has been about 130 l.

Various societies are formed among the journeymen weavers, for the relief of those members who, by age or sickness, are incapacitated for work. Sunday schools, though upon a small scale, have been lately established, both in the

town of Paisley and Abbey parish : Institutions that have become highly necessary since the introduction of the cotton spinning, which engages children before they have got almost any education of any kind, and which occupies them from morning to night throughout the week.

Occasional collections are made for the poor in seasons of scarcity, or times of particular distress. And to the honour of the more affluent inhabitants of the town and Abbey parish, let it be acknowledged, that every plan to supply the wants, or mitigate the distresses of the indigent or destitute, has always met with their hearty concurrence, and most liberal support.

NUM-

N U M B E R VI.

PARISH OF NEW OR EAST KILPATRICK.

(Counties of *Dunbarton and Stirling.*—Presbytery of *Dunbarton.*—Synod of *Glasgow and Ayr.*)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE SYM.

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*Origin of the Name.*

THIS parish is called New, or East Kilpatrick, relatively to Old, or West Kilpatrick, with which it formed one parish till the year 1649, when a division and new erection took place. The name Kilpatrick, *Cella Patricii*, common to both, is derived from Patrick, the tutelary saint of Ireland, whom legends and tradition make a native of Kilpatrick. A writer quoted in *Britan. Eccles. Primordia*, says, “*Natale patricii solum inter castrum Dunbritannicum et civitatem Glasguensem positum; accepto ab ipso nomine Kirkpatrick vel Kilpatrick;*” adding, that his father was a presbyter, and grandfather a deacon, and that he was carried captive with his two sisters into Ireland, and sold to one of the petty princes of that country, who employed him as a swine herd. But a local tradition informs us, that he was compelled to leave his native country by the malice and resentment of the Devil, who, provoked at his sanctity and success in preaching the gospel, sent a band of witches against him; that the weird-sisters fell upon him so furiously, that he was forced to seek safety by flight; that finding a little  
hoag

boat near the mouth of the Clyde, he went into it and set off for Ireland; that they seeing it impossible to pursue him, for it seems they were not of that class of witches who can skim along the waters in an egg shell, or ride through the air on a broom stick, tore a huge piece of a rock from a neighbouring hill, and hurled it, with deadly purpose, after him; but that, missing their aim, the ponderous mass fell harmless, and afterwards, with a little addition from art, formed the Castle of Dunbarton. This surely is sufficient proof, that Kilpatrick both derives its name from, and gave birth to, the celebrated saint of Ireland.

*Number and Rent of Farms.*—There are two large grass farms, which pay about 200 l. of rent each. Of corn farms there are 6, at 100 l. or a little above—about 50 between 30 l. and 100 l.—and above 40 below 30 l.; but among the last are included a few cottage lands, each sufficient only to maintain a cow. Almost all those above 30 l. and some also of those below it, employ a plough and 3 or 4 horses; and two of the largest employ two ploughs each. All these are exclusive of the lands occupied by the greater proprietors themselves, and by the tacksmen of bleachfields and mills. Leases are commonly for 19 years. The average rent of arable land is about 15 s. *per* acre; there is some at 30 s. and a good deal below 12 s. Every new lease brings an addition of rent to the landlord; and hitherto few of the tenants have reason to complain. In general they live much more comfortably, are better fed, better clothed, and better lodged, than when they paid but the half of their present rent. The raising of the rent has stimulated their industry, and their industry is repaid in the enjoyment of more of the comforts of life. And the generous landlord, it is to be hoped, will never rapaciously extort from the husbandman all that is not  
necessary

necessary to a bare subsistence. The farmers form the most industrious, sober, and useful class of men, and deserve more than any other liberal encouragement.

*Mode of Farming, &c.*—Though the farmers in this parish have, of late years, made considerable improvement in the knowledge and practice of agriculture, they still adhere pretty much to the old method; the stubborn nature of the soil, they say, and probably with truth, does not wholly admit of the new.

The crops are wheat, oats, barley, pease, beans, potatoes, turnip, flax, and clover and rye-grass. Of wheat, very little is now sown, a succession of unfavourable seasons having discouraged the culture of it. Pease, beans, flax, and turnip, are also sown in but small quantities. The principal crops are oats, barley, potatoes, and clover and rye-grass.

Till lately, very little land, except for fallow, was plowed before the month of January. It is a general opinion among the farmers here, that, unless the soil be dry, and free from tough-rooted weeds, winter plowing is prejudicial to the crop, wet clay land being apt to cake even after frost, and tough or dry-rooted weeds, which are not easily destroyed by frost, sprouting before the corn is sown, and therefore choking it the more readily after it is come up. They begin now, however, to give less weight to these objections.

The greater part of the farmers plow with three horses, some with four, and but very few with two only.

The usual time of sowing wheat is October; oats, pease, and beans, from the beginning of March to the end of April; and barley, clover, and rye-grass, from the beginning to the middle of May. Potatoes are planted about the middle of April; in large fields with the plough, in small plots with the dibble.

Hay



Hay harvest begins about the middle of June; and corn harvest sometimes about the middle of August, though commonly later, and continues often till the beginning of November. From 200 to 300 stone *per* acre is reckoned a good crop of hay, and of oats and barley 7 or 8 bolls.

A few years ago, a club was formed by the farmers in this and other parishes in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, for the purpose of promoting and diffusing the knowledge of agriculture, which has probably had a very considerable effect: And, with a view of exciting emulation among their plowmen, they have begun to have annual plowing matches, at which premiums are given to those that excel.

*Number of Horses, &c.*—There are about 360 horses, 1450 black cattle, and 150 sheep. Of the black cattle, a considerable number are bought lean, in the Highlands, and fattened for the butchers. The price, when bought, from 2 l. 10 s. to 5 l.; when sold, after being fed about a year, from 4 l. 10 s. to 8 l.

*Air, Diseases, &c.*—The air is reckoned very wholesome. There are no diseases peculiar to the parish. Besides the small pox and chincough, the most common are fevers, consumptions, hysterics, and diarrhoeas, which, however, are not frequent. The small-pox is less destructive now than formerly, from the more common practice of inoculation. The prejudices against that most successful improvement in the medical art, though still very prevalent, begin to wear off.

There are many instances of longevity. Within the last year, there died one man in his 95th year, who was able, within a few days of his death, to walk in a forenoon above a mile to a neighbouring farm, and return; another man in his 89th year; and a woman in her 91st: And there is now  
living

living a man near 93, who reaps and threshes his own corn, thatches his own house, and walks to Glasgow,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant, and returns the same day.

*Villages.*—The only considerable village is Millguy, which contains about 200 inhabitants, who are mostly employed as bleachers, printers, and pencillers of cloth.

*Bleachfields.*—There are six bleachfields, of which two are for printed cloths only, and one partly. All these together employ about 220 people.

*Mills.*—There are four oat mills, two barley mills, one snuff mill, and one paper mill. The paper mill employs three vats, and about 25 workmen. The kinds of paper made are post, foolscap, pot, and lappings; and the quantity about 2500 l. worth *per annum*.

*Coal and Lime Works.*—There are two collieries in the parish, one at Knightwood, and the other at Culloch, which have both been wrought beyond the memory of any person alive.—The coal at Knightwood is light and friable, very little sulphureous, does not cake, burns quickly, and leaves a small quantity of white ashes. In digging for this coal, the strata met with are, blue clay; blaize; hard white free-stone; blaize, mixed with what the workmen call grey-plies, probably a species of *schistus cinereus*; spungy white free-stone; iron-stone three inches thick; blaize, and grey-plies; then the coal three feet four inches thick, with six inches of stone in the middle. Besides the main coal, there are two thinner seams in the strata of blaize above, not worth working. The main coal lies at various depths, from 18 to 50 fathoms, according to the height of the ground, the dip of the coal, and the

the interruption of troubles.—The dip is from north-west to south-east. The price of a cart of coals of 12 cwt. at this work is 2s. 6 d.; and about 26,000 carts are sold annually. The coal is nearly exhausted in Knightfwood lands, but it extends through those in the neighbourhood. This colliery employs about 60 men and boys, and 20 horses.

At Culloch the coal is more heavy, less inflammable, and considerably sulphureous. The small coal cakes strongly; the great leaves a slag, with a great deal of brown ashes. It is, however, a good strong coal, and, mixed with that of Knightfwood, makes an excellent fire. The strata here are clay; blaize, with several seams of ironstone through it, some 4 inches thick; limestone, from 3 to 4½ feet thick; then the coal, from 4½ to 5 feet thick. The price of the cart of 12 cwt. is 2s.; and about 13,000 carts are put out in a year, a great part of which is used in burning the limestone. The depth of the coal is from 13 to 36 fathoms, and the dip from north-west to south-east.

At Culloch is also the only limework in the parish. The limestone is wrought after the coal has been taken out from below it. It is burnt in draw-kilns, of which two, capable of burning each 20 chalders a-day have been lately erected. The lime is of an excellent quality, and is sold at 10s. per chalders of 32 wheat bushels. About 3000 chalders are made annually. At this place the lime and coal works together employ about 70 men and 20 horses, and they are both on the increase.

*Heritors, Valuation, and Rental.*—The parish is divided among nine greater, and eight smaller proprietors. Of the former, five reside constantly or occasionally; all the latter constantly. The valued rent of the whole is 5311 l. 16s. 2d. Scots, and the real rent may be about 5000 l. Sterling.

*Church,*

*Church, &c.*—The Duke of Montrose is patron of the parish. The minister's stipend consists of 70 bolls  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pecks of meal, 10 bolls of bear, 45 l. 16 s. 8 d. Sterling money, a manse, and a glebe of 4 acres.

*Schools.*—There is a parish school, with a salary of 100 l. Scots. The fees are, for English, 1 s. 6 d.; for writing, 2 s.; and for arithmetic, 3 s. *per* quarter. Poor scholars are paid for by the session out of the poor's funds. The number of scholars is, at an average, about 40. Besides this there is another, attended by an equal number of scholars, but without a salary, at the village of Millguy; and a house is now building for a third in the north part of the parish. There is also one in the borders of Old Kilpatrick for the accommodation of the east part of that, and the west part of this parish, to the support of which the sessions of both parishes contribute a small sum annually.

*Price of Labour, &c.*—The wages of servants living in their master's family are, a good plowman, 12 l.; a common farm-servant, 9 l. or 10 l.; and a maid-servant, 3 l. or 4 l. a-year. Those of day-labourers employed constantly, 10 d. but more generally 1 s.; of day-labourers employed occasionally, 14 d. in winter, and 18 d. in summer; of masons, from 20 d. to 2 s.; and of wrights, 18 d. to 20 d. The price of labour has risen greatly within these four or five years, from the great demand for the public works and manufactures carrying on in this part of the country.

The price of all kinds of provisions is nearly the same as in Glasgow.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the parish-roll at the last general distribution in December 1791 was 19. Of these,

5. receive supply regularly, from 3 s. to 5 s. each a month; and, besides this, 5 s. 10 s. or 15 s. at each of two half yearly distributions; the rest at these general distributions only, or as occasion requires.

The funds are, the collections at the church on Sundays, and other days of public worship, the interest of 115 l. in bank, and the interest of 40 l. part of a late donation, on bond to the session. These funds have been hitherto sufficient to support all the poor of the parish in a very competent manner, and none of them are allowed to beg.

There is no way of supporting the poor so easy, and so little expensive, as from the collections at church. Assessments are attended with more trouble, and are considerably more expensive; for many claim to be admitted on the poor's roll when the poor are supported in this way, who, in the same circumstances, would make greater exertions to support themselves before they applied for supply out of the funds provided in the other way. Assessments, however, are certainly the most equitable method of supporting the poor. When hearers, either from non-residence or unfrequent attendance upon public worship, contribute nothing, or do not contribute their just proportion; and when, from a spirit of sectarianism, many others withdraw from the established Church, and also contribute nothing, it is often impossible, and always unfair and unreasonable, that those only who do attend the church should bear the whole burden of the poor.

*Population.*—The population by Dr Webster's table in 1755 was 1390. The number of inhabitants, young and old, in the year 1788, when an exact list was taken, was 1664; to which, from the erection of two of the bleachfields since that time, and other causes of increase, as many may perhaps  
be

be now added as will make the number 1700. From the register of baptisms about the time of the Revolution, supposing the proportion between the baptisms and population the same then as at present, the number of inhabitants appears to have been at that time 1460; so that, in the space of a hundred years, the population has increased about 240, that is, by about the number of persons employed at the bleachfields and paper mill. That it has not increased more is owing to the conjunction of small farms, and the destruction of cottages. The number of males is to that of females nearly as 10 to 9. The average number of marriages for the last 10 years is 16, of baptisms for the same time 57, and of burials for the last 9 years 28. The rule given for finding the population of a district, by multiplying the births by 26, or the deaths by 36, seems not to be well founded.

*Canal, &c.*—The great canal between Forth and Clyde passes through the south part of the parish. It is carried over the river Kelvin by a stately aqueduct bridge, planned by Mr Whitworth, and executed by Mr Gibb. The foundation of the bridge was laid June 15. 1787, and it was finished in June 1790. The length is 350 feet, the breadth 57, of which the canal occupies  $27\frac{1}{2}$ , and the height, from the surface of the river to the top of the parapet wall, 57. It stands upon 4 arches, each 50 feet wide, and 37 high.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—From the preceding account, it appears that this parish enjoys considerable advantages: Abundance of coal and lime within itself, and to be had easily from other places too, by means of the canal; its vicinity to Glasgow, distant only about six miles from the middle of the parish, where there is a ready market for all kinds of product; plenty of stone for building; and rivers  
proper

proper for mills and bleachfields. The principal disadvantages are, the stubborn nature of a great part of the soil, and the want of good roads. The latter disadvantage, however, will soon be in a great measure removed, two lines of turnpike road being now carrying through the parish, leading from Glasgow, the one to Drymen, and the other to Balfron. If to these were added a good cross road from east to west, there would remain little cause of complaint on this account. The difficulty of procuring dung in sufficient quantity for the land, is also no small disadvantage. The farmers in the south part of the parish, indeed, carry it, but at a very great expence, from Glasgow, Port-Glasgow, and Greenock; but it will not bear the expence of carriage, added to its price, from these places to the north part; so that the farmers there are confined to the quantity made on their farms, which is commonly far from sufficient.

NUM.

N U M B E R VII.

P A R I S H O F W E S T R U T H E R.

(*County of Berwick.—Presbytery of Lauder.—Synod of Merse and Teviotdale.*)

*By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM SHIELDS.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**T**HE village from which this parish takes its name was formerly called Wolfstruther. This name, according to tradition, originated from the number of wolves with which the neighbouring grounds abounded.

Westruther was formerly a part of the parish of Gordon. It was first erected into a separate parish about the middle of the last century. Upon the application of the heritors, who complained of the distance of the church of Gordon, a minister was appointed in the year 1647 to a chapel at Bassandean, in the south side of the present parish. About two years after, for the better accommodation of the north parts of the parish, a church was built at the village of Westruther, where it still continues. This chapel belonged to the nunnery of Coldstream. The walls of it still remain, to the height of 12 or 14 feet, and inclose the burying-ground of the Homes of Bassandean.

*Extent and Situation.*—This parish is about five miles long, and four miles broad. It lies on the south side of that range  
of



of hills called Lammermuir, by which it is separated from East-Lothian. The London road by Coldstream enters the parish from the north, about the 28th mile stone from Edinburgh, passes through the south-west side of it for the space of about four miles, and then enters the parish of Greenlaw.

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Population in 1755, | 591 |
| ———— in 1783,       | 685 |
| ———— in 1791,       | 730 |

*Villages.*—The only villages are those of Westruther, Wetherly, and Hounslow. Westruther has of late been considerably increased by a number of houses built on feus. Each feu, along with a house and small garden, has generally two or more acres of land to supply the family with corn, potatoes, &c.—The village of Wetherly is much diminished within these thirty years.—Hounslow is entirely a new erection. It is situated on the London road betwixt the 30th and 31st mile stones from Edinburgh. The first house in this village was built in the year 1775. It consists of feus granted by Mr Home of Bassandean, and contains upwards of 70 souls.—As the land in this neighbourhood was within these twenty years covered with barren heath, it is perhaps unnecessary to observe, that this village has very much improved the appearance of the country around, as well as raised the value of the adjacent grounds.—The feuers in these two villages of Westruther and Hounslow have each a privilege of peats for fuel in the mosses that are next them.—The climate of this parish is considerably colder than the lower parts of the country. It is, however, remarkably healthy. Perhaps this is, in part, owing to its open and elevated situation. There does not appear to be any disease to which the people are particularly subject. Instances of longevity are pretty

pretty frequent. There is just now living a woman aged 93; and, within these few years, two men died at the age of 95 or 96. Several attain to 80 and upwards. It is worthy of remark, that three ministers in succession, though each above thirty years of age at his admission, served the cure of this parish from 1647 to 1782, a period of 135 years.

*Soil.*—The soil is of various qualities. Perhaps there may be one half of the lands in the parish not capable of being cultivated to any advantage by the plough. One part of these is bog-land, on which grows a kind of coarse grass, that is sometimes pastured by young cattle; sometimes it is cut for hay, and is reckoned excellent winter food for cattle that are not of sufficient age to be fed on turnip. Though a great part of this land has already been drained at considerable expence; yet, as this is the only species of improvement of which it is capable, certainly more ought still to be done to carry off the water, which, in particular places, continues to stagnate.

The other part of these lands that are not capable of being cultivated with advantage by the plough, consists of ground covered with deep moss, or which, from the height of its situation, even where the soil is tolerably good, is not adapted to the raising of corn, and consequently would not pay the expence of improvement by lime, which is the only manure that has been used with effect to any extent for bringing in heath lands in this corner of the country.

The other half of the lands in the parish may be divided into such as are already cultivated by the plough, and such as are capable of being cultivated in this manner.

The soil of these lands is, in some places, a whitish cold clay, which is by no means favourable to the views of the husbandman. In other places, particularly towards the south

side

side of the parish, the soil consists of a reddish earth, on a free-stone bottom. This earth, where it has been long in cultivation, and often dunged, has become a rich loam, and is excellent for every species of crop that is adapted to the climate. Where this reddish soil is not so deep and strong, it is inclined to be sharp and gravelly. This also is very fit for cropping, and particularly is well suited to the turnip husbandry, and to the raising of white and broad clover.

This and the neighbouring parishes have been in a progressive state of improvement ever since the making of the turnpike-roads, by which there is easier access to manure; and the product of the land is carried to market at less expence.

The benefit derived from good roads, however, must always be partial, and much limited, while the cross roads continue in the miserable condition in which they are to be found at present not only in this neighbourhood, but also in many other places of the country. But, as this subject has often of late been under the consideration of the gentlemen, it is to be hoped that some effectual method will soon be adopted for correcting an evil that has long been felt and complained of. When by this means the intercourse between the different parishes and the different parts of the same parish shall be rendered more easy and expeditious, new vigour will be imparted to that laudable spirit of improvement which of late years has so much increased the intrinsic value of the lands in this county, and roused the industry of the people to exertions highly beneficial to themselves and to the community at large.

Among the improvements in husbandry that have been introduced into this part of the country, none have been attended with more happy and more extensive effects than the raising of turnips and broad clover. As the turnips, from the  
frost,

frost, or from their flying up into seed, if the winter be fresh, are often rendered in a great measure useless, long before the return of the grass, some crop that would answer for food to the fattening cattle in the spring, is more wanted here than in the lower parts of the country, where the frosts are seldom so severe, and where the spring sets in at a more early period.

Early oats seem very much adapted to the climate of this parish; that species called red oats, in particular, are found to succeed well.—Beside the dung raised in the different farms, the only manure here used is lime, which is brought from Lothian, at the distance of 17 or 18 miles.

*Horses, Black Cattle, and Sheep.*—There are in this parish 160 horses, 700 black cattle, and 5000 sheep. Considerable attention is now paid to the improvement of the breed of stock of every kind.—The extent of the different farms is very various. The highest may be rented at 260*l.* and the lowest about 20*l.* Within these 20 years, some of the farms have doubled their rents.—The price of labour through all this country is higher, in general, than in the Lothians, and not so high as in Northumberland. A man that is hired for the year gets 6*l.* 10*s.* 7*l.* or 7 guineas, along with his victuals. A day-labourer gains 1*s.* *per* day, or 8*d.* with victuals. In hay time and harvest he will gain 10*d.* or 1*s.* with his victuals.—The price of female labour is considerably raised of late years. This is, in a great measure, owing to an additional number of hands being wanted to carry on the operations of husbandry in its modern improved state. Many of these operations are performed by the women fully as well as by the men, such as turnip hoeing, &c. A female servant who was hired a few years ago at 30 or 35*s.* for the summer half year, will now, when employed in works of husbandry, gain 2*l.* 5*s.* 2*l.* 10*s.* or 2*l.* 15*s.* for the same

period. The winter wages are much the same as formerly. A woman, when employed by the day in turnip hoeing, gains 6 d. or 8 d. without victuals.

*Church and Poor.*—The stipend was lately augmented, and is, by the new decret, 83 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, and 2 l. 10 s. for communion elements, besides the glebe. The minister is also entitled to six days casting of turf on the lands of Mr Home of Bassandean.

The poor are supported by the weekly collections, amounting to 8 l. or to 10 l. and an assessment according to the valued rent, which is paid in equal proportions by the proprietors of land and their tenants. The one half of the collections is disposed of by the kirk-session for the relief of individuals, or families that have accidentally fallen into distress, and have not had an opportunity of being received on the roll of enlisted poor, or who perhaps wish for nothing more than a little occasional supply, till the recovery of health, or the removal of some present calamity put it again in their power to support themselves without being burdensome to the public.

The money expended yearly in support of the enlisted poor never exceeded 24 l. Sterling till this present year, when, from an additional number of poor, it has increased to 36 l. This sum is made up by the remaining half of the collections, the interest of 24 l. sunk for the benefit of the poor, and the assessment above mentioned. Besides the 24 l. the interest of which goes to the assessment, there is another sum of the same amount, the interest of which is disposed of by the session to the relief of occasional poor.

The highest allowance this year to a pauper is 3 l. 7 s. 6 d. the lowest about 1 l. It is always understood, that, if their necessities increase, the kirk-session will be ready to give them  
some

some additional supply. It is easy, however, from the smallness of the allowance, to see that it is only meant as an assistance. The truth is, the poor usually live in their own houses, or in the houses of some of their connections, and are able, in most cases, to do something for themselves.

The assessment is laid once in the year by the heritors, who meet for that purpose along with the minister and kirk-session. This meeting is called by an intimation from the pulpit at least ten free days before.

The heritors some years ago, instead of giving the whole allowance to the poor in money, adopted a plan of giving a considerable proportion of it in oat-meal, which cannot be so readily perverted from the charitable purpose for which it is bestowed.

## NUMBER VIII.

## PARISH OF WALSTON.

(County of Lanark.—Presbytery of Biggar.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr PATRICK MOLLESON.

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**I**N the old session records, the name of this parish is sometimes written *Welstoun*, and the tradition of the country people is, that it has its name from a copious spring of excellent water in the neighbourhood, called *Walston-well*. In former times this well was in great repute for its medicinal qualities, and much frequented. The water has no uncommon colour or taste, but is still said to be an excellent remedy in cutaneous diseases.

*Soil, Surface, Climate, &c.*—In the high grounds the soil is shallow and barren, and mostly covered with heath. In the lower grounds, the soil is mostly a black loam, lying on a deep clay, and tolerably fertile; on the east side, it is a black loam lying on gravel. The surface, though uneven, is not rocky. The air is exceedingly moist, notwithstanding which the people in general are very healthy. Rheumatism is the prevailing disease. This is perhaps owing in a great measure to the following causes. The houses in this part of the country are all exceedingly damp. The windows are, for the most

most part, glazed, but few of them are made so as to open : And the common people universally sleep in close timber beds. Few of them are sufficiently convinced of the vast advantage of having their bed clothes exposed to the fresh air ; or of the danger of sleeping in a place too much confined. Between this parish and Dunsyre runs a small river called the *Medwin*, in which there are a few excellent trout. About two miles to the north-east of this place, part of the *Medwin* runs off to the *Tweed*. The rest of it falls into the *Clyde*, about 5 miles south-west from this. Here the *Medwin* is said to be about 750 feet above the level of the sea ; and by observations made with the barometer, an high hill in this neighbourhood, called *Walston Black Mount*, appears to be nearly 800 feet above the level of the *Medwin*.

*Population.*—This parish was formerly more populous than it is at present. From various causes, many of the parochial registers of marriages, births, and burials, have not been accurately filled up, and consequently are not much to be trusted. In making out the following abstract from the session records of *Walston*, those periods have been chosen in which the records seem to have been regularly kept.

| Annual average of Births.                           |      |     | Annual average of Marriages. |      |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|-----|------------------------------|------|----|
| From 1680 to 1686 is 10                             |      |     | From 1680 to 1686 is 5       |      |    |
| — 1713                                              | 1723 | 14  | — 1713                       | 1723 | 4½ |
| — 1723                                              | 1733 | 13½ | — 1743                       | 1747 | 3¼ |
| — 1784                                              | 1791 | 10  | — 1784                       | 1791 | 3½ |
| The annual average of deaths, from 1784 to 1791, is |      |     | 5¾                           |      |    |
| The population in 1755 was 479.                     |      |     |                              |      |    |

The



The number of persons, under 10 years of age, at present is;

|       |               |     |     |
|-------|---------------|-----|-----|
|       |               |     | 102 |
| ————— | from 10 to 20 | - - | 99  |
| ————— | from 20 to 50 | - - | 161 |
| ————— | from 50 to 70 | - - | 52  |
| ————— | above 70      | - - | 13  |
|       |               |     | 427 |
|       | Total,        |     |     |

There are three or four persons about 81 or 82 years of age, but none older. By a list, accurately taken in the beginning of January 1791, it appears, that there are in the parish at present 427 persons, old and young, of which number 206 are males, and 221 females. They reside chiefly in two scattered villages. In the parish there are 140 communicants belonging to the established Church; 54 to the Relief; 32 to the Antiburghers, and 28 to the Burgher meeting house, but no Episcopalians nor Roman Catholics; 26 bachelors, and 69 married men and widowers; 15 handicraftsmen; about 130 household servants; 11 labouring servants, or days wage men; and one student at the university; 12 farmers, each having a plough of land; and 16 smaller tenants, each having a piece of ground, one horse, and some cows. There are 106 inhabited houses, which gives 4 persons at an average to each. Large farms, and laying down a great deal of corn lands in grass; the manufactories in the neighbourhood, such as cotton mills, iron works, &c. and the extensive buildings carrying on at Edinburgh and Glasgow, are great drains for servants here, and peculiar causes of depopulation. The consequence of this is, that servants are become exceedingly scarce, and their wages very high. To remedy this, it will be necessary for gentlemen and tenants to encourage their servants to marry, by giving them a comfortable house, a cow's grass, &c.

*Productions,*

*Productions, &c.*—There are few trees in the parish, though ash, plain tree, and various kinds of fir, would thrive very well. The parish lies high, and is exposed to severe blasts of wind; one of the first improvements, therefore, which the proprietors ought to set about, is to inclose their grounds with stripes and clumps of planting. A little in this way has been done in the neighbourhood, and with great success. What has been done in this parish has been done with no judgment; and no pains have been bestowed upon the plants in their infancy. The great secrets of planting are, to fence well, to plant thick at first, and to weed or thin them judiciously, as the plants grow up. To plant a hill, one should plant the base of it first, and advance upon the hill, as the timber on the lower parts becomes a proper shelter for the higher.

In the parish there are about 320 black cattle; 960 sheep, of the black faced kind; and 90 horses. It contains about 3000 Scotch acres of land; about 2000 are arable, and of these 450 are employed annually in raising oats, 50 in barley, 15 in potatoes, and 10 in flax. The other 1475 acres of arable, together with about 1000 of heath and marshy ground, are employed in pasture. The average rent of the best arable land is about 25 s.; and of the inferior, about half a crown *per* acre. The valued rent of the parish is 1233 l. Scots; and the real rent at present about 700 l. Sterl. The Scotch plough is almost the only one in use. The farmers are only beginning to sow turnip and artificial grasses. The parish annually exports articles of provision, such as butter, cheese, fowls, meal, bear, black cattle, and sheep.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—Mr Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath is patron of the parish. The stipend is 2 chalders of oatmeal, 1 chalders of barley, and 33 l. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. Sterling money, includ-

including communion elements. The glebe is one of the worst in the country ; and it ought to be observed, that ministers glebes, in general, are of less advantage to them than many people are apt to imagine, as they oblige them to keep more servants than the produce of them can maintain. To remedy this, as much land contiguous to the glebe, as, together with the glebe, would be sufficient work for a man and two horses, should always be allotted to the minister at a moderate rent.

*Number of Poor, Parochial Funds, &c.*—The money paid to the poor for 40 years past, amounts, on an average, to 18 l. Sterling *per annum*, as appears by written records. The annual amount of the funds destined for the relief of the poor, arising from the interest of 2000 merks mortified for their use many years ago, from money received for the use of mortcloths at burials, from the weekly collections that are made in the church, &c. is about 10 l. Sterling. The deficiency has always been made up by an assessment on the heritors and tenants. At present, there is but one poor person upon the roll. But, upon looking over the poor's roll for 40 years back, one often meets with 13 or 14 persons upon it. The relief afforded to the poor is always in their own cottages. Convinced that begging from door to door is an inlet to numberless evils, many people are endeavouring to suppress it as much as possible. It may be remarked, that in those parishes where an assessment is laid upon the heritors and their tenants to supply the deficiency of the parish funds, the poor are much less scrupulous in applying for parish support, than in those parishes where they are supplied by the session solely from the parish funds. Where this last is the case, the poor are less importunate, and more backward to apply for parish support, and more thankful when they receive

ceive it. The cheapest way, therefore, and the best way for the morals of the people, to supply the poor, where it can be done, is to do it by the kirk-session. The elders know the circumstances of every individual in the parish, prevent imposition, and often discover modest merit in want. This consideration should engage every person to be as liberal as his circumstances will admit in contributing towards the parish funds. Sectaries of every denomination receive supply when they need it from the parish funds; but, though they give some occasional supply to indigent persons, it is but a small proportion of the weekly collections that are made in their churches which is employed for the maintenance of the poor. This has a great tendency to diminish parish funds, and to bring on poor's rates upon parishes. To prevent so great an evil as the poor's rates, or an assessment for poor's money, the non-residing heritors also should look upon themselves as in justice bound to make an annual donation to the poor's funds of those parishes where they have any property.

*Wages, Price of Provisions, &c.*—The wages of a man-servant, when maintained in the family, 40 years ago, were about 3 l. Sterling, now from 5 l. to 7 l.; of a woman-servant, 2 l. now 3 l. *per annum*; of a day-labourer who received no victuals, 8 d. *per day*, now 1 s. The wages which the common labourer receives, together with his wife's industry, enable him not only to bring up a family, but also to give them education. They are all taught to read and write, and many of them to keep accounts. Few of them, however, are able to provide for sickness or old age. Before marriage, they generally expend the most part of their wages in purchasing fine clothes. This leaves them but little to furnish their house, and begin the world.

*Antiquities, &c.*—There are on a high rising ground in the south part of the parish, traces of what the common people call a Roman camp. It consists of the remains of two concentric circular earthen dykes, or mounds. The innermost is about 67 yards in diameter. Between the innermost and the outermost is a space of about 15 feet. There were through the whole of this and the neighbouring parishes a great number of vaults with strong doors. Some of them, if not the whole, had an apartment immediately above them with a turnpike-stair leading to it. A few of them still remain. Vulgar report says, that the use of them was to keep their cattle from the Annandale thieves or freebooters. May not this suggest the origin of many of those circular dykes, the remains of which are called by the common people Roman camps? Freebooting in former times, under certain circumstances, was by no means a disgraceful employment. This rendered every precaution to preserve their property, especially their cattle, highly necessary.

*Character of the People.*—The people, in general, are active and industrious, especially in seed-time and harvest. They know, that, if these works were not carried on with uncommon activity, they would lose the season of them, so variable and uncertain is the weather hereabout; and in those times of urgent necessity, but especially in harvest, they are peculiarly attentive to that apostolic direction, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others,” in its best sense. For, no sooner is any one’s harvest finished, than his shearers are immediately dispersed among all those in his neighbourhood who have any corn to cut down. They are sober and economical.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The greatest part of the  
common

common people enjoy the comforts of society in a moderate degree; but they have no peculiar advantages. One great disadvantage to which this parish, in common with the whole of this high country, is exposed, is, that the corns on their lower grounds, especially in the neighbourhood of rivers, mosses, and marshes, are very liable to be destroyed by *frosts* in the night-time about the end of August, and beginning of September. One of those beautiful, calm, serene evenings, which draws numbers of the people in towns into the streets and the fields, fills the farmer here with anxiety, and deprives him of his sleep. He knows it is highly probable, that, when he rises in the morning, he may see the hope of his harvest gone. The frost in September last destroyed many hundred bolls of corn in this country. Seldom does one year pass without loss in this way, less or more. But the years 1782 and 1784 were peculiarly distressing to this part of the country. Their corns were so effectually destroyed by the frost, that, out of 40 bolls sowing, some of the farmers had not 20 bolls of meal; nor durst they venture to sow a peck of them the following season. They were therefore obliged to purchase, at a great distance, the whole of their seed-corn. The little meal which the frosted corn of those years produced was as black as earth; and the porridge made of some of it, after standing a short time, ran partly to water. Their potatoes also, which are now become a considerable part of the people's food, were entirely destroyed. No remarkable sickness, however, followed. So great were the straits and hardships to which the people were reduced by those calamitous years, that they contracted a dull and melancholy look, which continued for several years after. Till the winter 1788, even the curling-stone lay neglected. In those years, many more than usual received supply from the parish funds; and the late Count Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath, in the year 1782, remitted to the most of his tenants one third of their rent.

## N U M B E R IX.

## P A R I S H O F G L E N S H E I L.

(*County of Ross.—Presbytery of Lochcarron.—Synod of Glenelg.*)

*By the Reverend Mr JOHN MACRAE.*

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

**G**LENSHEIL, which is only a district of the parish of that name, is situated between the forests of Seaforth, the proprietor, and Glengarry, and should, it is said, be called Glan-shelig, or valley of hunting.

The higher part of the parish consists of two narrow glens or valleys, extending between two or three computed miles from the head of the well known arm of the sea called Loch-Duich, and at the medium distance of one computed mile and a half from each other; but the grazings occupied by the inhabitants of these glens extend to the distance of eight computed miles more in the same direction of south-east, by between three and four computed miles broad.

The lower part of the parish, called Letterfern, runs in the direction of north-west along Loch-Duich, on the south, the distance of six computed miles, and rises from the sea, by a pretty rapid ascent, to the medium distance of one computed mile and a half; so that the parish is sixteen miles long, by between one and a half and four broad.

*Face*

*Face of the Country.*—The two valleys in the height of the parish are furrounded on each side by mountains which rise almost by a perpendicular ascent to a prodigious height. The farther they retire from the sea, their elevation seems to decrease, or rather appears less striking. In many places, these mountains are rocky, and covered with heath and bent to the very summits; but the interjacent valleys are not unpleasant, being covered with fine and coarse grass, and some wood; but the proportion of arable ground is very inconsiderable. The lower part of the parish is all covered with green, and intermixed with heath and bent. Here the proportion of arable ground is somewhat greater.

*Number of Farms, Management, and mode of Cultivation.*—In the parish are 17 farms, each of which, with the exception of two, is occupied by a number of tenants; so that each farm forms a village. The tenants graze their cattle promiscuously, each restricting himself to a number of heads, proportioned to his rent; and the arable ground they occupy in like manner.

It does not always happen that the farm is equally divided among the occupiers; and, when one man's division is not large enough to enable him to keep as many horses (which is always four, and they never use oxen) as are sufficient to draw the plough, two or more of them join.

In some places, particularly along the coast, the arable ground is so steep, and frequently so small in extent, that either the horses cannot stand firm, or have not room enough to turn upon it with the draught; in which case, the ground is turned by a machine, called the *crooked spade*, in a man's hand.

The old Scotch plough, and no other, is used. The horses go all a-breast; that is, the four horses are tied by the hal-  
ters



ters to one stick at equal distances, which stick the driver holds forcibly in both hands, while he himself walks generally backwards, directly before the horses.

Where the ground is steep, the mode of plowing is extremely tedious, being performed by what is called the *side-furrow*; that is, where the horses cannot carry the draught directly against the ascent, they go along-side the brae in an oblique direction, plowing down the ground all towards one side; and, in returning back, the plough cuts no ground, but is carried empty.

*Soil, Climate, and Diseases.*—The soil is various. That in the height of the parish is thin, stony, and barren. Along the coast, though the soil is thin and light, it is not quite so unfertile; it is in general gravelly, or consists of a black light earth.

All the west coast, but particularly Kintail, is subject almost to incessant rains and storms throughout the year. The only dry weather to be looked for is from the middle or latter end of May to the middle of September, when the rains generally set in. The snow is seldom of long duration on the sea-coast, and here the frost is not felt so keen as in inland countries.

The diseases most prevalent among the inhabitants of this place are rheumatisms, sciatics, and ruptures. They are daily exposed to damps and rains, which are believed to be the cause of the two former; and the latter is attributed to the heavy weights which the men are in use of raising on their breasts when they back-load their horses; for, owing to the roughness of the country, and there being no roads, no waggon or cart can be used for any distance.

There are many instances of longevity. There are now living in the parish three men and a woman who exceed 80,  
and

and, within the last ten years, three men died, two of whom were above 60, and one above 80. All the inhabitants, rich and poor, inoculate for the small-pox; so that the ravages formerly made by that dreadful plague are not now much felt.

*Loch-Duich and Shores.*—Herrings pay annual visits to Loch-Duich. They generally make their appearance about the middle of August, and sometimes sooner. Their stay is often short, particularly of late years; but, during some seasons, they appear in such immense shoals, and continue so long, that, in the course of a few weeks, many vessels fish full cargoes. It is observed, that, for the last six years, the herrings of this and the neighbouring lochs are much diminished in size, in so much that the nets with which they were taken before that period, are now found to be by far too wide for the purpose.

In Loch-Duich are also found haddocks, cod, ling, skate, caddie, flounder, &c. with almost all the variety of fish (but not in such quantities) that appear any where on the west coast.

The shell-fish on the shores of Loch-Duich are muscles, wilks, cockle, limpets, spout fish, clam shells, &c. &c.

Of the sea-weed growing on its shores, the proprietor allows the several contiguous farms what is amply sufficient for the purpose of manuring the land. The overplus, which is manufactured into kelp for his own use, does not, on an average, exceed ten tons yearly.

*Seed-time, Harvest, and Produce.*—The only grain raised in the parish are small oats and bear, and potatoes the only roots. The oats are begun to be sown about the middle of March, barley and potatoes about the 20th of April; and  
the

the sowing is seldom over before the end of May; and, in some seasons, the harvest is not in before the end of October.

This country is but little adapted for the purposes of agriculture; there are some farms which will not raise as much corn as will be sufficient for the consumption of the occupiers for one fourth of the year. The height of the parish is believed to be much calculated for rearing sheep; and, in the year 1786, triple rent was offered for that district by sheep-farmers, (it being then out of lease), which the proprietor absolutely refused, declaring, that he would *never prefer sheep to men*, at the same time that he set the lands to the old inhabitants (who are not over fond of sheep) on their paying a pretty moderate augmentation.

The staple production of the parish is black cattle. These are not large, but hardy, and uncommonly elegant in shape. The price of a full grown cow is from 3 l. to 5 l. They are generally bought at Whitfunday and Michaelmas, by persons from Ayr and Perth shires, who sell them to the English drovers. The horses are, like the black cattle, of small size, but strong and well formed, and generally sell at between 4 l. and 6 l.

All the sheep are of the small kind. Their flesh is sweet and delicate, and their wool middling fine. A sheep and lamb, with year old fleece, will fetch in May from between 5 s. to 6 s.

Goats are reared in the height of the parish. Their flesh and milk are believed to be of a medicinal quality, and to contribute not a little to prevent and remove many complaints, particularly those of a consumptive kind. The price of a goat is from 5 s. to 7 s.

*Character.*—The inhabitants of this and of the neighbouring parish of Kintail consist principally of two tribes or subordinate

ordinate clans, the Macraes (or Mackraws) and Macleonnans, of which the Macraes are by far the most numerous. These, except the name only, are united by every tie of connection; yet it is not unusual to see them under the influence of those passions which mutual jealousy and clanish animosity inspire. It is seldom, however, they fail to unite against any third party, whom they believe or imagine to have a design of invading the rights of either.

The Macraes and Macleonnans have been long distinguished for a deep-rooted attachment to the family of Seaforth, who have been for many centuries proprietors of this country. One instance of this attachment may serve as a specimen.

Owing to the side which William Earl of Seaforth espoused during the troubles of 1715 and 1719, memorable in this place for the battles of Sherriffmuir and Glensheil, his lands of Kintail (a name then common to this and the parish of that name) had forfeited to the Crown; yet, during all the years of the forfeiture, it baffled all the endeavours and policy of Government to penetrate into the country, or to collect any rents in Kintail; and all the attempts made to effect that purpose by his Majesty's troops were defeated with disgrace, and not without proving fatal to some of those who were rash enough to undertake the enterprize. Seaforth's tenants were, on that occasion, assisted by the advice, and animated by the example of Donald Murchison, whose name, had his talents been employed on a more conspicuous theatre, the page of history would not blush to transmit with honour to posterity. He regularly collected the rents, and found means either of remitting them to Seaforth, who then lived in France, or of snatching an opportunity of conveying them safe to his Lord in person.

The inhabitants of this parish are a frugal people, plain, open, and sincere; and, if surpassed in the virtue of industry

by their southern neighbours, the difference is not owing to any natural incapacity in them, but because the objects which excite to industry have not been yet introduced among them; and, in point of skill in the management of black cattle, their neighbours allow them to have the pre-eminence. For 40 years past, no person of this parish has been banished, or suffered capital punishment.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The great advantage which the inhabitants of this parish enjoy in common with their neighbours on the west coast, is the near access they have to fish, particularly herrings. Of these they generally lay up their annual store in the months of September and October, which, with potatoes, become the favourite, and almost only food of the lower class of people for three-fourths of the year.

One of the chief disadvantages is the scarcity of fuel. There are, indeed, inexhaustible funds of moss, but so distant, either on the summits, or behind the mountains, and so inaccessible, by reason of the steepness or ruggedness of the mountains, that the most industrious have a difficulty in being comfortably supplied during the driest seasons. The coal laws, as they presently stand, are the subject of universal complaint on the west coast of Scotland; but in no place is their operation more bitterly felt than in Kintail.

No country is more neglected in respect of roads. The statute labour, which for a few years was but imperfectly carried on, has been for some years past entirely discontinued, though in no part of Scotland more absolutely necessary. The military road from Fort Augustus to Fort Bernera runs through the height of the parish the distance of 12 computed miles; but this road has also been neglected since 1776. Before that period, it was kept in annual repair by a party of soldiers.

soldiers. The bridges on this road in like manner have been neglected.

The swarm of sturdy beggars with which this country is infested is considered as no small disadvantage. They consist chiefly of stout able women, who, rather than engage in service, are content to go about from house to house; but there is every reason to believe, the introduction of manufactures would effectually relieve the public of this burden.

The number of real poor on the parish roll is 21. There is no other fund for their support but the weekly collections, which, one year with another, may amount to between 5 l. and 6 l. Such of them as are not able to travel about for alms, employ some near connection in that way.

*Church, &c.*—The living, including the glebe, is about 60 l. The King is patron. The gross rent of the parish does not exceed 600 l. There is a parochial school, with 200 merks Scots salary. The master, besides quarter payments from his scholars, receives 1 s. for each marriage, and a consideration from the session funds for presenting.

There are only two houses in the parish where whisky is retailed. One of these is a stage-house on the road from Fort Augustus to Bernera, called Sheil Inn. Intemperance is not a prevalent vice in this place. The only season of the year in which excess in drinking, as if by general consent, is reckoned allowable, is Martinmas, when the factor discharges them for their rents. Then the proprietor's health is repeatedly drunk in copious bumpers.

*Population.*—The number of people in 1755 was 509.—There is good reason to believe that the population of the parish has increased during the last 18 years. In 1769 and 1772, a number of substantial farmers emigrated to North Carolina

Carolina with their families and many of their connections, which not only at the time, but for some years after, very sensibly diminished the number of inhabitants; and, by a particular enumeration made in the year 1781, the number of souls were 152 less than they are at present, being now 721. The number of births is yearly from 17 to 22; of marriages, from 3 to 6; and of burials, from 8 to 12.

*Battles.*—In a narrow pass in the height of the parish was fought in 1719 the battle of Glensheil, between some English troops and 300 (some say 400) Spaniards. These were joined by some Highlanders who favoured the cause of the Pretender, and who were headed by the Earl of Seaforth. The Earl was carried off by his tenants from the field, dangerously wounded; and, soon after, his followers gave way, leaving the English masters of the field of battle. Their victory, however, cost them pretty dear, having lost their commander. The Spaniards, who were suspected by the Highlanders of not being hearty in the cause, surrendered prisoners at discretion.

## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF STOW.

(County of Mid-Lothian.—Presbytery of Lauder.—  
Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT DAWSON.

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of Stow, in the south district of Mid-Lothian, takes in part of the N. N. W. of Selkirkshire. Its extent from Nettleflat, the most northerly farm-house, (where Galawater takes its rise), to Corrlie, the county boundary, and from thence to Caddonlie, on the banks of Tweed, is 15 miles. Its medium breadth 5 miles, making 75 square miles, or 37,500 acres.

Supposed presently in crop, 3720 acres.

Of these last supposed in turnip, 150 acres.

Valued rent, Scots - - - L. 13176 0 0

Computed real rent, Sterling - - - 4100 0 0

Three-fourths of the property has been changed within 45 years. The present proprietors, from circumstances to be after mentioned, draw at least 5 *per cent.* for their purchase-money.

*Church, &c.*—Stow is a menfal kirk of the Archbishop of St Andrews. The stipend was 400 l. Scots, with two chalders victual, before anno 1693, when it was augmented by  
350 l.



350 l. 6 s. 2 d. Anno 1780, again raised to 840 l. Scots; two chalders meal, one ditto bear, valued at 80 l. *per* chald. Glebe about five acres. The minister had pasturage in Stow common, (I suppose by use and wont). The common was divided anno 1756, and 19 acres were allotted to the minister.—A new manse was built anno 1782. The kirk two years before that was repaired, plastered on the roof and walls, and every way rendered decent and commodious.

*Population.*—From a list taken anno 1716 and 1717, of those above 8 years old, 1035; another anno 1779, 1400 and upwards. This increase can only be attributed to the improvement of agriculture, no manufactures being yet established. The people, in general, are healthy and robust, subject to few diseases. The greatest part of these arise from want of cleanliness and foul feeding, such as diseased sheep, and fish that come up at spawning time. Epidemical diseases have seldom proved fatal; but, of late years, there have been more consumptions and nervous complaints than formerly. This is perhaps to be attributed to the immoderate use of spirituous liquors, and the introduction of tea of the worst quality, drunk too hot, which may produce the most fatal effects on the nervous system.

Gala-water was formerly famed for great plenty of excellent trouts. These in number are greatly decreased since the introduction of lime as a manure.

*Face of the Country, &c.*—The country is hilly. Towards the water sides it is mostly covered with a short green sward; towards the higher grounds, heath, bent, and ling, generally prevail, which last proves a good feed for sheep in spring. On the sides of the many burns that fall into Gala and Tweed,

Tweed, there grows the richest and most delicate grass, interspersed with a variety of plants and flowers.

This country is well adapted for pasture of sheep and goats. These last are now entirely given up, in consequence of the increased growth of corn. Upon a general survey, it would appear that the tops of the hills near the water sides were the only spots cultivated by the plough, while the lower ground was covered with trees, chiefly alder and birch. When they began to clear the ground, no medium was observed; not a tree left for building, or country use, all of which must be brought from a distance. Of late, some of the proprietors have begun to plant; and it is to be hoped, in a few years the country will assume a different appearance.

*Improvements.*—Anno 1754, the turnpike roads from Edinburgh to Selkirk were made. This produced a total change in the system of farming. No lime had been brought to this country but for building, and on horse-back. The expence of this mode of carriage prevented the use of lime as a manure. A carriage-road being now opened to Middleton limekilns, the farmers, who before had only used sledges and tumbler carts to lead in their corn and earth-elding, (the winning and leading of which was the whole summer work of their servants and horses), to improve this advantage, now were induced to increase the number of their horses, and change the construction of their carts, to lead coals instead of peats, and lime for their land. The old leas, and hitherto uncultivated heath-land, were now broken up, and produced great crops, as is always the case with new land. But, as lime was a new and more expensive manure, the farmers in general resolved to make the most of it by repeated crops, not considering the fatal consequences of scourging the limed soil, or the advantage of laying down their land in good condition  
for

for grafs. Would the farmers confult their own intereft, and, after lime, fow their lands with grafs the fecond or third crop, the hay and pafture would more than compenfate them, befides leaving the land in good heart for after crops; but men feldom forego a prefent profit for future gain.

*Sheep.*—Nature feems chiefly to have defigned this part of the country for fheep pafture. The fheep in the higher parts of the parifh feem originally to have been of the black-faced kind, fhort legged; and, from the nature of the foil, which is dry and light, they are hardy, and known by the graziers to be healthy and good feeders. The wool is coarfe, and was formerly fold to the Galafhiels clothiers for the purpofe of making gray cloth of that name, at from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. *per* ftone. The fheep in the lower grounds are a crofs breed between the black and the white faced, by which means, together with a finer pafture in the low lands, the quality of wool is finer, and the price from 7 s. to 10 s. *per* ftone; and, from the late advance in that article, 11 s. and 12 s. This, perhaps, may alfo be owing, in a great meafure, to the quantity of artificial grafs fown. It is a certain fact, that where moft of this is, the fheep are not only improved in quantity and quality of wool, but in the value of carcafe.—One thing further is greatly in favour of any improvement by fown grafs. The farmer will not be obliged, as often formerly, to drive his fheep to lower ground, at a diftance from home, for food, in a hard winter, having plenty of fown-grafs hay, to fupply the fheep when they can get no food from the ground. The increafe of turnips will alfo be of great advantage in this refpect.

*Number of Sheep.*—Though ftoremaftrs do not, in general, wifh to fay how many they hold, according to the beft information,

information, which I believe is not above the truth, there are in the parish 1062 scores, or 21,240 sheep.

*Inclosures.*—Of late years many inclosures have been made, and all who either possess land in property, or hold it in tack, are sensible of the advantage arising from them; but the farmers think  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. too high a premium for dry stone-dykes, which they must keep in repair.—The culture of turnips has of late years rapidly increased, in so much that there is hardly one who possesses 3 or 4 acres who does not apply some of it in that way. Young cattle are reared with the shaws; and the increased quantity of dung is by some thought adequate to the price of labour, and the land put in high order for barley and grass.

|                                                        |                  |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Number of cattle yearly fed on turnip, 90, at          |                  |                |
| 10l. per head                                          | - - -            | L. 900 0 0     |
| Sheep on ditto this year 6 score, at 16l. per          |                  |                |
| score                                                  | - - - - -        | 96 0 0         |
| Servants wages per annum in the 1759:                  |                  | Now.           |
| Men                                                    | - - - L. 3 4 0 - | L. 6 10 0      |
| Women                                                  | - - - 2 0 0 -    | 3 10 0         |
| Day-labourers with meat,—winter, 4 d.—summer, 6 d. per |                  |                |
| day.                                                   |                  |                |
| Now,—winter, 6 d.—summer, 8 d.—in harvest higher.      |                  |                |
| Taylor's with meat, 4 d.                               | - - -            | Now, 6 d.      |
| Masons without meat, 1 s. 2 d.                         | - - -            | Now, 1 s. 6 d. |
| Wrights, ditto 1 s.                                    | - - -            | Now, 1 s. 4 d. |

*Floods.*—30th July 1735, the former part of the season being exceedingly warm and dry, there was a great storm of thunder, with hail and rain. At Wedderlaw, a hill in Over-shiels ground, three miles up Lugate-water, the shepherd sitting at a small distance, observed the face of the hill begin to

move, the whole flock of sheep being gathered on that spot in consequence of the thunder; he immediately sent his dog to drive them off. By this means the greatest part were saved, though some went with the break, which was carried down to Gala, and a great quantity of the moss as far as Galathiels, which is reported to have served the poor people in that village for peats the following winter.

*Poor.*—The first assessment was in October 1764, of 14 l. *per annum*, allotted according to the valued rent, paid in equal proportions by the heritors and tenants. These last have been invited to attend the meetings forth at business. The kirk-session supplies 5 l. from the mort-cloth money, &c. From anno 1782-83, by reason of the great dearth at that time, it was raised to 30 l. for the half year. After this, it was again reduced to 24 l. *per* half year, at which it still continues. The number of poor on the roll is between 25 and 30, besides occasional allowances.

*Manufactures.*—Anno 1778, Robert Boyd clothier came to Stow. Before that time, nothing had been done in the clothing way. The manufacture has increased; and this last year he has made and carried to market, on his own behoof, cloth to the value of 180 l. Sterling, besides country work. As Stow is situated in an wool country, having plenty of water, near to coals, and the Edinburgh market, it is to be hoped the trade will succeed. Before this period, the only manufacture was what is called Stow struntain, made of the coarsest wool, and wrought by the women on a loom like a bed-heck. Price of working one gross, or 144 yards, *per* day, with meat, 6 d.; without meat, 9 d. This is used for garters and bindings, and sold at from 9 s. to 11 s. *per* gross.

N U M B E R X I.

PARISH OF PORT OF MONTEITH.

(*County of Perth.—Presbytery of Dunblane.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.*)

*By Mr W. STIRLING.*

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*Soil and Climate.*

THE parish of Port, in the northern part, is rocky and mountainous, and mostly covered with heath, there being only some narrow skirts and hollows capable of cultivation. The southern parts are more level, and consist of moss, meadow, dry-field, and carse. The moss is very extensive, and affords plenty of fuel, which is, however, obtained with considerable trouble and expence. The soil, which is various, produces moderate crops of beans, pease, oats, barley, clover, and turnip. The two latt are much more cultivated than formerly. Potatoes are raised in great abundance, and are the chief subsistence of the poorer sort of inhabitants for six or eight months in the year.

The climate is reckoned wholesome. The people, in general, are sober and industrious. Many have been long-lived; and, within these few years, one man died at the age of 92, and a man and a woman aged 96.

*Trades.*—Most of the adults are employed in agriculture, excepting a few weavers, taylors, shoemakers, blacksmiths,  
and

and wrights, stationed in different places for the accommodation of the neighbourhood.

*Waters.*—There are, on the north-east corner of the parish, three mineral springs close by each other, all of different qualities; one emetic, another cathartic; and the third is used for washing cutaneous eruptions on the body. But the respective nature of these waters has not as yet been properly analysed.—The Loch of Monteith is the most remarkable sheet of water, being nearly in the center of the parish, adjoining the kirk and manse. It is adorned with two small islands and a peninsula. It is about five miles round. Loch Vennochar, on the north, is the boundary betwixt this parish and Callander. There are some other smaller lochs, one of which forms a beautiful round basin, about half a mile in circumference, on the top of our highest ridge of mountains.—The Loch of Monteith abounds with perch, pike, and eel, and affords some large trout. The Forth, till of late, afforded some sport for salmon on the border of this parish. But now they seem to be in a good measure banished from this neighbourhood, by conveying down the river such quantities of moss, for the purpose of acquiring the fine clay soil which is below it.

*Population.*—The inhabitants of the parish, in 1755, amounted to 1865. It is believed, that, for some time, they have been on the decrease, owing partly to the junction of farms, and chiefly to the emigration of cottagers and their families to great towns, and to the cotton manufactures.

*Farms and Valuation.*—A considerable proportion of the parish is now inclosed. The farms, in general, are not large. The rents are various, from 100 l. to 10 l. Sterling.—There  
are

are upwards of 20 heritors, besides a number of small feuers. The only principal heritors at present residing are Mr Erskine of Cardross, the patron of the parish, and Mr Graham of Gartmore.

The valued rent of the whole is 5471 l. Scots. The real rent it would be difficult, with any degree of accuracy, to investigate.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the session lists is commonly from 33 to 40. They are supported partly by the weekly collections at church; by the dues paid on the proclamation of banns, and for the use of the mort-cloth; by the annual produce of some money laid out at interest; and partly by the private charities of their neighbours of different ranks, who are in general well inclined, according to their ability, to assist and relieve the indigent and distressed.

*Productions.*—It is undoubted, that this parish raises more grain than is consumed by the inhabitants, a great many bolls of oat-meal being yearly exported to Glasgow, Dumbarton, and to the Highlands. The greater part of the barley is converted into whisky by the licensed distillers. Considerable quantities also of butter and cheese are sent to market in the great towns.



## NUMBER XII.

## PARISH OF GLASFORD.

(County of Lanark.—Presbytery of Hamilton.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr HUGH MITCHELL.

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*Extent and Soil.*

THE parish of Glasford is near eight miles in length. Its breadth is exceedingly unequal; though, at an average, it may be two miles.—Its soil, like its figure, is unequal. In some parts it is a light loam, in others a strong clay; but, in many parts, it is mossy and barren. The light loamy soil is remarkably stony. Experience, however, and observation, have shown, that to this kind of soil, stones answer many valuable purposes. They shelter the young stalk from mildew and storms; they prevent the crop from being burnt up by scorching heats; they intercept the evaporation of the enriching juices; and, by these means, greatly assist the progress of vegetation.

An heritor, who occupies his own land, hoping to improve the soil by carrying away the stones, made the experiment upon one of his inclosures. The land obstinately refused to yield him its usual crop. Discovering his error, he restored what he had unjustly taken away.

Not many parishes are better supplied with fuel. The east and north-east extremities lie contiguous to excellent collieries;

ries; and the west is separated from Kilbride by a moss that yields peat of good quality, and in great abundance.

The spirit of improving land has not yet reached this parish. There is in it only one man who deserves the name of a farmer. To improve land requires both industry and skill. Few of the farmers here have a moderate portion of either, and many are defective in both. Though the land on the east of the parish lies in the vicinity of lime and coal, and is capable of vast improvement, it is nevertheless in much the same state in which it was 20 years ago. Potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, for the use of cattle, may be raised in great perfection. Few, however, are planted but for culinary purposes. The fact is, that the greater part of the farmers are proprietors, who occupy their own land. The value of their property, taken severally, may be from 30 l. to 120 l. a year. They read no books on agriculture\*; nor do they seek the company of those who might inspire them with a taste for improvement. They seem to be contented with what they have, rather than ambitious of more. Though they are not kind to the soil, their attachment to it is strong; and the spot where they first drew breath is held sacred.

The eastern part of the parish is inclosed with hedge and ditch. Thorn-hedges, however, on the marshy and light loam soil, have been found not to succeed here; nor can they be kept up but at great expence. For the first three years they do well enough; but, if afterwards they are not once a year cleared of moss, within the course of ten years they become completely incrustated with that noxious vegetable. To take off the moss without hurting the tree, requires both skill and patience; and therefore this expedient is seldom tried. Another, less laborious, has been attempted.

Some

\* This, in some measure, will be accounted for when the present state of *education* in the parish comes to be spoken of.

Some farmers, expecting a new crop of shoots, have cut down the diseased hedge till within a foot of the ground. The remedy has been worse than the disease; the external air being in great measure, and the nourishing dews altogether excluded by the thick coat of moss; and the perspiration being greatly obstructed, the tree decays, and sickens, and dies. Trees of every description in the parish soon gather moss. Hence apple, pear, and other fruit-trees of the larger kind do not thrive; and the fruit of such as arrive at maturity is greatly inferior, both in richness and in flavour, to the fruit on the Clyde.

The women in this parish possess a singular dexterity in rearing calves; and the richest veal in the Edinburgh market, it is believed, comes from Glasford or Avendale.

*Population.*—In 1755, the numbers were 559. At the beginning of this year, (1792) there were in the parish 788 souls. Its population has greatly increased within these 20 years. The increase, however, is owing not to the farming, but to the manufacturing part of the community. There are in it three small, but thriving villages. One of them, which, in the year 1771, consisted only of 14 houses, and 63 inhabitants, now contains 44 houses, and 196 inhabitants. In this village there are 36 looms; 12 employed in the cotton, and the others in the linen manufacture. The flourishing state of these manufactures has contributed to enhance the price of labour of every kind. The day-labourer has raised his wages one penny a day. Tailors, within the course of last twelvemonth, have raised their wages from 8 d. to 1 s. a day. Mechanics have enhanced the price of their workmanship in proportion.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The present value of the benefice

rice is 30 l. 8 s. 10 d. in money, 74 bolls 14 pecks in oatmeal, a manse, and a glebe of near six acres. The Earl of Eglintoune is patron. The present rent of his Lordship's property in the parish is 292 l. out of which the clergyman is paid 1 l. 5 s. 3 d. in money, and 36 pecks in victual. Another heritor, whose rent is scarcely 6 l. pays 5 s. in money, and 20 pecks in victual. To them who understand the doctrine of teinds, this disproportion, vast as it is, may not seem extraordinary. It serves, however, (a wag might say), to show how much Lords are obliged to the church, and how little the church is obliged to them. There are 41 heritors, 8 of whom do not reside in the parish. The whole valued rent is 2654 l. 4 s. 2 d. Scots. The real rent cannot be less than 1900 l. Sterling.

The church was built in 1633. It never was elegant nor convenient. Its present uncouth appearance fixes the attention of every beholder; and scarce a stranger passes by without making it a compliment. It is not in good repair. The heritors, unlike the ancient Jews, love not to decorate the temple; though it would be doing them injustice not to observe, that they love to attend it.

Matters have been so managed here, that the manse is like the church. Though repaired five years ago, the manse needs again to be repaired. It is damp in the extreme. After a thaw or a smart shower of rain, the inside walls and timber exhibit a scene wonderfully striking. The pearly drops meet the eye from every point of view; so that, amid the rigours of winter, its inhabitants enjoy some of the pleasures of a May morning. The situation of the manse accounts for this. It lies in a swamp, the inconvenience of which the present clergyman has, in some degree, remedied by *sivers*, as they are here called, and by other methods of

draining the water. The site seems to have been chosen in turbulent times; for, except a narrow neck of land that leads to the church, and a little garden, now pretty well drained, the manse and offices are completely surrounded with a morass. It is therefore not difficult to conceive, that, if necessary, the manse might, at small expence, be made a place of considerable strength.

The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks. He has a teaching-room and a dwelling-house, consisting of two small apartments. The quarterly fees are; for English, 1 s. 6 d.; for writing and arithmetic, 2 s.; and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin. The school, as well as the church, is injudiciously situated, being at the distance of seven miles from the opposite extremity of the parish; and, were it not for a populous and thriving village in the neighbourhood, a schoolmaster could not live. The average number of scholars may be 40. With all the application he can bestow, his living, including perquisites, cannot be worth more than 20 l. a year. Within the course of six years, there have been five changes of schoolmasters. This rapid succession is justly attributed to the smallness of the living. The low value of money, and the high price of every thing, render 20 l. but a scanty subsistence. A schoolmaster, even in a small landward parish, hopes, at his admission, to live at least as comfortably as a plowman. He mistakes it; and will be able much sooner to discover than to correct his mistake. The plowman's wages have been doubled within these 40 years past: The schoolmaster's condition, during that long period, has undergone no material change for the better. The plowman serves one master only: The schoolmaster has commonly as many dictators as employers. The former receives his wages from one hand, and these wages are cheerfully and punctually paid: The latter, with difficulty,

difficulty, collects the hard earned fruits of his industry from the reluctant hands of forty\*.

Provision is made for the poor by half yearly assessments. Their average number for 10 years preceding 1792, is 73 and the annual sum for their support, at an average, during that period, is 24 l.

*Character.*—The inhabitants of this parish cannot be distinguished from their neighbours either by their virtues or their vices. They are, in general, sober, contented, and hospitable. The manufacturing class, possessing these qualities, are also industrious. In the memory of no man living, has there been any belonging to it who has suffered capital punishment; nor is it known here that there is one instance on record. The parish is not furnished with the accommodations of an inn. There are, indeed, four houses where ale and British spirits are sold; but it is not probable that any of the landlords shall become rich in the trade.

In this parish there are a few Burghers and Antiburghers, and some of the Relief denomination. In former times, both here and elsewhere, the Antiburghers, the strictest sect, would not allow a church clergyman to pray in their families. If at any time this indulgence was granted him, it was upon condition that he should go about the duty not as a  
*minister,*

\* Under these circumstances of mortification and disappointment, a country schoolmaster soon feels disgusted at his situation; and, instead of bestowing the necessary application to the school where he is established, his mind is occupied in contriving the most likely means of bettering his condition elsewhere. It were to be wished that a nation, liberal and enlightened in other respects, would concur in adopting some effectual plan to rescue a very useful body of men from unmerited neglect and misery. Let a decent competence be annexed to the office, and from that moment schoolmasters will discharge their trust with fidelity to the public, and credit to themselves.

*minister*, but as a *private Christian*. They are now beginning to lay aside this nice distinction here. The present incumbent, in the course of his annual survey, is invited even by some of the Antiburghers to perform the usual duties of visitation. A pleasing circumstance this in the revolution of religious sentiment ! Though they differ from the church, and from one another, concerning some small points, which appear to them of great importance, yet all denominations within the parish have learned to live together as brethren.

NUM.

N U M B E R XIII.

P A R I S H O F K I L B I R N Y.

(*County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.*)

*By Mr JAMES ADAM, Assistant.*

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*Soil and Climate.*

**T**HE parish of Kilbirny is, in soil and appearance, very various. More than one third of it on the north-west is muir, mofs, and hill, fit only for sheep and black cattle, with plenty of hares and muir-fowl. Another third of it lies gently declining to the southward, with soils of sand, clay, and earth, and not unfruitful either in grafs or corn, and capable of great improvement. The remaining part of it lies low along the river Garnock, and is composed of some of the finest deep moulds of earth and clay in Scotland, the most part of it yielding generally 8 or 10 bolls of oats *per* acre; but is thought rather wet and level for wheat.—The climate is very healthful; the air neither too moist nor too dry. We have no peculiar diseases, nor any epidemical, excepting the small-pox, which once every five or six years carries off a number of our young ones. Inoculation, though a great mean of preserving both life and beauty, is not by far so much attended to and practised here as it ought to be; but I hope that the people will soon be more and more convinced of its salutary effects. The most common diseases are colds, rheumatifms,



matifms, inflammatory and nervous fevers; with a few consumptions, and very seldom the putrid fever and sore throat.

*Waters.*—There is a fine loch, about two miles in length, and near half a mile in breadth, well stored with pike, perch, trout, and eel. The late Earl of Crawford kept a pleasure-boat on it; and now there is a collier-boat erected on it, much more useful, for conveying coals from this to the Beith side of the loch.

Garnock is the only river of any consequence, but not navigable. It rises from the foot of a very high hill in the muir called the Mifty Law, and runs shallow, clear, and dimpling beautifully down the hills southward, and almost divides the parish into two halves, circulating the lower grounds on the south-east side; and then holding on its course through Dalry and Kilwinning, enlarging as it flows, until near Irvine it pours a torrent into the sea.

There are no bleachfields, nor printfields, nor cotton mills as yet on this river, though it is finely situated for them all; and, as there is plenty of fire and provisions in this place, and the manufacturing business going on briskly in this west country, it is not to be doubted but that there will soon be some of these public works in this parish.

*Mansion.*—The mansion-house of Kilbirny, an old castle, was built by the Crawford family near 300 years ago, and a new house, with large office-houses adjoined, about 100 years ago, and long inhabited by the Crawford family, and Viscounts of Garnock; and again, about 36 years ago, repaired and beautified by the late Earl of Crawford; but soon thereafter was unfortunately burnt; so that now it stands quite unroofed and ruinous. It was pleasantly situated, commanding a noble prospect, with fine gardens, large parks,  
and

and policies, all of which are going to ruin. The place, the parks, and more than 1000 acres of good land, are set to one farmer. This arrangement seems here, as in other parts, to be a loss to the proprietor, as well as to the community at large. It turns out many industrious families, thins the country, prevents marriages and population, and makes the land no better than it was an hundred years ago. Hence, at the end of every lease, the proprietor only gets an advanced rent in proportion to the rise and value of other commodities and necessaries of life ; whereas, if small farms of 60 or 80 acres were only given to one person, every inch of ground would be improven, many subdivisions would be made, industry would be more encouraged, and marriage, population, and improvement, would go rapidly on ; and then the proprietor would, at the end of every lease, get an advanced rent, both in proportion to the growing value of his lands, well improven, and also in proportion to the rise and value of other commodities, much heightened by the increase of demand and population.

*Population.*—The town or village of Kilbirny contains about 80 families, or 300 people. About 50 years ago, there were only three houses there ; but the late flourishing silk manufactories have wonderfully increased the population of all the little towns in this west country ; and, if the cotton works go on as they are now promising to do, the number of houses and inhabitants in every village will still increase. In 1755, the numbers were 651 ; and now there are nearly 700. Though the town has greatly increased, yet the country part of the parish has rather decreased, owing to the fore-said ruinous policy of setting large farms to one person. There are, below 10 years of age, nearly 180 ; and between 10 and 20 years of age, 140 ; between 20 and 50, 215 ; between

tween 50 and 70, 140; and between 70 and 100, 25. The proportion between males and females is nearly, as usual, 13 to 12. The births, one year with another, are 22; marriages, 11; and burials, 14.

*People.*—The people are sober, quiet, active, and industrious, and generally wealthy. There are few poor, and none that go a-begging. The poor's funds are good, and more than sufficient for the parish poor. The present minister, Mr Malcolm Brown, was settled here in the 1734, and is now a man above 90 years of age, with judgment and memory sound and good, but sight and hearing greatly on the decline. He can walk straight and steady, ride a mile once or twice a week, marry and baptize all that offer, and preaches once or twice a year. The stipend is 8 chalders. He has been married these 50 years; and his wife, near 80, is still a strong, active, lively, and sensible woman. They are both much esteemed and respected by all that know them.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF DRUMMELZIER.

(County of Tweeddale.—Presbytery of Peebles.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM WELSH.

*Name, Soil, and Climate.*

THE antient and modern name of this parish is the same, and is said to signify, in the Gaelic, “ Here is a plain,” which accords very well with the situation of the village that is built on a rivulet called Pow Sail, at the head of a haugh of about 300 acres of inclosed land, divided into sixteen parks, in grass, rented about 20 s. *per* acre; 30 years ago, uninclosed, they set at 7 s. *per* acre. The parish is 12 miles long, and, at an average, about 3 broad. The face of the country is beautifully varied with hill and rock, rivulets and small plains, lying on the Tweed. The soil is light, but fertile. The air is healthy. The most frequent diseases are, slow fevers, consumptions, and rheumatisms. There are no fish but trout and salmon.

|                       |   |   |   |   |     |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Population in 1755,   | - | - | - | - | 305 |
| — — — in 1790, males, | - | - | - | - | 123 |
| — — — — — females,    | - | - | - | - | 147 |
|                       |   |   |   | — | 270 |
| Vol. VII.             |   | U |   |   | Sum |

|                                   |   |             |       |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|-------|
| Sum of births, from 1744 to 1790, | - | -           | 403   |
| — of burials for that term,       | - | -           | 255   |
|                                   |   |             | <hr/> |
|                                   |   | Difference, | 148   |

This, and most of the neighbouring parishes, are greatly decreased in number. A third of the inhabitants live in the village, the rest in farm and cot-houses. We have only 6 farmers, 7 weavers, 4 taylor and apprentices, 2 masons, 2 smiths, and 6 day-labourers; the rest are shepherds, cowherds, and ploughmen. There are only one Seceder, and one Episcopalian. The people are industrious. Only four old persons, and a dumb man, receive charity.

*Productions.*—There is little natural wood here, only at Polmood, a small one which formerly has been pretty large; but has been destroyed by bad management, and particularly by sheep. The soil is very fit for trees of every kind, and the late Sir James Nasmyth planted a great deal of fruit trees, as well as fir, which have thriven very well. There is no wheat. The grain is barley, pease, and oats. The farmers also sow turnip, and plant a considerable quantity of potatoes, of which the people are fond, and think that a statue ought to be erected to the memory of Sir Walter Raleigh, who first brought them to Britain. Few grass seeds are sown on account of the sheep, which are great enemies to them.—Servants wages are high. A man, 6*l. per annum*; a maid servant, 2*l.* for the summer half year, and about 25*s.* for the winter. The wages they receive enable families generally to live in a very different manner indeed from the poor in England, as they buy no articles of luxury.—Provisions are double the price they were 40 years ago, which bears hard upon schoolmasters, and others, whose salaries have not been augmented. A lamb costs 5*s.* or 6*s.*; a sheep,

sheep, if fat, 11 s. or 12 s.; a fowl, 1 s.; butter, 10 d. *per* lib.; cheese, 6 s. *per* stone. The ploughs used are of the Scotch kind.—Few English, except by gentlemen or improvers, the land being full of stones.—The celebrated Merlin is buried here; but no other person of great distinction.

## N U M B E R XV.

## P A R I S H O F B R O U G H T O N .

(*County of Tweeddale.—Presbytery of Biggar.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale*).

By the Reverend Mr THOMAS GRAY.

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*Estate of Broughton.*

**T**HE estate of Broughton has been, for a great number of years, in the possession of the Murrays of Stenhope, who resided in the parish, and was sold by the late Sir John Murray commonly called Secretary Murray (having acted in that capacity to the Pretender), to James Dickson of Edrum, member of Parliament for this district of burrows in the year 1762, and above eight years afterwards, it was sold by his heirs to the present Lord Justice Clerk, now proprietor of the whole parish. The mansion-house on this estate was burnt about 18 years ago, and is not yet rebuilt. The village of Broughton was rebuilt by the late James Dickson, Esq; after the English fashion, and remarked by passengers for its neatness.

The form of this parish is two ridges of hills, with a valley between them, and the village of Broughton at the lower end of the valley, 4 miles in length and 3 in breadth.

*Soil and Air.*—The soil is generally of a deep wet clay, and produces good crops in dry seasons.—The air is dry and healthy,

healthy, and no distempers are prevalent here, but such as are every where common.

*Population.*—The antient state of population in this parish was 400 souls. In 1755, it was 367. The present state of population is 264. There are 142 males, and 122 females.

In the village of Broughton there are 20 dwelling houses, which contain 36 people, and 61 children.

In the country part of the parish 167 reside, which, with the 97 that live in the village, make up 264 souls, the amount of the present population.

|                               |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| The annual average of births, | - | - | - | 7  |
| ————— of deaths,              | - | - | - | 5  |
| ————— of marriages,           | - | - | - | 3  |
| Souls under 10 years of age,  | - | - | - | 75 |
| — from 10 to 20,              | - | - | - | 57 |
| — from 20 to 50,              | - | - | - | 96 |
| — from 50 to 70,              | - | - | - | 31 |
| — from 70 to 100,             | - | - | - | 5  |

There are twelve farmers in the parish, and they employ in husbandry 28 male servants, and 23 females.—There are 4 weavers in the parish, 4 wrights, 1 taylor, 1 smith, 1 miller, 2 shoemakers, and 3 shopkeepers.

The people in this parish are well affected to the present establishment; at the ordination of the incumbent, there was not one seceder in the whole parish; there are now 8 who were Seceders from the Church before they came into this parish.

*Productions.*—There is no natural wood, nor fruit trees in the parish; but several plantations of fir and hard timber, in a thriving condition. There are 200 black cattle, and upwards of 2000 sheep, and 80 horses, young and old.—There are



are 400 acres in tillage, 300 in corn, 60 in bear, 30 in peas, and 10 in potatoes.—The parish supplies itself with provisions, and exports corn, cattle, and wool, to a considerable extent.—There is no hemp, and very little flax raised in the parish, being found, from experience, not to agree with the soil and climate.—The soil answers sown grass extremely well, and there are about 30 acres, at an average, laid down with grass feeds every year, which produce very plentiful crops. All the other lands are in pasture.

They in general sow their corn and pease in the month of March, and reap in September; their bear in April, and reap in August.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This parish labours under a great disadvantage in regard to fuel, having none but coal, and that at the distance of 16 miles; lime is at the distance of 12 miles.—Another disadvantage this parish labours under, is the want of residing heritors, which is a great loss to the poor, especially in these parishes where there are no poor rates, as in this case, the poor are supported by the poor.

The language spoken here is English, with the Scotch accent; but from what language the names of places in the parish are derived, is impossible to say.

The land rent of the parish is about 700 l. a year.—The cot-houses, in the parish, at an average, 1 l. yearly.

*Church and Poor.*—The value of the living varies somewhat, in proportion to the price of meal, the stipend being 35 l. in money, and 3 chalders of oat meal, at an average 80 l. including the glebe. Patron, Duke of Queensberry.

The number of the poor receiving alms, at an average, are 8; and there being no poor rates in the parish, they are supported by the Sunday's collections, and the benefits arising  
from

from the mort-cloth and proclamation of banns. It would be a good fund towards the maintenance of the poor, and a good mean for the preventing of the crimes of unchastity and child-murder, if the stool of repentance, which is, no doubt, a relic of Popery, was legally abolished, and a fine in money established in its place, in proportion to circumstances and situations, wherever the scandal was not removed by marriage.

The wages of a day-labourer in husbandry, 1 s. *per* day; of wrights, 1 s. 2 d.; of taylors, 1 s.; and of masons, 1 s. 8 d. without victuals.—The common wages of male servants, 6 l. of female, 3 l. *per* year, with victuals.—There are 14 ploughs in the parish, of the Scotch kind, and upwards of 50 carts.

*Ancient Buildings.*—There are the remains of ten castles, commonly called towers, which appear to have been houses of great strength. In the under storey they had a wooden door of uncommon thickness, full of iron-spikes with broad heads, and a strong iron-gate that opened in the inside. One of these doors and gates was preserved in the parish for a long time as a piece of antiquity, and has been seen by several now living. In one of these castles the great Macbeth is said to have lived; and it is called Macbeth's Castle to this day. Mr James Dickson, late proprietor of this parish, employed workmen to dig up the foundation of part of Macbeth's Castle, in search of treasure and antiquities; but nothing was found but some pieces of old armour, and coins of no great consequence.

*Roads.*—The public road which runs through the parish, and leads to Moffat, is kept in good repair; but the bye-roads are very bad, and many of them impassable, no statute labour

labour having been performed, nor commutation money uplifted, for the last ten years.—There is only one bridge in the parish over Biggar water, about a quarter of a mile from the village; and, being upon the public road, and of great advantage to travellers, the water in the winter season being often impassable, is kept in tolerably good repair.

*School.*—There is only one school in the parish, salary 5 l. 16 s. 8 d. which, with school wages and other perquisites, may amount to the small living of 11 l. or 12 l. yearly; and, for that sum, from 20 to 30 scholars are regularly instructed in the different branches of education.

There is one inn and two alehouses in the village.

*Cottages.*—There are no new houses built in the parish of late, nor cottages, but a great many cottages pulled down, the farmers finding more loss than profit arising from the keeping up of cot-houses: The throwing down of cottages must be one principal reason of the decrease of population in country parishes, and of the increase of population in towns and villages, and a principal reason of the scarcity of servants, and the increase of their wages; the poor people being banished from the country, take up their residence in towns, and breed their children to manufactures, who would otherwise have all been bred to the plough; and, if manufactures continue to flourish, and this growing evil, of throwing down cottages, and banishing the poor from the country parts of parishes, is not speedily corrected, it is more than probable that servants for carrying on the purposes of agriculture will not be obtained.

There is one fair in the year in the village, held upon the 4th of October, originally for black cattle, but now chiefly for the hiring of servants, and the storemasters selling their cheese.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF CONTIN.

(County of Ross.—Presbytery of Dingwall.—Synod of  
Ross.)

By the Reverend Mr RODERICK MACKENZIE.

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*Name, Appearance, and Soil.*

**C**ON-TUIN, the meeting of waves, or Co-an-da-avihin, signifying the meeting of two rivers, whence the island of Contin derives its name.

The appearance of the country is generally hilly and mountainous, the hills in the lower part of the parish, near the place of Contin, being mostly covered with natural wood. There is also a great flat of corn lands, belonging to Colonel Mackenzie of Coul, through which the river Rafay runs, all in sight of the mansion-house of Coul, which lies about 200 yards to the north-east of Contin. There is also a great deal of corn lands in the several glens and valleys in the parish.—The corn lands, upon the whole, yield pretty good crops, though the soil be but light and shallow.

*Air and Diseases.*—The air is rather moist, but not unhealthy. The diseases are, small-pox, measles, and rheumatisms; the latter, no doubt, owing to the moisture of the air, and to the natives giving up the use of plaiding or coarse flannel next their skin, in place of which they now wear

linen. They are sometimes distressed with fluxes, occasioned by their feeding mostly on potatoes. They are most subject to them in the latter end of spring, and beginning of summer, when the potatoes have a tendency to grow, and when the people have neither milk, meal, nor onions to eat with them. This year, and the last, there was a putrid fever, which made prodigious havoc in a place called Strathbran, where it carried off more than two thirds of the inhabitants, and still continues to rage with violence there. It is found to be very infectious; and its having done so much damage in that place is attributed to the unwholesomeness of the air, which has been worse this year than ever, owing to the extensive flat in that strath being repeatedly overflowed in the summer and harvest months, and the stagnated putrid waters sending forth noxious vapours that poison the air.

*Lakes.*—There are many lakes and rivers, all of which abound with fish of one kind or other, though none draws a price but salmon, being at a great distance from any market town, and of no such consideration as to encourage an adventurer to try what could be made of them.—The most remarkable lakes are Loch-Achilty, where the char and silver trout are sometimes found. One thing remarkable to be observed of this lake is, that there is no visible running water issuing from it except at the time of high speats, although a great quantity falls into it daily. It certainly discharges itself by subterraneous passages into the river Rafay, to the west of which it lies about three quarters of a mile. It is a mile long; in some places very deep. The water is beautifully clear: It has an artificial island, a place made for safety, where the ruins of a house and garden are still to be seen. The access is by a draw-bridge. The last possessor's name M<sup>r</sup>Lea More, the then proprietor of the lands of Achilty and  
Jarvie,

Jarvie. The next is Loch-Lichart, in a line to the west, four miles long, where there is plenty of trout, some weighing four and five pounds. The loch is lined on both sides with a ridge of high hills, covered with oak and birch wood, with some firs, interspersed here and there with green spots for shealing, and at both ends, on each side, pretty extensive flats of corn land. The oak wood on this loch-side sold three years ago for 360 l. Betwixt Loch-Lichart and Loch-Bran, on the same water, are several inconsiderable lakes, all abounding with black and white trout; and Loch-Bran abounds with large pike. Several miles to the west of that is Loch-Chroisk, abounding with trout. To the north-west of Loch-Lichart, four miles distance, lies Loch-Fannich, abounding with fish, is six Scotch miles in length; from it issues a small river, called Grudie, which discharges itself into the Cannon, about one mile above Loch-Lichart.—All the straths are liable to inundations. The most remarkable ones happened in March 1789; and this very year, (1791) the greatest part of the corn lands were twice overflowed this harvest in the course of 20 days, by which the crop was much damaged.—There is a very remarkable echo on the farm of Kinellan; it will echo a whole sentence perfectly distinct. It is believed to be unequalled, unless by an echo in Wales, and another in Staffa, the latter of which is of a very different nature.

*Animals, &c.*—The parish principally abounds in black cattle, horses, sheep, goats, deer, roe, foxes, wild cats, polecats, badgers, and otters.—Common fowls of various kinds; turkeys, geese, wild and tame, ducks of different species, swans, maws, gulls, curleus, cranes, herons, scarfs, king's-fisher, muir-fowl, heath-fowl, plovers, snipes, hawks of various kinds, the black and grey eagles, ravens, rooks, crows, owls.

owls. And on the highest hills, tarmagans, migrating birds, lapwings appear in spring, wood-cocks in the latter end of harvest, cuckoos in April; May, swallows of various kinds, and three kinds of bats, supposed sleeping birds.

*Population.*—In Dr Webster's list in 1755, the numbers are stated at 1949; at present, there are 2000 above the age of seven years.—There is in the parish one woman aged 101 now living, and has the use of all her faculties. There is also an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital upwards of 90 years old, who has drawn the pension for 45 years.—There are a sufficiency of square-wrights, smiths, weavers, tailors, and shoemakers, for carrying on the work of the parish.—Two ferry-men, one over the Rafay at Contin, and another over the Cannon, three miles to the west of Contin, at a place called Little Scatwell.—All the people are of the established Church except 50 or 60 Episcopalians.—The population is on the increase, but it is feared will soon decrease, as the gentlemen are encouraging shepherds to come and settle on their properties, which must necessarily remove the present inhabitants, and force them to go in quest of bread to other countries, as there are no manufactures established here to employ them.

*Productions.*—Cabbages, turnips, potatoes, and various kinds of garden stuffs.—Fir trees, planted and natural, oak, birch, elm, alder, fauchs of different kinds, maple, mountain ash, plains, beech, several remarkable large ones at the place of Coul, and fruit trees of various kinds.—There is a sufficiency of corn grown for supporting the inhabitants; but, owing to the number of distillers of whisky, of which there are no less than three distilleries in this parish, there are imported annually about 300 bolls of barley from the neighbouring parishes,

fishes, principally from Easter Ross.—About 50 acres are in sown grafs on the Mains of Coul, and a few acres on another farm. The farmers have seldom sowed any, (except a few pounds in their gardens); nor can they be prevailed upon to do it, though they have got long leases from Colonel Mackenzie of Coul, (19 years) to encourage them to raise grafs; and the soil is found to be admirably calculated for it, yielding from 200 to 300 stones the acre. Colonel Mackenzie has not imposed one shilling of additional rent upon his whole property in this parish.—They begin to sow oats and rye in February; but, in most places, in the latter end of March, and whole of April. Barley is sown by the beginning of May, and finished by the 12th of June; notwithstanding of which, the harvest is much earlier than in any of the neighbouring parishes, and was safely ingathered even this very year by the end of October.—There is great plenty of shelly marl now discovered in the Loch of Kinellan, upon the estate of Coul; and the proprietor, at his own expence, has so far drained the Loch, as to have easy access to the working of the marl; and the tenants have full liberty to take from it whatever quantity they please for the use of their lands. The Lake is also surrounded with stone-marl, which has been found by the farmers there to meliorate the ground very much. This Lake lies five miles to the west of Dingwall. There is lime-stone also found on the Coul property, but difficult to work. There was this year discovered, on the property of Mr Mackenzie of Strathgarvie, (a minor), a rich lime-stone quarry, which could be easily wrought, and to great advantage, there being plenty of peats and wood close by the quarry. The proprietor of the quarry has close by it betwixt 300 and 400 acres of arable ground admirably calculated for lime, on which property there are no less, at present, than 50 or 60 families, without any industry, or any thing



thing to support them, but what corn they are able to raise from these fields, which sets now at about 7 s. 6 d. the acre. The quarry lies close by Lochmalin, about 12 miles to the west of Dingwall.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The Gaelic and English languages are both spoken in the parish, but Gaelic chiefly. All names of villages and places are derived from the Gaelic. The rental of the parish is between 1300 l. and 1400 l.—The salmon fishing sets at about 20 l.

*Church and Poor.*—The minister's stipend is 1000 merks, and one chalders of victual, and the glebe would set at 7 l. Sterling. The King is patron.—The number of heritors is 9, none of whom reside in it.—There are only 10 poor people who receive charity. The most indigent of them get a weekly supply from the session. The annual amount of the contributions for the relief of the poor, in the parish church, seldom exceeds 40 s.; there is a small legacy left to the poor of the parish by a Mrs St Clair, who died at Jamaica, a native of this parish, daughter to Mr Æneas Morrison minister of Contin, and which, owing to mismanagement, only amounted to 84 l. although she bequeathed them 100 l.

*Provisions.*—Provisions sell reasonably; beef and mutton, from 2 d. to 3 d. a pound; veal and lamb, from 3 d. to 4 d.; pork, 2½ d.; hens, never above 4 d. each; butter, 6 d. the pound; cheese, 2½; barley, 15 s. and 16 s. the boll; oats, the same, having one fifth more in the measure.—Common day labourers receive 6 d. *per* day; carpenters and masons, from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.—A common labourer having 6 bolls of meal, 3 l. Sterling of wages for the year, with one fourth acre potatoe ground, is able to support himself, a wife, and two children.

children. Men servants commonly get from 3 l. to 4 l. wages in the year; and women servants, from 30 s. to 2 l.—The fuel consists of peat, wood, heath, whins, and broom. Peats sell at 6 d. the small cart.

*Character of the People.*—The people, in general, are sober, and very economical; but averse to industry, never working but from necessity. The rising generation are rather fond of gay clothing, the manufacture of other countries, which exhausts all their substance, and keeps them constantly poor. There is no manufacture in the parish. The people are generally very contented with their situation, and have the necessaries of life in abundance. They are perfectly honest, and religiously inclined. Their condition might be easily made better, were there any manufactures established amongst them; a linen or woollen one would answer extremely well. The women would be made industrious by this means. There is plenty of fine soft water in this place, for washing, bleaching, and whitening linen cloth; and there are plains of any extent required for forming a bleachfield, into which water might be brought at a trifling expence; besides, such is the quality of the water, that one-fourth of the expence of soap, &c. would be saved.

The best arable land in this parish sets at 14 s. 6 d. the acre, and the lowest at 2 s. 6 d.—The farms in this parish are from 100 l. to 2 l.; for the most part they are from 15 l. to 8 l.—There is not an inclosure in the parish, but those on the Mains of Coul. The people are averse to inclosures, as they wish to have all kinds of pasture in common. The situation of the parish, in 1782 and 1783, was truly deplorable, and no doubt many of the poorer sort must have died from want, were it not for the timely supply of corn sent by government to this country. One remarkable circumstance

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to be observed was, that although these years produced little or no corn, they were particularly favourable for the growth of grafs, which yielded immense quantities of milk, the principal support of the inhabitants; and the kind providence of God was very remarkably seen towards the poorer sort, in causing the sheep and goats, the only cattle they had, to yield greater quantities, and more fruitful milk, than they were ever known to do before, or ever since. Another favourable circumstance for the inhabitants was, that there was a great demand for cattle, (the staple commodity of the parish), and that they sold at high prices.

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## NUMBER XVII.

## PARISH OF IRVINE.

(County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Irvine.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES RICHMOND.

*Name and Situation.*

**I**RVINE, or, according to its ancient orthography, Irwine, and Earwine, is a seaport town situated near the mouth of the river of Irvine, in the Baillieary of Cuninghame, and shire of Ayr. It was originally in the province of Galloway, which antiently comprehended not only the county now known by that name, and the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, but also the greatest part, if not the whole, of Ayrshire. Even at so late a period as the reign of Robert Bruce, the Castle of Irvine was accounted to be in Galloway. There is reason to suppose, that a people of Saxon original encroached by degrees on the ancient Galloway. The names of places in Cuninghame are generally Saxon; the name of the district itself is Saxon, though, according to Buchanan, it is said to be Danish, and signifies the King's House, or the Residence of the King\*. The town of Irvine stands on a rising ground, of a sandy soil, to the north of the river, and about half a mile distant from the harbour, which lies nearly

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\* See Sir David Dalrymple's Annals, vol. I. p. 106.

to the south-west of it. It is dry and well aired, has one broad street running through it, from the south-east, bending a little to the south about the middle, and terminating in the north-west. On the south side of the river, but connected with the town by a stone bridge, there is a row of houses on each side of the road leading to the harbour, these are mostly of one storey, with finished garrets, and occupied chiefly by seafaring people. On part of the great road leading to Ayr, which intersects this street, nigh to the bridge, are the same kind of buildings. The most of these buildings have been erected within these 40 or 50 years, and are increasing every year.

They are not within the royalty, and form no part of the ancient burgh, being situated in the parish of Dundonald, and annexed to Irvine, *quoad sacra*, only. Part of these lands, however, belong to the town, as also the quay, on which there are several store-houses, coal-yards, and an inn or public house, which, by a singular feu, has the exclusive privilege of selling ale and spirits there. It appears, from the records of the burgh, that Alexander II. granted a charter to the burghesses of Irvine, confirming some other royal grants, but from whom these were obtained, is now uncertain. No mention is here made of their other charters, which are many. From one granted by Robert II. it appears, that the burghesses of Irvine were in possession of the whole barony of Cuninghame and Largs. The magistrates of Irvine do not now enjoy so extensive a jurisdiction.

*Extent, Soil, and Rent of the Parish.*—The parish of Irvine, at its greatest length, is about 5 miles, extending from the sea on the south-west, to the parish of Stewarton on the north-east. At its greatest breadth it is about 2 miles, and is bounded by the river Annock, which separates it from the  
parish

parish of Dreghorn on the south-east and east; by the parish of Kilwinning on the north and north-east; by the river Garnock on the north-west, and by the river of Irvine, which separates it from the parish of Dundonald, on the south. To the north-west of the town, there is a common-ty belonging to it, of above 300 acres, of a sandy soil, and partly covered with whin and short broom. If laid off in proper inclosures, and rented to the inhabitants, it might be worth 20 s. or 30 s. *per acre* in a few years. Adjoining to this, and immediately at the back of the town, there was formerly a large loch, which, about the beginning of this century, was drained by the Rev. Mr Warner, and is now arable. To the north-east, the town have a considerable tract of land, yielding a revenue of about 500 l. *per annum*. The lower part of the parish is flat and sandy. To the north-east of the town, it consists of a light loam; in some parts the soil is mixed with gravel; all of it produces heavy crops of all different kinds of corn and grass. Towards the extremity of the parish, the situation is more elevated and the soil of a stiffish clay.

There is only one gentleman's seat in the parish, Bourtreehill. It is well laid out, and highly improved, by the Hon. Mr Hamilton, who resides upon it. Nigh to this seat, there is an old castle of a square form, belonging to the Earl of Eglintoune, whose seat is also about a mile from Irvine to the north, and the town lands on that quarter are all along bounded by his Lordship's policy. This castle is said to be the remains of an ancient nunnery, where there was a chapel, church-yard, and a small village. The face of the country is greatly beautified by circular plantations on most of the eminences. The farms are large, the farm houses are mostly new, very neat and convenient:

*Rivers.*—There are no rivers which run through the parish. The river of Irvine, which takes its rise to the east of Loudonhill, in the parish of Loudon, in times of floods, carries great quantities of sand along with it, chiefly after it passes Irvine, which being thrown out at the Bar, is gradually removing it to a greater distance from the harbour. The depth of water, from the Quay to the Bar, is generally from 9 to 11 feet at spring tides. In high storms, with the wind from the south or south-west, it is sometimes 16 feet.

*Roads* —The roads leading to and from the town are, *1<sup>st</sup>*, The Kilmarnock road to the south-east. *2<sup>d</sup>*, The Ayr road to the south. *3<sup>d</sup>*, The Greenock road by Kilwinning to the north-west; and, *4<sup>th</sup>*, The Glasgow road by Stewarton to the north-east. They are all kept in tolerable repair by the statute labour, which is converted into money, and paid to the trustees. Three shillings Sterling are paid by every householder in the town for that purpose, which, in many instances, is a very hard and oppressive tax, especially in seaport towns, where there are so many sailors widows, left with numerous families, and often in poor circumstances. This is an evil which calls for redress. Besides the statute money, there are tolls high to the town, on the Stewarton, Kilmarnock, and Ayr roads.

A fly goes regularly from this to Glasgow, by Kilwinning, Dalry, Beath, and Paisley, three times every week. A stage coach runs from this to Greenock twice in the week, and continues to be well employed.

*Manufactures.*—Manufactures, as yet, are not carried on here to any extent. The young men, in general, are sailors, or go abroad to the West Indies and America as storekeepers and planters. Many from this place and the neighbourhood

hood have gone to the East Indies, and are still going out. Some in the mercantile line, others in the physical, seafaring, and military, and some in each of these professions, have lately returned from thence with large fortunes. Many of our young men are also employed as shipmasters and failors from Clyde.

The number of the incorporated trades are nearly as follows, viz. weavers, 116; shoemakers, 56; smiths, 24; taylorers, 27; coopers, 7; mafons and wrights, 80.—There are of other employments :

|                 |   |   |    |                        |   |   |     |
|-----------------|---|---|----|------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Maltsters       | - | - | 10 | Coppersmiths           | - | - | 3   |
| Master Butchers | - | - | 6  | Tinkers                | - | - | 4   |
| Bakers          | - | - | 7  | Barbers                | - | - | 6   |
| Cloth merchants | - | - | 6  | Coal hewers            | - | - | 150 |
| Chandlers       | - | - | 2  | Carters                | - | - | 60  |
| Physician       | - | - | 1  | Carriers to Kilmarnock | - | - | 2   |
| Surgeons        | - | - | 3  | ——— to Paisley         | - | - | 2   |
| Writers         | - | - | 5  | ——— to Glasgow         | - | - | 2   |
| Sadlers         | - | - | 2  | ——— to Greenock        | - | - | 2   |
| Druggists       | - | - | 2  |                        |   |   |     |

Besides these, there are a great many carts belonging to the country employed in carrying blind coals from Kilmarnock, Riccartoun, and Fairley. There are three master ship-builders, a tanwork, a ropework, and a bleachfield. One whisky still, which consumes about 950 bolls of malt yearly. One small brewery, most of the ale being brewed by retailers themselves. Many private families brew their own beer; and, of late, the practice of brewing strong ale has been much revived.

There are a great many grocers and small huckster shops, and four or five hardware shops. Weavers of silk gauze, muslins, &c. and some other tradesmen employed in the town and suburbs, are not entered with the corporations, nor included in the above list. Their numbers are daily increasing.



creafing. About three years ago, a company of manufacturers in Glasgow fet on foot a tambour-work here, and have now about 70 girls employed, who earn from 15 d. to 2 s. *per week*.

Last year a spinning Jenny was erected, which employs about 80 hands, whose wages are from 1 s. to 9 s. *per week*. And two others are erected fince in the fuburbs, which give employment to about 50 each.

*Commerce.*—The exports and imports of this place have rapidly increafed of late. Coals have always been the chief article of our export. Formerly they were carried in fmall brigs and floops to the different ports of Ireland: Their fize is now greatly enlarged, and their numbers are increafed. By an accurate lift made up in the Customhoufe on the 30th September 1790, it appears, that the number belonging to Irvine was 51 veffels, the tonnage of which amounted to 3682 tons. They are of various fizes. The largeft is 160 tons, the fmalleft 33 tons, excepting one of 17, and one of 10 tons, which are packets employed between this and Greenock. It appears from the fame lift, that thefe veffels are navigated by 305 failors, all belonging to this place.—There are 49 veffels belonging to Saltcoats and Largs, which are branches of this port, the tonnage of which amounts to 4166. Many of thefe veffels, as well as veffels from the different ports of Ireland, and other places, come here for coals. Above 24,000 tons of coals are exported from this yearly. The exportation of coals from this took place, in a fmall degree, towards the end of the laft century: They were carried coaftways in birlings or fmall boats. When thefe arrived, they blew a large horn, which was fixed to a poft at the quay by an iron chain; and, upon this fignal, the country people loaded their coal poneys or fmall horfes, and carried  
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down what quantities were wanted. The coals here are of an excellent quality, make a very quick and chearful fire; and, answering the purposes of baking and brewing better than any other coals from this coast, bring the highest prices in Ireland. Their price, delivered at the quay, is 9 s. *per* chaldcr, Winchester measure. Their ordinary price in Ireland is seldom under 16 s.

Considerable quantities of woollen carpets and carpetins, muslins, and stuffs of silk, lawns, gauzes, and linen called Kentings, are exported from this to Ireland. The lawns, gauzes, muslins, and silks, are brought from Paisley. The bounty for silks exported in the year 1790 amounted to 236l. It has often exceeded that sum, and sometimes risen to 800 l. The chief articles of our import are hemp, iron, Memel and Norway wood, ship-timber, chiefly from Wales, raw hides, skins, and grain, from Ireland. 10,000 Quarters of grain have sometimes been imported from Ireland in one year. Great quantities are also brought coastways from Galloway. The county of Ayr is supposed to produce grain sufficient for the consumpt of its inhabitants. Paisley, Glasgow, and the more inland parts of the country, consume what is imported.

*Population.*—In 1755, by Dr Webster's list the numbers were 4025. The town and suburbs have increased since that period. The country part of the parish has been diminished. From an enumeration made in 1781, it appears, that there were in the town, country, and suburbs, 4391 souls; and, from an enumeration made in December 1790, their numbers are 4500. This increase has chiefly taken place in the suburbs or annexed part of the parish, the numbers in the town having rather decreased, owing to the taking down of some old houses, each of which contained many families; whereas the new ones built in their place are occupied by  
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one or two families at most. This last enumeration was made after an unusual mortality by the small-pox, and a nervous fever, which made its appearance about the beginning of August that year. The births, deaths, and marriages, as contained in the parish register for these last ten years, are as under, viz.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1781,         | 112            | 137            | 30                |
| 1782,         | 100            | 78             | 30                |
| 1783,         | 98             | 79             | 24                |
| 1784,         | 118            | 145            | 27                |
| 1785,         | 105            | 117            | 45                |
| 1786,         | 117            | 89             | 43                |
| 1787,         | 114            | 112            | 29                |
| 1788,         | 127            | 116            | 40                |
| 1789,         | 113            | 97             | 41                |
| 1790,         | 131            | 163            | 30                |

In the years 1781, 1784, and 1790, the small-pox were in the town. In the year 1784, 54 died of that disease; and, in the year 1790, 57 died of the same disease, and about 24 of the fever. Inoculation here, till of late, was not in general practice.

*Character of the People.*—Perhaps in no sea-port town of the same extent are the inhabitants more sober and industrious than in this. They are social and cheerful, but seldom riotous, it being very unusual for any persons to be seen upon the street after 12 o'clock at night. The people, in general, are in easy circumstances; many of them are wealthy, and all of them remarkably hospitable. They are happy in each other's society, and entertain frequently and well. Their entertainments are more substantial than showy; though in this, upon occasions, they are by no means defective. As a  
proof

proof of their moderation and good conduct, there has not for many years been an instance of bankruptcy among them, one or two incomers only excepted. They are humane and generous, though these qualities may not, in every instance, be exerted with necessary prudence; and this perhaps is one reason of the streets being so much infested with vagrant poor. In other instances their liberality has been well directed.

*Church.*—The church of Irvine is beautifully situated on the summit of a rising ground, to the south of the town, and nigh to the river\*. It is an oblong square of 80 feet in length, by 60 in breadth. The lofts form an octagon in the inside, and, gradually ascending, place every hearer in full view of the preacher. At each angle there is a massy pillar of wood from the ground-floor to the roof of the church. The area below is neatly fitted up with pews, all of them facing the pulpit. Three-fourths of the church were built by the magistrates, and one-fourth by the other heritors. The communion tables consist of two rows of table seats, extending from the pulpit, on the north-west, to the south-east door, the partitions of which form the ends of said seats, and are moveable at pleasure. These seats are the property of the session, and yield from 8 l. to 9 l. annually.—The magistrates, reserving one loft for themselves, disposed of the rest of their property to the inhabitants, who fitted up their own seats, according to a plan previously agreed upon. The money which they raised in this manner defrayed their share of the expence of building the church, and left them an overplus of near 300 l. This sum they laid out, with an addition of near 500 l. more, in building a very elegant  
VOL. VII. Z steeple

\* The church was rebuilt in the year 1774.

steeple adjoining to the church on the north-west side. The steeple, at its base, is 14 feet square.

*Poor.*—The poor of this place have greatly increased within these 50 years. This is ascribed to a variety of different causes. At that time, it was considered as disgraceful to receive supply from the session; and none but such as were in the most distressed circumstances ever thought of making application to it. By this they were led to make every exertion for their own support; and their children, from the same principle, acquired early habits of industry.

The country was then parcelled out in small farms, and employed a greater number of hands in the cultivation of it. Their incomes, though small, afforded them, in general, the certain means of subsistence. Few ever thought of resorting to towns, but such as could live upon their money, or upon the profits of their particular callings. When the farms were enlarged, as they now are, these cottagers or small tenants crowded into towns or neighbouring villages; and, being bred to no business, they soon exhausted their little stock, and became burdens upon the public. The consequence of the suppression of cottagers is felt, and will be more and more felt in many different ways throughout Scotland.

The funds chiefly arise from the interest of a small stock of money, and a mortification of some lands, public collections, proclamation of banns, baptisms, legacies, mort-cloths, fees, rents, &c. The most necessitous of the poor are supplied by weekly pensions, which are from 6 d. to 2s. 6 d. *per week*; and such as need occasional supply to assist their own industry, by precepts and watering rolls. Precepts are distributions made by the session, as occasion requires. Watering rolls are the distributions which are made at each Sacrament, which is twice every year.—A Bailie Gray of this place some  
time

time ago burdened his subjects with 1 l. 10s. annually for the education of poor children. Mr Stewart, a druggist here, has lately disposed his subject, in value about 300 l. to the poor, reserving to himself and wife (they have no children) the life-rent of it. The magistrates and heritors, who are required every year to attend at settling the treasurer's accounts, are well acquainted with the state of the funds; and, when necessary, they voluntarily assess themselves in such sums as the support of the poor requires, thereby wisely preventing a general *stent*. There are of late several societies established here for the support of the poor belonging to each, which, in time, will operate greatly to the relief of the poor's funds.

*Schools.*—There are in Irvine two public schools, and several private ones. Before our connection with America was dissolved, many young men from that country and the West Indies were sent here for their education. Mr Cunningham, who was then rector, and had always a doctor under him, had frequently from 20 to 26 boarders in his house. The character of the school is now, perhaps, as high as ever it was; though, unfortunately for that branch of education, it is considered by the people at large as of less importance than it used to be. The rector's salary is 18 l.; his perquisites arise from births and marriages. The English teacher's salary is 10 l. His perquisites arise from testimonials and his salary as session-clerk. There are about 30 boys at the grammar school; at the English, about 70 scholars. At private hours they teach arithmetic, writing, book-keeping, mathematics, French, geography, &c. There is a school-mistress established here, who teaches all kinds of needle-work.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—There is one minister only. He has an assistant, whose salary is 40 l.; 15 l. of which  
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is paid out of the town's funds, 10 l. by session seats, and the rest by an annual contribution among the inhabitants. The minister's stipend, till 1785, was 7 chalders of victual, chiefly meal, and near 100 l. Scots. At that time he obtained an augmentation of 400 l. Scots. The glebe, originally about one acre and an half, has received an addition of six acres and an half. Irvine is the seat of the presbytery, which consists of 18 ministers, and belongs to the synod of Glasgow and Ayr. This synod meets at Irvine once every third year. There were many learned, grave, and pious ministers, (says Mr Warner, in his preface to Nisbet's Exposition on Ecclesiastes), who, in suffering times, being put from their own charges, came and resided in this place, especially during the times of Messrs Hutchison's and Stirling's ministry here. In the year 1662, Mr George Hutchison was silenced by the Parliament for not giving obedience to his bishop. By a subsequent act of the same year, he was banished from Edinburgh; and, upon passing the act of indulgence, he was appointed by the privy council to preach and exercise the other functions of the ministry at Irvine in 1669, where he died. He is the author of an Exposition on the book of Job, and on some of the minor prophets. They are works of considerable merit. Mr Dickson's works are well known: He was also a minister in Irvine. They were both of them men of eminent learning and abilities at that time, as was also their cotemporary Mr Nisbet, as appears from the honourable testimony which they and others have borne of him, and from his Exposition of Ecclesiastes, and the two Epistles of Peter. His epitaph, as wrote by one of his brethren, is in these words: '*Grande aliquid vultu nituit, gressuque decoro, grandius in magni dotibus ingenii.*' His grandson, Mr Alexander Nisbet, is still living in Irvine, a bachelor, and enjoys great health and spirits at the advanced age of 83.

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There is in this place a Relief Meeting-house; and, belonging to it, there are, as nearly as could be collected, about 240. The minister's stipend is 70 l. raised partly by subscription and partly by their ordinary collections.

*Buchanites.*—Upon the death of Mr Jack, first Relief minister in this place, that congregation made choice of Mr Whyte to be his successor. Mr Whyte being called to assist at the Sacrament in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, a Mrs Buchan had an opportunity of hearing him; and, captivated by his oratory, she communicated unto him by letter the flattering account of his being the first minister who as yet had spoken effectually to her heart; expressing, at the same time, a desire of visiting him at Irvine, that she might be further confirmed in the faith.

This letter he showed to some of his people who gave her a very welcome reception; and, from her heavenly conversation, and extraordinary gifts, they began to consider her as a very valuable acquisition to their party. Religion was the constant topic of her conversation: In all companies, and upon all occasions, she introduced it. Her time was wholly employed in visiting from house to house, in making family worship, solving doubts, answering questions, and expounding the Scriptures. Some of the congregation began to entertain suspicions of the orthodoxy of her principles, all of which had been implicitly imbibed by their minister. They expressed their dissatisfaction with his ministry, and desired him to dismiss her as a dangerous person. He refused to comply with their request: They threatened to libel him. He remained firm to her interest; and in this he was supported by some of the most wealthy of his hearers. They drew up a paper, containing what they supposed to be her principles



principles and his, and desired him to declare whether these were his principles. He acknowledged that they were, and readily subscribed them as such.

They carried the matter before their presbytery, who thought proper to *depose* him from the office of the ministry. He returned to Irvine, accompanied by his adherents, delivered up the keys of the church, and preached for some time in a tent, and afterwards in his own house.

The curiosity of the public was excited, and many frequented his meetings.—Strange accounts were given of their doctrine and manner of worship. They usually met in the night time, and were instructed by this pretended prophetess. She gave herself out to be the woman spoken of in the 12th chapter of the Revelation, and that Mr Whyte was the man-child she had brought forth. This, and some other ravings she uttered, drew upon her and her party the indignation of the populace. Idle people assembled at different times in a tumultuous manner, surrounded the house, broke the windows and furniture, and would have proceeded to greater extremities, had it not been for the interposition of the magistrates. After repeated applications from different members of the Relief congregation to have her apprehended, and proceeded against as a blasphemer, the magistrates thought it prudent to dismiss her from the place, which was accordingly done May 1784.

To protect the woman from insult, they accompanied her about a mile out of town; but, notwithstanding all their efforts, she was grossly insulted by the mob, thrown into ditches, and otherwise ill used by the way. She took up her residence that night, with some of her followers, in the neighbourhood of Kilmaurs; and, being joined by Mr Whyte and others in the morning, the whole company, about 40 in number, proceeded

ceeded on their way to Mauchline, and from thence to Cumnock and to Clofeburn, in Dumfries-shire, singing as they went, and saying that they were going to the New Jerufalem.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The climate here is much the same as in other places on the west coast, more mild and temperate than in higher and more inland parts of the country; the snow often lying on these when there is none here, and the frost severer and of longer continuance. The town, from its situation, being at the distance of one mile from the sea, and elevated above it, is reckoned very healthy.

No epidemical distempers, but such as are common in other places, prevail here.

For these last 17 years, the fever has appeared twice only. The first of these times it was neither of so bad a kind, nor so mortal, as in other places in the neighbourhood. In 1790 and 1791, it was general, and of long continuance, though not above 24 died of it. The *influenza*, as it was called, which raged in this country some years ago, was general here also, but of short continuance, and none of the inhabitants died of it. In the year 1760, many of the inhabitants of this place died of the bloody *flux*. The infection, it is said, was brought from Ireland. The most remarkable instances of longevity in this parish are, a man of the name of Grant, who died in the 105th year of his age; four of the same family, whose ages were as under; the father 92, his son 86, his grandson 83, his great-grandson 80. A woman died last year aged 103. Some are living, and in good health, 84 and upwards, one of 94.

No person belonging to this place has been tried for any capital crime these 40 years. Some have been banished the town for petty thefts, and other immoralities.

*Prisoners.*

*Prisoners.*—23 Persons were committed to prison during the last year; 12 of these for debt, most of them from the country; 5 for a riot in Saltcoats against the presbytery, who had gone there, at the request of the inhabitants, to inspect the state of the school-house. All of them stood trial before the Circuit Court at Ayr; four of them were found guilty; but, by an error in the verdict, were dismissed; two by law-burrows, two for riotous conduct, and two for petty crimes.

*Ancient Religious Orders.*—In this town there was a convent belonging to the Carmelite or White Friars. This order, as is well known, took its name from being originally placed in a monastery by the Patriarch of Antioch on Mount Carmel, about the year 1160. Being expelled thence in the 1238, they came into Europe; and, in the reign of Alexander III. into Scotland, where they had six convents besides the one at this town.

Though not the smallest vestige of the buildings now remain, several persons remember to have seen some fragments of its walls a little from the south corner of the present church-yard; and that piece of ground being now in my possession, I lately dug up part of their foundation. It stood near the brink of the river, which was a situation proper for the monks of that order, whose principal food consisted of fish; and, contiguous to the same spot there is a well, still called the Chapel Well.

That this friary was founded by the family of Fullarton is certain, but in what year cannot now be known, as there is reason to believe that the foundation charter is lost. It is, however, very probable that it was before the death of Alexander III. in the 1285, as the distracted state of the nation for many years after was very unfavourable for erections of this sort. The first authentic account that we find relative

to this convent, which, from its purport, may be supposed to be long after its foundation, is from a contract and indenture, dated at Irvine, 24th August 1399, between Reynald Fullarton of that ilk, and the provincial brethren and convent of the Carmelite Friars near Irvine, for the purpose of paying 40 merks \*, for meliorating and upholding the houses of the said convent, and for repairing the principal kirk and cloister; and they were thereby obliged, in all time coming, to pray weekly, on the Lord's day, or any other feast day, in the beginning of a mass at the great altar, with *an audible voice*, for the souls of Sir Adam, and Marjory his wife, and for Reynald, and Elizabeth his wife, and their heirs and successors, and for the souls of all the faithful deceased.

We are informed of some emoluments which belonged to this friary, from an act passed in the reign of James VI. which does much honour to the memory of that Prince. It ought therefore to be more particularly known, and should render the name of James dear to the inhabitants of this town. At a time when the church livings belonging to the Popish clergy were generally bestowed upon court parasites, we find this Monarch appropriating what was within the liberties of this burgh to a much more laudable purpose.

This act bears, that his Majesty had made a *perpetual* grant to the provost, bailies, counsellors, and community of the burgh of Irvine, and their successors, "of all and singular the lands, houses, buildings, churches, chaplainaries, orchards, gardens, crofts, annualrents, fruits, rents, profits, emoluments, farms, alms, anniversaries of deaths whatever," which any way pertained to any chaplainaries, alterages, and prebendaries within any church, chaplainary, or college, founded by any patrons of the same within the liberties of the said burgh

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\* 5 l. 11 s. 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  d. Sterling.

of Irvine : As also, of six bolls of multure belonging to the Carmelite order, all united into one tenement, to be called in time coming, *The King's foundation of the School of Irvine.*

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The town-house stands nearly in the middle of the street ; but the street at that place is of so great a breadth, that the building may be considered as no incumbrance. It is executed in a plain, substantial manner. In the ground-floor is the town-clerk's office, with a room for the meetings of council. The rest is appropriated to shops. Over the entry to the council chamber the town's arms are cut in stone, being a lion rampant-guardant, with a sword in one of his fore paws, and a scepter in the other. Motto,—*Tandem bona causa triumphat.* Higher up in the wall are also the British arms, very neatly cut in stone.

In the town there are two branches of banking-houses ; that of the Old Paisley Bank, and of the Ayr Bank. There is only one fair worth notice ; it is called the “Marrymas Fair,” which begins on the third Monday of August, and continues the whole week.

The principal commodities are linen, cloth, horses, wool, &c.—The bridge over the river of Irvine, being the road to the quay and to the town of Ayr, was rebuilt in 1748, and consists of four semicircular arches. It is too narrow for two carriages to pass each other. The tide flows about a quarter of a mile higher. There is one mill belonging to the town, and at a little distance from it, on the water of Annock. It pays, of yearly rent, about 60 l. The inhabitants are thirled to this mill, and pay 6 d. *per* boll for grinding oats and malt. The meal and flesh markets are on the north side of the street, a little to the east of the council-house. There is no public slaughter-house. The inhabitants pay one penny of toll for each cart of coals. Coals to the shore for exportation pay none.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF KIRKGUNZEON.

(*Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Presbytery of Dumfries.  
—Synod of Dumfries.*)

*By the Reverend Mr JAMES HERON.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of Kirkgunzeon is about five miles long, and three miles broad. Of old it belonged to the abbacy of Holm-Coltern, in Cumberland; but the people of that abbacy having taken part with the English against the Scots in the reign of David Bruce, the King forfeited their property in Scotland, and bestowed it by charter, dated at Dunfermline, the 7th of June 1369, on Sir John Herries of Terregles, who was brother to the Earl of Vendome in France, and who had come into Scotland with King David Bruce after his captivity in the year 1341, and assumed the name of Herries, from Herissons, or porcupines, which he bore in his arms, now quartered with the Maxwells of Nithsdale.

*Soil, Appearance, and Agriculture.*—The appearance of the country is rather hilly; but there is a good deal of fine flat land in the parish. Some of the hills are healthy, and fit for sheep only; others are green, and are both serviceable for tillage and feeding of black cattle. The low land is most-

ly of a very fertile nature; but, in general, much interrupted with small swamps, little stony hills, and large single stones, which renders the tillage difficult and irregular. Several of the farmers, however, are clearing away the stones, and turning them to the advantageous purpose of dividing their fields, in which laudable undertaking they are greatly encouraged by Mr Maxwell Constable of Nithsdale, who is proprietor of more than seven-eighths of the parish. This gentleman, if the tenant raises and leads the stones, allows him the price of the building, which may generally be computed to be more than one third of the whole expence. The tenant raising and leading the stones at his leisure times, does not feel the burthen; nor is his rent augmented by perpetual interest. It has likewise for some time been the practice of the proprietor of this estate to renew the leases about three years before they are out, which both prevents the tenants from using their farms in the same manner they might be inclined were they uncertain of remaining, and gives the landlord an opportunity of looking after the management of such as are to remove. There are other five properties in the parish; one of these is almost in a state of nature; the other four are well inclosed, subdivided, and interspersed with clumps and belts of planting. The farm of Lochend, in particular, on which a small distillery has lately been erected, is in the highest pitch of improvement, and shows, in a strong point of view, the effects of cultivation. This farm, a few years since, was not worth above one sixth of its present value. There have been good crops of wheat these two last years upon fields which were lately covered with heath and rushes. The number of acres in the parish are about 8000; those in rotation of crop about 3000; but it is not easy to say how much more may be arable, as considerable tracks of what can at present only be called pasture grounds, are breaking  
up

up every year. About 1200 acres are yearly in crop, which consists mostly of oats, barley, and potatoes; wheat, pease, and turnips, though there are a share of them also, not being general crops. It is probable, however, from some experiments lately made, that wheat will often be adopted in place of barley, especially where the soil is strong and heavy. A considerable quantity of shell marl has been found in the parish, but is mostly exhausted. The center of the parish being only five miles from a convenient sea-port, lime may be had from England at a reasonable rate. The tenants have not hitherto been much in use of sowing grass-feeds, but are now coming fast into practice. More clover has been sown in the parish this last year than for many former years all put together.

*Cattle and Sheep.*—There are about 200 horses in the parish, young ones not fit for service being included. There are about 2000 black cattle, and upwards of 2000 sheep, of the black faced Scots breed, which are kept upon the hills, and whose fleeces, at an average, do not weigh more than three pounds English. A few sheep of the Yorkshire and Northumberland breed, kept on the low lands, produce fleeces which weigh from six to ten pounds English each, of excellent wool. Some singular sheep produce a great deal more. These sheep do not thrive upon the hills; nor are the hill-sheep any thing improved by being crossed with the English rams. The late John Dalziel of Barncross, a gentleman who bestowed great pains in improving the breed of black cattle and sheep in this country, tried the experiment in a farm he possessed in this parish; but it had a very different effect from what he expected. The wool of the brood of these English rams was coarse and shaggy, and the sheep themselves ill-shaped and unhardy.

*Rent*



*Rent and Productions.*—The whole rent of the parish does not yet amount to 2000 l. Sterling; but any farms that have been lately out of lease, have been raised one third. The number of farms are about 50. None are under 5 l. or more than 100 l. of yearly rent. The average rent of the arable or pasture ground cannot be easily ascertained. As some of the best grounds are either in the possession of the proprietors, or are let by the lump; but according to the rate of the country, the arable might let from more than 1 l. to less than 5 s.; the pasture from 5 s. to 1 s.; the meadows, of which there are a considerable proportion, are mostly valued at 1 l. *per acre*. The staple commodities of the parish are black cattle and oat meal, the former bought up for the English markets, the latter for the manufacturing towns in the west of Scotland. Liverpool and Whitehaven afford a ready market for barley, and whatever other articles the parish produces, such as mutton, wool, pork, butter, cheese, poultry, &c. are generally sold at Dumfries, which is 9 miles distant. The principal fuel is peats, of which there are abundance. English coal may be had at much the same price as in Dumfries.

*Roads.*—The principal road, which divides the parish in almost equal parts, was made by the commutation money, and is in good repair; as also two bridges upon it, that were built at the expence of the county. The more private roads are improving yearly. The statute labour, while it continued, was of little effect. There has lately been some proposals of bringing the great road from London to Portpatrick through this parish; should this ever take place, it would prevent many disagreeable pulls, that cannot otherwise be avoided; but in this case there would be 7 or 8 miles of entire

the new road to make, and a new bridge to be built over the Urr, which might cost 500 l. or 600 l.

*Population.*—The number of souls in this parish was, in 1755, 489; at present the number is 520; the number of inhabited houses is 103; there are 7 more males than females. There are two men of 90 years old, and several of 80 and upwards. The average of births, for the last 5 years, has been 18; of marriages, 3; of deaths, 10.

*Diseases.*—Of diseases, slow rheumatic fevers are the most prevalent, but very few die of them. The small-pox, when they attack in the natural way, are the most destructive; were inoculation more generally in practice, many lives might, in all probability, be saved. Besides those that were inoculated in this parish by medical gentlemen in the year 1788, the minister inoculated about 50 of the children of his parishioners, all of whom did well and recovered, without ever having the least appearance of danger; besides 40 more last winter, with equal success.

*Church and School.*—The patronage of the parish belongs to the family of Nithsdale; but that family being of the Romish persuasion, John Maxwell of Terraghty, who is Protestant, and male representative of the family, is by them vested with the right of presentation. The stipend is 70 l. in money. The glebe contains near 11 acres of very good land, lately inclosed and subdivided. The manse was built about 40 years ago, is in decent repair, and pleasantly situated in a small valley, which is intersected by a fine trouting river. The offices have been built about 5 years, and are very complete. The church, which has originally been a Romish chapel, is almost in a state of ruin; but is proposed  
shortly

shortly to be rebuilt. The roof, which is of a peculiar construction, is said to have been formed at Holmcultern in Cumberland, and brought hither when the parish of Kirkgunzeon belonged to the Abbey. There is, properly speaking, but one school in the parish. The school and schoolmaster's house were built at the expence of the heritors. The salary is 11 l. Sterling.

*Ancient Buildings.*—There are three ancient buildings in the parish, Barclosh, Corrah, and Drumcultran. Barclosh is said to have been one of the seats of the family of Herries, but there are no records when it was built; it seems to have been a place of refuge, defended more by nature than by art, being remote and inaccessible. The Corrah, which has been both a large building and a place of considerable strength, was built by Sir John Maxwell, brother to the Earl of Nithsdale, who married Agnes, eldest daughter of William Lord Herries, and by her got the estate and titles of Terregles. This was the Lord Herries who was so eminent in the reign of Queen Mary, and who, though he was a loyal subject to her Majesty, was yet a reformer, and caused unroof both the abbeys of Sweetheart and Dundrennan. Besides the Corrah, he also built Moscrops Tower at Terregles, which has lately been taken down, and a princely mansion erected in its room. Lord Herries was succeeded, in his estate and titles, by his son William, who, it is probable, had resided some time at the Corrah, as a pigeon-cote, built in the year 1583, was inscribed with his name, and the name of his lady Katharine Kerr. The Corrah was afterwards inhabited by Mr Maxwell of Breconfide, a connection of the family, who was one of 29 children by the same mother, who was first married to Gordon of Lochenvar, whose two eldest sons were

were the first Lords of Kenmure, and who, alongft with Mr Maxwell of Breconfide, juft now mentioned, were fupposed to be the handfomeft and ftrongelt men in the county. A part of the Corrah is now poffeffed as a farm houfe; the greateft part has been taken down, and houfes built with the materials. In one of the apartments which remain, there is an old oaken bed, faid to be the nurfery bed of the family, which is yet almoft entire, curioufly carved and figured, and is a piece of great antiquity. The Tower of Drumcultran is not fo very ancient as to deferve any particular defcription; nor are there any remarkable antiquities, unlefs the veftiges of three Roman camps, and a Druidical temple, fhould be mentioned. Thefe things are very common in this part of the country, and do not feem to claim any farther attention.

## N U M B E R XIX.

## P A R I S H O F N I G G .

(*County of Kincardine.—Presbytery and Synod of Aberdeen.*)

*By the Reverend Mr DAVID CRUDEN.*

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*Situation, Form, &c.*

**T**HAT chain of mountains, which nearly divides Scotland, called the Grampians, may be considered as terminating at the German Ocean, in this parish. It forms also the north-east point of the county of Kincardine. It is attached to the commissariat of St. Andrew's, but belongs to the presbytery and synod of Aberdeen. In shape it is a peninsula. The word Nigg is said to mean, in Celtic, a peninsula. A parish in Roxshire, which is also named Nigg, is of the same form with this. On the north-east, the land turning into a neck or head-land, runs out into the sea called the Girdleness, round to the Bay of Aberdeen; on the north-west, it is washed by the tide in Aberdeen harbour and the river Dee; and on the south-west, bounded by the parish of Banchory Devenick. It presents to the sea a bold face of rock, from 60 to 80 feet high, covered with green; then a rising bank, arable from the top of the rock to some distance, increasing towards the southern extremity; and above, an ascending heathy ridge of hill, about 200 feet above the sea, going through the whole length of the parish, and crowned with

with two cairns, which are seen several leagues off, and direct those who sail near the coast. The north side of the parish consists of two haughs, on the river and the side of a hill, ending in the Girdlenefs, and of a valley and hill beneath the heathy ridge. Though a part of the soil be clayish, the far greater part is loamy, of various depth, and on different bottoms, in some places incumbered with stones. The haughs, the valley, and sides of the two hills, to the north, are arable. The bank to the south is in good part ploughed. A broad belt, of above a mile, more and less, throughout the middle, and the whole length of the parish, with the exception of some acres lately cultivated, is unarable and uninhabited, consisting of moss and of heath, strewed with many stones. The measures of the different kinds of ground \*, are, infield, 526 acres 2 roods 7 falls; outfield, 577 acres 2 roods 26 falls; pasture, 584 acres 5 falls; moor, 1483 acres 2 roods 1 fall; moss, 203 acres 3 roods 35 falls; total, 3375 acres 2 roods 34 falls. The infield, or croft, is ground continually in tillage, and regularly manured.—The outfield is ground which is never manured, but ploughed occasionally from pasture grafs.

*Coast.*—A mile from the south-west boundary. There is a natural harbour, with very little artificial help, the cove, fit for boats, which accommodates the fishermen of a village lying above it, and sometimes affords refuge to others: For northward of the port of Aberdeen, for several leagues, is a sand beach, and that port being formed by a river, has often a surge rising quickly at its mouth, by the wind blowing in shore, dangerous to boats; here, therefore, they have often  
found

\* A map of Kincardineshire was published by Mr William Gordon, 1774. A survey of the parish of Nigg was made by Mr George Brown, 1777.

found safety. From this place, though there be several indented hollows along the coast, and though an attempt was lately made, by a small pier, to fit one of them to receive boats, there is no harbour for them 4 miles round, till they come to Aberdeen.

The latitude is 57 deg. 9 min. north; the longitude is 2 deg. 9 min. west. In time of war a flag is hoisted on a staff half a mile from the point, on the most raised eminence, as a signal, when an enemy's ship is in the offing. There is free open sea along this coast. The water rises, at spring tides, 13 feet; and the height of the stream is at 45 minutes past noon, at full and change. The tide of flood runs south-west and by south; that of ebb, north-east half north, and at the rate of 3 and 4 knots in the hour. The variation of the compass is 25 degrees west, and has increased a degree within these 7 years. From 6 and 8 fathoms at the rock foot, the bottom deepens, shelving off shore, with sandy, rocky, and various ground, and sometimes rising, till it sinks to 90 fathoms, at the distance of 10 or 11 leagues from land; then it ascends on the fishing bank, the Long Forties, to 33, 34, or 35 fathoms, a few leagues over, until it falls into the depth of the north sea.

*Rivers, Lakes, &c.*—The Dee, which forms the harbour of Aberdeen, after a course pretty much north-east, of 80 miles, falls here into the sea. On this side of the harbour is Torry Pier, where vessels come to unload lime, and take in cargoes of stones; above which lie the boats of the fishermen, serving also as pilots, who inhabit the village of Torry. The tide flows more than two miles farther up the river, to a bridge over it, and even to the boundary of the parish; but there is no navigation up the stream, except for boats and lighters about a mile, on account of the shallows in it. The  
Dee

Dee is a clear rapid river, flowing mostly through gravelly soil, favourable to natural wood, and sometimes rises to overflow the haughs, carry off part of the mould, and sweep away corns. The upper haugh in this parish is a little exposed, and in autumn 1768 suffered. One lake, the Loch of Lorstown, is on the south-west boundary, oblong in form, covering 27 acres, and supplying water to the only mill here. There is also one chalybeat spring, though not frequented for any diseases; but springs of fine water abound.

*Face of the Country, &c.*—Being destitute of wood, the face of the country is naked. In the last age, a grove seems to have been by the harbour mouth to the edge of the water. And besides many remains of oak dug out of the moss, stumps of trees, which must have been one and a half, and two feet diameter, still stand on the east side of it, above ground. Fine grass, mingled with many herbs, grows early on the sea banks, and rock top, almost ever-green from the spray and dews. Through the large uncultivated, and, for the most part, uncultivable space of this parish, a low heath is spread. The sea-side and hill pasture is reckoned good and wholesome for sheep, and almost never is covered to any depth with snow. The corn fields are liable to the common weeds, especially to skelloch, (mostly wild mustard), for which, to sow late after ploughing, when the plant is risen up, and may be destroyed by harrowing, has been tried with success.

Many stones of the granite kind lie on the surface, which, with those taken from the rock by the sea, and under ground, are some of a beautiful bluish, and others of a purple and various hue. They supply abundant materials for building and inclosing. Several species here, from the attraction of the magnet, seem to be volcanic; so are others in the hills far  
up



up the Dee. If this experiment is a certain indication, in what condition must this country have once been?

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air is healthy: Along the coast it is fresh, and, from the influence of the sea, to the sense colder; yet the frost is less intense, snow continues shorter time, and the crop ripens sooner than in places a little inland. The east wind brings a moisture, and sometimes, particularly in the month of May, mists come off the sea; but the climate cannot be called damp; rather, from the moderate quantity of rain which falls upon this east coast, perhaps about 27 inches annually, from the light, loamy, sandy soil, absorbing it soon, and from the frequent breezes, it may be reckoned dry. This allows grain to be sown pretty early; oats, from the middle of march, and bear, from the middle of April; potatoes are planted in April; turnip is sown from the beginning of June. The crop ripens in general soon. In this sea air, iron is soon corroded. It brings also on the surface of many bodies, especially in a northern and eastern exposure, a fog, or green species of moss. To the growth of timber and fruit it seems unfavourable, at least till shelter be acquired. No diseases of an epidemic nature prevail here, except brought by contagion. Agues are unknown. The small-pox, for which inoculation is not used, once in a few years spreads, especially among the fisher families, whose communication with one another is open, and carries off sometimes many children. From the more sedentary life of women now, at knitting stockings, hysteric complaints are thought frequent. The inhabitants live to a moderate age. The fishermen are very little subject to diseases through mid-life; but exposed, from their occupation, to disasters. Of 30 men in boats at the Cove, within 3 years 9 have perished.

*Ancient Population, and State.*—From the end of the last century to the middle of the present, the population of this parish was about one fourth greater than now. The country was also filled with the cattle of 17 ploughs, 10 and 12 to the plough, and covered with above 2000 sheep. From about the year 1740, the population has declined to the year 1786. The cattle were reduced, rapidly near the last period, to scarce one plough; and there remained not one sheep. The causes of this depopulation seem to have been these: The drain of men, principally to the fleet, in the different wars; an increasing turn to the sea-faring life, to handicrafts, and manufactures; from a prohibition, and the moor being nigh exhausted, the occupation of preparing and carrying fuel to Aberdeen stopped. The new mode of agriculture contributed here to the same general effect. The tenants found, with the ideas of inclosing and green crops, their sheep disturbed; and they put flocks of them away. The prospect of a division of the parish, which almost wholly lay in run ridge, and the short, uncertain leases in view to it, led them to put away the remainder, to give up their oxen, and to plough on their fields with horses, deprived of the dung of cattle and sheep, the wet grounds being turned low, or neglected.

*Division of the Parish, and Improvements.*—From the abbacy of Arbroath, to which this parish belonged, one half of it, alternate ridge, came to a predecessor of Mr John Menzies of Pitfoddels, who now possesses it. The town of Aberdeen holds the other half, purchased with monies mortified principally for promoting education and religious instruction. That community has also some property, which had remained separate. By the arbitration of two gentlemen, the parish was divided in 1786, the town of Aberdeen obtaining the  
fide

side along the lower part of the harbour, and round the coast, and Mr Menzies that up the river, and inland. He has now let his grounds in the following manner: Divided into small lots, from 10 l. to 30 l. some of which are taken in lease together, and some even subdivided. The tenants are obliged to do something in inclosing them, and to keep part in grass and green crop. As an incitement to meliorate the land, the rent rises a little at the end of 9, and again at the end of 19 years; while the temptation to exhaust it is removed by the uncertain term of a lifetime to which the lease extends beyond the last period. The town-council of Aberdeen have feued out their share in nine moderate lots, from about 30 l. to 90 l. each. By becoming private property, a new spur is given to render it more valuable. Accordingly, every feuer has made some progress in improving his ground; and some of them, by building stone-fences, draining and dressing the surface, as well as by laying on lime, and erecting farm-houses and steddings, have done much to change the face of their property. Indeed, a spirit of industry and improvement has gone out, and reached the lowest cottager. Multures and embarrassing services are abolished. Part of the formerly plowed land is regaining. Oxen are brought in, and reared of a larger size. Cows are kept to a greater number than ever; and some sheep are introduced. The population has increased from new families coming in, and from the settlement which has taken place. The people who, in 1787, were 1024, are now 1090. They are also becoming better accommodated. Within the space of a few years, 70 houses have been built in a substantial manner, and suitable for the different possessors, at the expense of above 1200 l.

*Cultivation.*—Carts, introduced here about 30 years since,  
are

are universally used ; and, in these rising grounds, drawn by two horses. The best form of other implements of husbandry, and best modes of agriculture, and rotation of crops, are only beginning to be understood and tried.

*Manures.*—To animal dung and ashes, that manure produced in the fishing villages, from the mixture of all oily and fishy substances, is used. It favours bear and green crops ; but, when used much, renders the soil unfit for producing oats. Hence that soil is called *poisoned land*. Another manure is ware and sea-weed. It is brought to land in the Bay of Nigg, and at the mouth of the harbour principally, after an agitation of the sea, when the wind blows in points from the north, round by the west, to the south ; that is, blows from the land ; so that the breeze which would carry a body out to sea on its surface, brings this substance, at the bottom, or swimming in it, in a contrary direction, on shore, an object suggesting the manner of the internal motion of water agitated by wind\*. This ware is of three kinds, obtained at different seasons. The first is the green flake, which grows in the river, is washed down by the summer floods, and is brought ashore at the harbour-mouth. The second kind is composed of various marine plants torn from the rocks by the storms, and driven to land, from the end of harvest throughout winter. The last is the top of the carn tangle, (*fucus digitatus* supposed), which that plant throws, commonly in the end of May, or sometimes later, especially with rains or motion of the sea, and is carried to shore. The sea-weed produces a crop of bear, a little inferior in

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\* In the same manner, the wind in the points from the east draws into the sea the sand, covering stones on a shelving bank when it blows an easterly storm, while it brings wreck wood, on the surface, ashore.

quality. It favours the growth and taste of esculent herbs. Lime is purchased about 2s. the boll, Scotch, and 2s. 7d. English, unflaked, nearly  $7\frac{2}{3}$  cubic feet measure; yielding, the first, 2 bolls fully, the other near three bolls flaked lime, and is used in different quantities with success.

*Crop 1790.*—The proportions of the different kinds of grain sown, and roots and grafs, with their probable produce, and the manner in which they are disposed, are these :

362 Acres in oats, may be computed to have produced 5 bolls the acre, the produce, or an equivalent, and much more being consumed by the people.

169 Acres in bear, may have produced 7 bolls the acre, of which a part is made into meal for use, and one half may be sold to the breweries and distilleries.

18 Acres in pease, may have produced 4 bolls the acre, partly consumed, and partly sold.

54 Acres in potatoes, yielded about 30 bolls the acre, 512 pounds Amsterdam in the boll, a large share of which is consumed within the parish, and 600 or 700 bolls are carried to Aberdeen market, or exported.

70 Acres in turnip and in rye grafs, and red and white clover.

114 Acres, part of which is cut for hay, produced food, with the pasture, and various fodder, for 46 working oxen, 230 cows, and the young cattle; the milk of the cows being used in families, employed for rearing calves for breed or sale, and sold in the fishing villages, or without the parish. Few cattle are fed for market. The hill-pasture, along with the cattle, had only 209 sheep, and 12 goats. From the crop also was the support of 87 horses, almost all for the draught. The ploughs wrought by them and cattle are 33, the wains 5, and carts and carriages for stones 69.

*Causeway*

*Causeway Stones.*—Oblong roundish pebbles, from 6 to 12 inches in length, are brought by sea and land carriage from the sea-shore, and are exported to different places in England for ordinary causeways. The collecting and carriage of a ton may be 1 s. 8 d.; and the quantity exported annually 400 tons.

In 1766, the granite quarries by the sea and in the hills were opened for making causeway stones to pave some streets in London. This granite is of a remarkably close texture, and of great hardness. To this new work 600 men were collected from different places. It led many families to settle for a time in the parish, and employed some horses in drawing the stones, where water conveyance could not be obtained. Decreasing rapidly from 1772, it now engages only 17 inhabitants, with a few strangers. The shape of the formed stone is something wedge-like, 12 inches long in the head, 6 broad, and 9 deep, being 2 inches lessened in length and in breadth on the base: The smaller in similar proportions. The ton may be made by a man in two days, costs 2 s. 6 d. besides the expence of powder and tools; and will pave, according to the size of the stones, from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to 5 square yards. 3000 Tons are now annually exported to London, Maidstone, Ramsgate, and other places. The cubic foot weighs 151 pounds. This new and heavy employment required and introduced a better breed of horses. The wages were at first too high; so that a man gained 18 s. and 20 s. in a week, which did him no good. Except by a few individuals, all was spent.

*Fisheries and Salmon Fishers.*—The salmon fishers, 23 in number, almost all of whom have pieces of ground, are engaged in fishing the river and the sea adjacent, and are employed at vacant hours diligently in cultivating the land.

The

The manner of their general payment is favourable to economy and exertion. A man has commonly so many bolls of meal, money to purchase boots, a fee, and a premium on the quantity of fish caught. According to the length of time he is engaged, and the success of the fishing, he may gain from 5 l. to 15 l. in the season.

*White Fishers.*—A greater number is employed in the white fishing, or that for different kinds of fish in the sea. In the villages of Cove, 24 men in 4 boats, besides 14 young and aged in yauls, are occupied in this manner. In the only other village, of Torry, 36 men are in 6 boats, fishers, and acting as pilots; and 9 in youth or age, go to sea occasionally in yauls; in whole 83. The ordinary fare of pilotage is 6s. The round of fishing through the year, and different manner of it, some particulars of which are applicable to the east coast of Scotland, are these:

In January the haddock has roe, is in good condition, and ordinarily comes on the coast in squalls. Towards March, the small flat fish, salt fluke, and plaise, are in their prime on the sand bottom. After May, the haddock recruited, and the whiting good, are taken in moderate quantities, and a few turbot. From November, the cod, in best state, is caught on the rocky ground. This is the fishing with the *small line*, and takes place at different distances, but commonly not far from land. The quantity of line found sufficient for a man to manage at sea and shore, contains 36 scores, 720 hooks, (in summer a few more), one yard distant from each other, on snoods of horse hair, value 15 s.—The next fishing is with the *dog line*. In August frequently the sea-dog, that voracious fish, consuming all before it, comes to 4 and 3 leagues from shore, sometimes nearer, and is taken in considerable quantities; 20 yielding, when good, one Scotch

pint

pint of oil (10 d. or 1 s.) from the liver; and the fish being sold to country people, or dried for use. A stronger line, with larger hooks, for this fishing, contains 24 scores, 480 $\frac{1}{2}$  yard distant, and costs 10 s.—The last fishing is with the *great line*. From March or April, as the weather permits, it commences. After catching small fish for bait, the fishermen go off farther into the sea, to two and several more leagues from shore, to find the larger species. The ling is first in good state, then the hollobut, (here called turbot), and afterwards the skate in May and June. Large cod, called keilling, are also got in spring and summer. The line for all these is of considerable strength, and contains, at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms distance from each other, on snoods of one fathom, 3 scores, 60 large hooks, in value 25 s.—For the small fish they use a yaul 17 feet long, 7 l. value, dividing sometimes for despatch into two parties, and taking in a young or old man when they go short way from shore. But to the dog-fishing they use a boat 23 feet long, by 9 fully wide, with 2 small masts and sails, 15 l. in value, and have 6 men. In this slender vessel, in which they seek the larger fish towards summer, they venture off, with compass, to the bank, 14 or 15 leagues from land, and draw their lines twice or thrice before they return.

From the statement it appears, a fisherman needs only 2 l. 10 s. for lines; and this small outset, sometimes less, enables him, at the age of 19 or 20, to gain bread as well as his father, and therefore to marry and raise a family, which soon he generally does.

The bait for the small fish is the limpet, gathered usually by the children from the rocks; the sand eel, dug out of the sand, or caught behind the meshes of a net by baskets; a worm got in the sand, *lug*; some offals from the butcher-market salted, and the muscle. They go to Montrose, some  
of



of them twice or thrice in the summer, and bring a loading of the boat, at the expence of above 2 l. to each crew, at every time. The muscles, cast upon the rock where the tide overflows, hold if the weather be settled, and remain till used. If a storm prevents them catching hold, and after they are expended, it costs a fisherman from 3 d. to 8 d. for others each time he goes to sea; and this often in the winter, when the fishing of January failing, as it has done these several years, he will not gain more than their value. The division of the catch is one equal share to a man, after a seventh for the boat. The fish are carried to Aberdeen market, where they bring a price double what it was 30 years since, but variable with the quality, the rareness, and quantity.

*Shell Fish.*—About four years ago, a new method was brought in at the Cove for catching the lobster, which is good in spring, and the crab, which becomes so in summer. A basket, 5 feet long, 2 feet wide, nearly a cylinder, cutting a good section off for a base, is formed of plain wood, in flits, for the bottom, and of hoops for the curve, netted over. From the ends the net-work is wrought inward into a narrow entrance for the fish, bait being hung within to entice it. It is sunk with a weight, having a rope and buoy. The crab enters, falls down, and cannot get out. To the effect of this simple machine, which costs 10 s. 6 d. they attribute the cloathing of their families after the hardships of 1783, and some following years. That for lobsters is of less size, and sunk near the rock foot. From 12 at night, in summer, to several hours into morning, the fisherman goes out to sea, lays his line at dawn, which is the best time for the fishing, at slack of ebb or flow, when the current of tide does not impede, and returns with his catch. Then he draws his *creels* for shell-fish. The woman, who has been from 3 or 4 o'clock

o'clock carrying home fuel, or engaged at the rocks, bears the fish to market, 5 miles distance to some, and comes back to household affairs. A boy or girl, from 10, 12, to 14 years of age, has been employed in gathering bait. After the necessary expences of bait and lines, a man in this hazardous manner of life, with his wife and child, has gained in these seven past unfavourable years, scarce 10 l. annually. During some later months of winter, the subsistence of the family has depended much on the work of the females. Since the commencement of the American and French war 1778, 24 men have been impressed or entered to serve their country in the fleet from the fisher families. In these late armaments, their fishing has been interrupted from fear of their young men being seized; and to procure 10 men, instead of one from each boat, who have been demanded from them, the crews have paid 106 l. 14 s. which exhausted the substance of some families, and hung long a debt on others.

*Marine Plants.*—To help their maintenance, the fisherwomen at times, and also some women of the country, from the beginning of summer, go to the rocks at low tide, and gather the *fucus palmatus*, dulce; *fucus esculentus*, badderlock; and *fucus pinnatifidus*, pepper dulce, which are relished in this part of the country, and sell them.

*Kelp.*—The sea-ware, or bladder-fucus, grows up in three years on the rocks round the Nefs and Bay chiefly, to a condition for being cut, dried, and burned into kelp. In 1791, 11 tons, of a fine quality, were made by 33 women, mostly young women, at 8 d. per day, with the direction of an overseer.

*Manufacture.*—The whole female part of the parish, when

not

not occupied by these engagements, or harvest, the mols, and domestic affairs, work at knitting woollen stockings, the materials of which they generally receive from manufacturers in Aberdeen. The work of the few tradesmen and others, is chiefly for the accommodation of the people.

The male children of the land people, from 9 and 10 years old, often herd cattle in summer, and those of all attend school in winter. The female children learn still earlier to knit and to read.

*Population.*—Births, at an average, for 17 years, from 1675 to 1691, - - - - - 44 $\frac{1}{2}$

————— for 9 years, from 1748 to 1756, - 39 $\frac{5}{8}$

————— for 9 years, from 1783 to 1791, - 30 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the last period, proportion of males to females, 15 to 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ .

Average of marriages for 8 years of last period\*, 10. By Dr Webster's list, in 1755, the numbers were rated at 1289 souls. In 1791, souls 1090.

Number and proportion of males to females, at different periods of life.

|                                    | Male. | Fem. | Excess.  | Tot. |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|----------|------|
| In 2 villages, to 10 years of age, | 62    | 50   | 12 males | 112  |
| ————— to 20 —————                  | 55    | 58   | 3 fem.   | 113  |
| ————— to 50 —————                  | 73    | 101  | 28 fem.  | 174  |
| ————— to 70 —————                  | 30    | 37   | 7 fem.   | 67   |
| ————— Above,                       | 14    | 20   | 6 fem.   | 34   |
| Carried over,                      |       |      |          |      |
| Total,                             | 234   | 266  |          | 500  |

\* Marriages being registered frequently in the parish where the woman resides, renders the view of them fallacious, except a district, wherein they all may have been, is taken in.

|                                     | Male. | Fem. | Excess. | Tot. |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Brought over,                       | 234   | 266  |         | 500  |
| In the country, to 10 years of age, | 59    | 71   | 12 fem. | 130  |
| ————— to 20 —————                   | 56    | 74   | 18 fem. | 130  |
| ————— to 50 —————                   | 89    | 130  | 41 fem. | 219  |
| ————— to 70 —————                   | 39    | 39   | —       | 78   |
| ————— Above,                        | 20    | 13   | 7 males | 33   |
| In whole,                           | 497   | 593  | 96 fem. | 1090 |

The families, who may be looked upon as having completed their number, have had children by present or former marriages :

57 land families, 405 children, nearly  $7\frac{1}{8}$  each.

42 fisher families, 314 children, nearly  $7\frac{1}{2}$  each.

Land families, or pairs of country people married who have had no children, 7; fisher families, who have had no children, 0. Males married, 203; unmarried, from 20 years of age, 51; widowers, 9; widows, of whom 8 had their husbands drowned, 52; 1090 persons are in 265 houses, nearly  $4\frac{1}{3}$  to each house. In 3375 acres, the population is  $162\frac{2}{3}$  fully in the square mile.

*Division.*—Two heritors not resident. Several feuers of houses in Torry and small pieces of ground, some resident, others not; 5 feuers of considerable lots of ground, 2 resident, 2 partly, 1 not.

|                                                 |   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|----|
| Persons farming land, from 30 l. to 40 l. rent, | - | 8  |
| ————— ditto not resident,                       | - | 2  |
| ————— ditto from 8 l. to 20 l. rent,            |   | 18 |

Cottagers, 12; overseers and cottar servants, 9; male servants, 51; female servants, 51; salmon fishers, 23; sea fishers, old and young, 83; labourers, 47; quarriers, 17; masons, 2; dykers, 3; butchers partly, 3; shopkeepers, 2

or 3; taylors, 3; blacksmiths, 4; shoe and harnes-makers, 2; carpenters, 3; seamen, 4; ferrymen, 2; custom-house officers, 2; cartwright, 1; house-carpenter, 1; miller, 1. One minister, 2 schoolmasters, one a student of divinity. Seceders, above 18 years of age, 13; Episcopalians, 13; Roman Catholics, 8; and some who go seldom to any place of worship.

Among the land people, there has been a great migration, mostly down the country towards the coasts; very little among the fishers. No land man becomes a fisher. From this place, some go to learn handicrafts, to manufactures, and abroad. Since 1778, 70 have been, for a longer or shorter time, sailors; 44 have served in the fleet. Several natives have applied to ship-building and commerce, with spirit and success. None attach themselves to studious engagements.

*Rent.*—The valued rent is 1562 l. 6 s. Scots; the real rent, about 900 l. Sterling. Rent of houses, and fued land in Torry, is about 90 l. Land, on the side near Aberdeen, is let from 2 l. 12 s. 6 d. *per* acre downward; for potatoes, ploughed, with a little assistance of carriage, for a crop at 6 l. at a medium through the parish, at 20 s.; poor ground lower.

*Roads.*—Since the division of the parish, many lines of road have been formed, at the expence of the feuers, and with the statute labour; but none substantially completed.

*Fuel.*—By peat from some remainder of moss, and from mosses in the parish of Banchory Devenick, with some turf, and a few coals, the people are expensively served.

*Alehouses.*—There are 8 or 9 alehouses; too many:—but the passages over the river at the ferry and bridge occasion  
some;

some; and that ale constitutes a part of the diet of a fisherman, requires others.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The crown is patron. The church, anciently called St. Fiacer Church, and the north-eastmost house of the parish, was built before this century, and is decent. The manse was built 1759. The stipend, consisting of 52 bolls bear and meal, together with the money and allowance for communion elements, may be reckoned 80 l. The glebe of 10 acres inclosed, 18 l. The schoolmaster has a salary of 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. as session clerk and precentor, 2 l.; and with perquisites and dues of teaching, 1 s. 6 d. for English, and 2 s. for writing and arithmetic, may complete 20 l. He is accommodated with a school-house and garden. A schoolmaster at the Cove, 3 miles distant from the parochial school, has the same accommodation, with a small gratuity. Above 70 are taught, besides some by women.

*Poor.*—The number of those requiring stated help, or occasional supply, is 25, none of whom beg, except one who is above 80, goes a little about, from habit. The funds for their supply are, interest of 50 l. of which 27 l. 15 s. 6 d. was left to the poor by the Rev. Mr Richard Maitland, who, after being 40 years Episcopal minister here, was ejected, 1716,

|                                                                         |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                         | L. 2 10 0 |
| Weekly collections, above 5 s. each week, -                             | 12 7 0    |
| Collections at the communion, - -                                       | 5 4 5     |
| Seat rents of a gallery built with the poor's money, 4                  | 12 7      |
| For the use of the mort-cloth, and other sources of<br>charity, - - - - | 6 18 0    |

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L 31 12 0

After payment of the session-clerk, officer, and some other small

small burdens, this sum is distributed among the poor, who are satisfied. They understand their effects, at death, to belong to the funds; but this is rather a preventive of improper application, than any source of emolument, there being seldom occasion to demand hoarded substance from relations. In 1783, by the exertions of charity within the parish, with a small allowance of meal from government, the poor were supplied, and some families extraordinarily helped, without encroachment on the funds. That season increased the spirit of industry, repressed intemperance, and introduced, by importation, some new and earlier kinds of oats into this country.—In 1787, three fishermen, lost off the Cove, left widows, children, and depending relatives, for whom, besides the collections in this and the neighbouring parish, a subscription was opened in Aberdeen, and, from the generous humanity of persons there, and some others, near 60 l. were contributed. In 1790, 6 men perished, leaving 5 widows and 25 children, one half helpless, for whom, by the heritors, by collections in the nearest parishes, and principally in Aberdeen, above 131 l. were contributed. Both these sums, under the management of some gentlemen, do afford an aid half yearly to the poor families; and the children are taught and inured to industry, promising to fill the place of their fathers in an useful, and not easily supplied employment. In view to the helpless condition of a fisherman in old age, any savings through life being almost unknown to him, in 1772 a plan was proposed to the fishers in Torry, to give in 2 s. 6 d. each, and 1 s. annually; some captains of ships, and others, adding a little gratuitously. There was an odd 2 d. in the division of their pilotage fare, which they added. By the attention of some gentlemen, natives of this place, the money, allowed to accumulate on interest, without distribution, for 10 years, has risen to 170 l. and 11 l. are annually divided;

ed; 10s. to each old man, and 7s. 1d. to each widow, every half year. The odd 2d. formerly kept for a drink to the crew, has been the principal source of increase; the means of a little enjoyment, perhaps of intemperance, becoming the supply of indigence. A similar institution has been commenced lately at the Cove.

*Customs.*—In the month of May, many of the lower ranks from around the adjacent city, come to drink of a well in the Bay of Nigg, called Downy-well; and proceeding a little farther, go over a narrow pass, *The Brigg of ae Hair* \*, to Downy-hill, a green island in the sea, where young people cut their favourites names in the sward. It seems to be the remains of some superstitious respect to the fountain, and retreat of a reputed saint, gone into an innocent amusement. The Bay, from the corruption probably of his name, was formerly called San Fittick's Bay †. On the sudden death of their relations, or fear of it, by the sea turning dangerous, the fisher people, especially the females, express their sorrow by exclamation of voice, and gesture of body, like the eastern nations, and those in early state of civilization.

*Antiquities.*—Whatever purpose cairns may have served, the two principal ones here could have answered well for watch towers, and kindling fires on them to advertise the country, on the approach of hostile ships.

A few years ago, in removing the green sod of the eastmost of 4 small conical hills, above the inner entrance of the harbour, there was found a broad covering stone, two side stones above two feet long, and two end stones shorter, without mark of instrument,

\* Bridge of one hair.

† Sanctus Fitticus, or Monfutucus, perhaps.



instrument, and within them an urn 6 inches high, formed of dark baked earth, with a yellowish crust, figured simply. Lately the remaining ruins of an edifice, belonging to the Abbey of Arbroath, were dug up, on the upper part of the harbour. A burial ground was nigh. Silver pieces, struck on Queen Mary's marriage, 1559, and others, were found. It retains the name of Abbot's Walls.

*Disadvantages.*—On the northern part of the bank, above the sea, and facing it, in the beginning of harvest, some years, the wind, in a south-east storm, carries the sea-spray up gullies, and over the face of the rock, and some salt dew, a considerable way on the land, which hurts the crop of ripening oats. Timely rain may recover it; if not, it comes to no farther maturity, and the straw is little fit for use, being too laxative. This harm is called blasting. By the temporary and excessive gain in bringing to shore prohibited goods, to which the seafaring people here are little tempted now, no solid acquisition was made; it commonly has been spent to their moral prejudice: And when one has been hurt in the employment, he has been left to languish neglected. The poor have sustained, for many years past, the loss of 5 *per cent.* on the weekly collections, by bad copper. Such coin being at last refused, by those who, for just debt, have a right to good money, must, in the end, generally be thrown in to the poor; who, in this part of the country, with the support of the sick in the Infirmary of Aberdeen, in the collections made for it, have suffered much. To injustice in importing such money, there is inhumanity.

When the fishing of January fails, the fishers are put to severe hardships in the last winter months; especially the laying out as much, or more, for muscle-bait, than they can gain, discourages them from going to sea so frequently, or so

well prepared as they might do. Indeed the condition of the fishers on this coast needs to be relieved. A hardy race of men, more prolific than any other, so cheaply out-fitted to gain bread and raise a family, employed in bringing in an additional quantity of food, affording such a number to the fleet for our common defence, and giving such a sum for substitutes of one from each boat; they certainly deserve of their country, and do essential service. At the same time, their gain for a livelihood, were they sensible of it, is inferior now to that of many other ways of life; and by continuance, they may be tempted, as some of them elsewhere have been, to change it for the chance of another. In addition to such generous and humane exertions for their families on disaster, as have already been made, some means promising benefit seem to be these: To preserve the coast open to them for bait; to make the muscle, for the purpose of bait, cheap; to order the number required from them for the fleet, so as to put them no more in fear of impressing, which interrupts their business; nor to such expence for substitutes, which has oppressed their families; to render the wages of those who have died on board his Majesty's ships recoverable at a low expence, which, it is hoped, the bill introduced by Mr Dundas will do; and to make prize-money recoverable. An experiment might be made to improve the distant fishery. If a few decked vessels, which could weather a little rough sea, were employed on the bank, the boats could deposit their cargoes with them, and could have recourse to them in danger, while the crews might fish with the hand line. The fishers presently see 2, 5, 7, and more Dutch ships at a time on this bank so engaged; and they observe them catching many more cod and ling than themselves, which they attribute to the bait being hung at some distance from the bottom by the hand-line, where these fish swim;

swim; while their own ground lines are fitter for taking skate and hollobut, which keep by the bottom.

*Melioration.*—The city of Aberdeen is hemmed in by the sea on the east, by Old Aberdeen on the north, and by the river Dee on the south: It is only open, for any extent, to the west. Hence the high rent of land around it, perhaps among the highest in the kingdom. It has been often mentioned, that easy access to this parish, by a bridge over the Dee, at the nearest proper situation, might enlarge the space of gardening ground. It would certainly tend, in a high degree, to meliorate the northern side of this parish. Perhaps a road to the south, less steep than the present one up Tollo-hill, might be the consequence.

The quarries have hurt some parts of the hill, but there remains a considerable range of pasture for sheep, and the introduction of as many as it will carry seems necessary for filling such a waste, and for the improvement of the country. Without a melioration of the roads, horses will be able to do little on them in winter; even people can hardly come through the western part of them to church; some do not.

*Character.*—The people, on the whole, are not defective in understanding, and are very industrious. They are decent, content with their lot, sober, and charitable: It were to be wished that their impressions of religion were deeper. No crime, of a heinous nature, has been committed in the memory of any living. Among the fishers, a strife of words may be at a time, which is soon laid; they are ready to seize any thing in the sea, whose owner is not ascertained, not to plunder the wreck; but of taking a muscle from the sea-bed of another, or keeping back a penny of the common fish, a suspicion was never heard. They are not destitute of the  
spirit

Spirit of adventure and sympathy. On one of the boats off the Cove harbour being overturned in a storm, the men clinging to the bottom of it; their companions were just come in with hazard from the same danger, oppressed by toil, and sorrow at the spectacle, when one of them said, "We live together, let us die together;" and rousing his fellows by his example, run down, launched a boat, and rescued three out of the four perishing people.

## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF BELHELVIE.

(County of Aberdeen.—Presbytery and Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr ALEXANDER JOHN FORSYTH.

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*Situation.*

**T**HIS parish is situated in that division of the county of Aberdeen called Formartin, which division includes all the lands on the sea coast between the rivers Don and Ythan.

*Appearance and Soil.*—To a stranger who travels on either of the two principal roads in this parish, the appearance of the ground is very unfavourable, as he will see little but heath and stones; notwithstanding which, this parish, particularly on the sea coast, contains many acres of naturally very fertile land, and capable of producing heavy crops of wheat, being a rich loam and clay. However, there is but little wheat sown, owing to improvements here being in their infancy, and to the difficulty of disposing of it, from the bakers in Aberdeen obstinately preferring English flour (though often not so good) to the flour of wheat produced in their own country. Besides a small quantity of wheat and flax, this parish produces great crops of oats, bear, turnip, potatoes, &c. The grain does much more than supply the inhabitants, and the overplus is sent to the Aberdeen market.

Along

Along the sea coast the soil is sandy, and free of rocks; a little farther up it is a deep black mould or loam, and red rich clay. The west part of the parish is mossy, and wet in some parts; and in other parts dry and rocky, and not so much calculated for improvement as the east part. There are hardly any old trees in this district, except a few straggling maples (*acer pseudo platanus*) and ashes, which have been planted near the houses, of which the first seems to bear the sea air best. But there have been great forests of wood in the mosses; and, even below the downs, the soil is of a mossy nature, and has been full of wood. The trees in the mosses seem to have been all oak and allan, except some fir found in the most westerly parts of the parish. About two miles from the sea the oaks have been most numerous, and have grown to the largest size. Near the sea there has been little else but allan; and, though some of these trees are found below the bent hills, yet they have been small in comparison of those a little farther up. The allans, in general, are much decayed, but the oaks are found almost quite sound, buried under the mosses. Some of the heritors are making a few plantations, which are thriving, but require much trouble, as will always be the case in an open country exposed to the winds, especially when situated near the sea.

*Improvements.*—Notwithstanding the advantageous situation of this parish on the sea coast, it has long lain in a state of nature, owing to particular circumstances. A great part of the parish, under the name of the estate of Belhelvie, belonged to the Earl of Panmuir, being forfeited in 1715, was purchased by the York-Building Company. Short leases were universally granted, and no improvements of consequence took place. If the tenant improved with lime, which very seldom happened, he took care, when his lease was  
near

near expired, to take so many crops of oats as to leave his ground in as bad, if not in a worse state than when he got it. And it was likewise a general method to pare and burn the mossy ground, which gave a temporary manure, at the expence of the soil. This estate was in 1782 fold before the Court of Session, in terms of an act of Parliament. The managers of the sale divided it into 16 different lots. It was exposed at 24 years purchase, amounting to 22,963 l. 1 s. 8 d. Sterling, and sold for no less a sum than 30,745 Sterling. Since that time, a rapid improvement has taken place both in that estate and other parts of the parish. Long leases, often 57 years, are given; and the ground, of course, is assuming a different appearance. The tenants who have got the long leases are using quantities of lime, and throwing great parts of their ground into grass and turnip. Even the petty crofters, with liferent or 19 years leases, have their patches of sown grass, turnip, and potatoes; and winter herding is universally established, which was known of late years only in this country. A great bar to improvement, high multures, are mostly taken away; and the personal services paid in the parish are very trifling, and in some places quite abolished. The greatest drawback to improvement still remaining is the casting, drying, and leading of peats or fuel, which consumes a great part of the summer time that might be much better employed, and will continue to do so while the price of coals is so greatly enhanced by a duty which produces in the north of Scotland very little revenue to Government, and yet falls heavy on those who pay it, because it is both a partial and an oppressive tax.

The wages of a day-labourer is 8 d. sometimes 9 d. a day; and as, in general, they are but indolent workmen, their payment is not so small, as it will appear to those who reside in England. The women employ themselves in knitting stockings,

ings, to which work they are much attached. And this sedentary life subjects them to nervous complaints, which a more active life would prevent.

*Rent.*—As there is more firing in this parish than in the adjoining ones, a great part of the land is divided into small crofts, for which more rent is paid in proportion than for the large farms; and the crofters subsist mostly by day-labour. There are 16 heritors in the parish, 4 of whom reside in it. The 6 principal heritors have from 500 l. to near 700 l. Scots of valued rent each. The valued rent is 4469 l. 13 s. 4 d. Scots. The real rent is greatly increased since the sale of the York-Building Company's estate; notwithstanding which, the tenants are much more thriving, as they do not depend upon precarious tenures.

*Church and School.*—The stipend amounts to 72 l. Sterling, 32 bolls of meal, and 15 bolls of bear, with a glebe of about 7 acres. The salary of the schoolmaster, including his office of session-clerk, is about 9 l. Sterling; and he may draw in whole, including perquisites, about 16 l. *per annum*; a small allowance for so useful a member of society.

*Population.*—In 1755, the numbers were rated at 1471. In 1791, they amounted to no more than 1318, being 586 males, and 732 females; of which number, 512 are under 20, 324 between 20 and 40, 270 between 40 and 60, 180 between 60 and 80, and 32 above 80 years of age. There are of married people, widows, and widowers, 337; and these have had, in all, 1189 children, of whom 556 are sons, and 633 daughters. In order to make a more complete comparison of the present and past population, there is subjoined from the session-book a note of the number of baptisms



tifms for ten years, commencing in 1627, and of baptifms, marriages, and deaths, for ten years, commencing in 1700 and 1780. The account of the baptifms since 1780 may not be perfectly exact; becaufe, fince the duty was laid upon the registration of their names, fome have neglected to get them registered, but they are not many.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Bapt.</i> | <i>Years.</i> | <i>Bapt.</i> | <i>Mar.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1627,         | 38           | 1700,         | 36           | 9           | 16             |
| 1628,         | 24           | 1701,         | 33           | 15          | 14             |
| 1629,         | 32           | 1702,         | 32           | 8           | 14             |
| 1630,         | 24           | 1703,         | 37           | 14          | 20             |
| 1631,         | 42           | 1704,         | 50           | 25          | 30             |
| 1632,         | 59           | 1705,         | 39           | 10          | 22             |
| 1633,         | 50           | 1706,         | 36           | 12          | 20             |
| 1634,         | 32           | 1707,         | 50           | 13          | 13             |
| 1635,         | 20           | 1708,         | 51           | 14          | 18             |
| 1636,         | 31           | 1709,         | 49           | 6           | 24             |
|               | <hr/>        |               | <hr/>        | <hr/>       | <hr/>          |
|               | 352          |               | 420          | 126         | 191            |
|               |              | 1780,         | 37           | 12          | 37             |
|               |              | 1781,         | 28           | 12          | 23             |
|               |              | 1782,         | 28           | 9           | 25             |
|               |              | 1783,         | 23           | 14          | 36             |
|               |              | 1784,         | 30           | 12          | 32             |
|               |              | 1785,         | 37           | 15          | 30             |
|               |              | 1786,         | 18           | 11          | 18             |
|               |              | 1787,         | 31           | 10          | 14             |
|               |              | 1788,         | 28           | 8           | 19             |
|               |              | 1789,         | 38           | 7           | 16             |
|               |              |               | <hr/>        | <hr/>       | <hr/>          |
|               |              |               | 298          | 110         | 250            |

NUM.

## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF BALMACLELLAN.

(*Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Presbytery of Kirkcudbright.—Synod of Galloway.*)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES THOMSON.

*Name, &c.*

**B**ALMACLELLAN is one of the four parishes in the northern district of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, commonly known by the name of *Glenkens* \*. This parish, like some others in different parts of our island, seems to have derived its name from its ancient proprietors. A considerable branch of the family of *Maclellans* having, till lately, for several centuries possessed the lands contiguous to the church and village, are supposed to have transferred their name to their property : So that *Bal* in the Gaelic language, as is believed, implying a township or manor, the compounded name *Balmaclellan* will therefore signify the manor or township of the Maclellans.

This clan was at one time so respectable and numerous, that 13 knights of the name of Maclellan are said to have lived at the same time, possessed of property in the different districts

\* That is, the *strath* or dales by the side of the Kenn. The three remaining parishes of the district are Dalry, Kells, and Carlephairn.

districts of Galloway and Nithsdale\*. A branch of this clan was afterwards ennobled by the title of *Kirkcudbright*. The honours remain, but the family possessions are long since alienated.

*Bounds.*—The parish of Balmaclellan is of an oblong figure. The river Kenn forms its western boundary; and Urr, flowing from a lake or loch of that name on the eastern extremity of the parish, becomes its march for about two thirds of the whole breadth. The north and southern boundaries are marked by rivulets, which, proceeding generally from the intervening lakes, fall differently towards the Kenn or Urr.

*Appearance.*—The surface of the parish is generally moorish; and, of the whole, scarcely one fourth supposed arable. It exhibits more of a level appearance than most of the parishes in its neighbourhood. It is not, however, without its eminences, a considerable range of pretty high hills stretching themselves along its northern march. From the top of these, although by no means the highest in this tract of country, in serene weather, may be discovered the sea at 20 miles distance, with the larger shipping of the Solway Frith, objects which, in this inland situation, deserve not to pass without attention. Towards the land, the country generally opens to a range nearly of the same extent, presenting the observer with a very enlarged, but rugged landscape. Hills rising behind each other by degrees confound the view, which is at last terminated by the lofty tops of Goatfield in Arran, the hill of Enterkin, and the Cumbrian mountains, some of which are not less than 60 miles distant.

Of the surface of the parish, about 60 acres are supposed to be covered with wood, and nearly 20 or 25 with water.

The

\* See Crawford's Peerage, title *Kirkcudbright*.

The woods, chiefly natural, lie along the banks of the Kenn. These are well preserved, and in good condition. Those more inland are generally low and scraggy, calculated more for shelter than for use. The lochs or lakes are five, variously scattered around the hills, plentifully stocked either with eels, trout, or pike; and some with all these species in common. One, in particular, named *Loch Braek*, although of very small extent, is remarkable for an excellent sort of trout, distinguished alike for size and colour, measuring from 9 to 18 inches in length, and many of them weighing 8 or 10 English pounds.

*Soil and Agriculture.*—The soil of this parish is chiefly of two kinds. The first, lying along the Kenn, on the western side of the parish, is generally dry, light, and gravelly; remarkable for its kindness, and needs only the assistance of some exciting manure, as lime or marl, to render it productive of the most abundant crops. This soil, which comprehends the principal arable part of the parish, generally reaches inland to about two miles distance from the banks of the Kenn. The other, which occupies the middle and eastern parts, consists generally of a light, but sometimes of a deeper moss, both commonly covered with heath. Of these, the former is often found mixed with earth, but is commonly so ragged and perplexed with stones and rock, as to defy every attempt of the plough to better its condition. Even here, however, there are interspersed parcels of a much superior kind, and but little differing from the soil described on the western side. On such spots the farm-houses are generally set down. There they enjoy the benefit of planting abundance of potatoes, of sowing a little rye, barley, or oats; but these last most frequently in quantities by no means sufficient for the consumption of the farm.

On the north-east extremity of the parish, where the soil is good, and the roads open, there is one large farm already in part covered with lime from Closeburn, which has yielded crops by no means inferior to those in the most esteemed districts of the country.

The crops produced in this parish are chiefly oats, rye, barley, and potatoes, the culture of wheat or turnip having been but seldom attempted in this district. The plough is here drawn generally with three, although now frequently with two horses; and potatoes are beginning to be planted regularly in drills, so as to admit of the horse-hoeing culture. On the whole, in this interior part of the country, a methodical stile in farming can yet be reckoned only in its infancy; and the parish, according to the present mode of cultivation, is not supposed to grow within itself above three fourths of its own consumption.

From the description already given of the surface of the parish, it will be easily perceived that the greater part is only fit for pasturage. The sheep and black cattle are both esteemed good, being of the true Galloway breed; and there is a greater breed of horses in the parish than might be expected from the numbers kept. The little labour required in most of these farms, added to the cheapness of pasture, generally disposes the farmer to turn some of his mares to breed, which in two or three years repays him better than any other way in which he could have employed his capital. From a pretty accurate computation, there are supposed to be in the parish 8200 sheep, 1340 black cattle, 130 horses, a few goats, and not more than a dozen of swine.

The valuation of this parish in the county books is 3481 l. Scots; the present rental nearly 1900 l. Sterling. This is divided among 14 proprietors, of whom only three are resident. The principal heritors are the Honourable John Gordon

don of Kenmore, and Alexander Spalding Gordon, Esquire, of Shirmers, sheriff-depute of Wigton.

*Population*.—In 1755, the numbers were 534. By a very accurate account taken in person by the present minister, the population of the parish on the first day of January 1792 stood as follows :

|         |     |                                 |                        |    |
|---------|-----|---------------------------------|------------------------|----|
| Males   | 231 | Of these under 10 years of age— | Males                  | 41 |
| Females | 264 |                                 | Females                | 49 |
|         |     |                                 | —                      |    |
| Total   | 495 |                                 | Total                  | 90 |
|         |     |                                 | Above 70 years of age— |    |
|         |     |                                 | Males                  | 13 |
|         |     |                                 | Females                | 6  |
|         |     |                                 | —                      |    |
|         |     |                                 | Total                  | 19 |

|           |     |                                                              |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Married   | 155 | The oldest man in the parish is 86, and the oldest woman 84. |   |   |   |   |
| Unmarried | 305 |                                                              |   |   |   |   |
| Widowers  | 10  |                                                              |   |   |   |   |
| Widows    | 25  |                                                              |   |   |   |   |
| —         |     | Antiburghers                                                 | - | - | - | 7 |
| 495       |     | Macmillanites                                                | - | - | - | 3 |

Of the above inhabitants, the greater number live in the country, there being but one village in the parish, viz. that by the church, and that consisting only of 77 persons. The decrease of population may be accounted for in different ways. The engrossment of farms, and increase of pasturage, diminished the hands necessary for agriculture. To this may be joined, as an additional reason, the change of property. Of five families of distinction formerly resident within the parish, the number is now reduced to one. These were generally served by a numerous train of dependants, who, under the name of *cottars*, mostly married, and living therefore in separate families, added considerably to the population of the neighbourhood ;

neighbourhood; all of which have now given place to the unmarried and domestic servant of the farmer. The suppression of the cottagers is a matter deserving very serious consideration: The consequences will soon be severely felt.

The division of labour is such as may be expected in a society who generally live and dress on their own productions. In the parish were formerly accounted about 46 or 50 farms. These are now held by 30 persons, who pay of rent as follows:

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| From 10 l. to 20 l. | 6  |
| — 20 l. to 40 l.    | 10 |
| — 40 l. to 60 l.    | 7  |
| — 60 l. to 100 l.   | 0  |
| — 100 l. to 120 l.  | 2  |
| — 120 l. to 150 l.  | 3  |
| — 150 l. to 180 l.  | 2  |

Average of persons to a family,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

The average rent scarcely exceeds 2 s. 6 d. *per acre*. The best land in the parish lets at about four times that rate. There are in the parish 120 families, 3 mills, 2 blacksmiths, 6 weavers, 4 tailors, 4 shoemakers, 2 carpenters, and 1 mason. The wages of house-servants are, men, from 6 l. to 7 l. and women from 3 l. to 3 l. 10 s. a year. Day-labourers are from 8 d. to 10 d. with, and from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d. without victuals.

The manners and description of the inhabitants of this parish are such as may be expected from a mixed society. Generally exposed in the open air, and in all varieties of weather, their bodies acquire a hardiness unknown to those in a more sedentary situation. Conversant with a greater number of objects, their minds discover an expansion of ideas much beyond the mere manufacturer, or vulgar citizen. Their prominent virtues are peaceableness and sobriety, altho'

by

by no means deprived of that portion of spirit which is necessary on occasions to assert their rights. Since the commencement of the present century, there is no recollection of any one having suffered capital punishment, or having fallen under the imputation of any atrocious crime. There are but three persons in the parish who have ever served in the army or navy. The young men generally adventure in the civil line, either in the character of mechanics or merchants; of which last, the most are itinerant in the north of England. There is no foreigner, or any other than natives of Scotland at present resident within the parish.

*Authors.*—No writers of very eminent genius can be claimed by this parish, if it is denied right to Thomas Gordon, the celebrated author of the *Independent Whig*. This very keen and acute writer, the severest scourge of the English hierarchy, whom the compilers of the Scotch Encyclopaedia erroneously state as belonging to Kirkcudbright, was certainly a native either of this or the neighbouring parish of Kells. Near branches of his family were settled in both; and it is not at this day certain, or indeed material, in which of them he was born.

*Church.*—The church and manse of Balmaclellan were built more than 40 years ago, but have both undergone several repairs since that period. The offices are totally ruinous; they are ordered to be rebuilt the ensuing summer. The present value of the living is, in money, exactly 75 l. and a glebe valued at 20 l. or 25 l. a year. The King is patron.

*Registers.*—So far as can be collected, except for ten years, there has been no regular public register kept in this parish.

This



This was the neglect of former times. But a different cause, in future, is likely to operate to the same effect, an act of Parliament, passed in the sessions of 1783, imposing a tax of 3 d. on every birth, burial, Christening, and marriage. This tax, trifling in itself, has been viewed by the lower people with a degree of jealousy very disproportioned to its object. Perhaps the lowness of the tax in question is the chief reason why it cannot be enforced. However this be, the above mentioned act of Parliament has put an end to the registers in most of the parishes of this neighbourhood. The people refuse to pay. The clerk who would act under the act of Parliament, besides taking out a licence at 5 s. is bound, under the penalty of 20 l. to make faithful return for every name entered on the register; a penalty of 50 l. being also imposed on any person who shall presume to keep a parochial register without complying with the above conditions. So that in a parish like this, where the whole duties to Government would not amount to more than 4 s. 6 d. or 5 s. yearly, through the refractoriness of individuals, and apprehension of penalty, the parish at large is deprived of a record which might one day be necessary for proving their propinquity, or securing their claims.

*Poor.*—The funds of this parish, at an average, amount yearly to about 9 l. Sterling. This is wholly collected from the people at the church-doors, there being no assessment in the parish, and the non-residing heritors contributing seldom any thing to the relief of the poor. There is also a small fund of former savings, amounting to between 60 l. and 70 l. lying at interest in different hands.

The stated poor are few, at present amounting to but about four or five persons. They are mostly able still to earn the greater part of their own subsistence. But there are several  
supernumeraries

supernumeraries dependant on the session from time to time receiving assistance, whose various demands throughout the year amount to as much or more than those of the ordinary poor.

*School.*—In addition to the legal school salary of this parish, amounting to about 11 l. Sterling or thereby, there was a few years ago a donation made of 500 l. by a native of this place, a Mr Murdoch late merchant in Glasgow. This fund is secured on land, which, at present, is said to yield more than 5 per cent. ; so that the school salary of this parish now amounts to nearly 36 l. This, however, is the whole income of the master, the terms of the donation not permitting him to receive wages.

*Disadvantages.*—The peculiar disadvantages of this parish are chiefly of two kinds, neither of which, unfortunately for it, can well be remedied, viz. its soil, and its local situation. Nearly one fourth of the parish, as before described, being, from its soil, incapable of culture, is a manifest disadvantage attached to property in this situation, and which no efforts of genius or of industry can surmount. Even here, however, there is not wanting scope for considerable meliorations. A superior mode of fencing and subdividing farms, are improvements of which the coarsest soils are capable. A little wood planted in convenient situations in every farm would gratify the eye, and, what is of much greater utility, in 12 or 15 years would protect the cattle and flocks, which, for want of such shelter, in this exposed and bleak situation often suffer materially in time of storms. A more liberal mode of building and repairing farm-houses, somewhat removed from the awkward slovenliness of former times, are also improvements highly necessary in this part of the country. To which may  
be

be added, the evident necessity of a little more attention in rendering the several farms accessible by roads. It is almost impossible to conceive how, for centuries, these roads have been permitted to lie in a state of nature, unpassable to any stranger without a guide, and often to the inhabitant himself without much danger, which in a few days the idle shepherd or farm servant could have repaired.

The other disadvantage of the parish already hinted, viz. that of its local situation, must for a long time, and indeed for ever, in a considerable degree, act as a bar to the improvement of that part of it whose soil is abundantly adapted to agriculture. Almost 20 miles distant from lime in every direction, it is not to be wondered that this sort of improvement has been but partially attempted. The Carlinwark marl, which is six miles nearer, and which may be brought up Loch Kenn to the verge of the parish, together with the original cost, and the additional expence of water carriage, is thought to be a manure of too bulky a kind to be carried to any distance from the landing place. On the whole, the attempts both in lime and marl which have been already made, have, in themselves, answered the most sanguine expectations. Their distance, hitherto, is the only objection to their general introduction in this neighbourhood. It is to be hoped, however, that the conveniency of better roads, which is fast taking place, together with a higher spirit for farming in general, will combine to rescue this part of the country from that supineness under which it has hitherto laboured.

A great advantage to this neighbourhood are its *public roads*. The two great roads from Wigton to Edinburgh, and from Carlinwark and the lower parts of this county to Ayrshire, intersect each other at this point. But what offers principal advantage is the road proposed to be opened between Dumfries and Newtonstewart by this place. This, which

which will shorten the distance between these two places, by the odds of nearly 10 or 12 miles, will also ensure a large proportion of the Irish travellers to pass this way. The country will be opened up, the value of its productions increased, and a freer communication with strangers will correct the operation of local prejudices.

## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF LOCHMABEN.

(County of Dumfries, District of Annandale.—Presbytery of Lochmaben.—Synod of Dumfries.)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW JAFFRAY.

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**I**N the parish of Lochmaben, there are 7 or 8 lochs, whence it is most likely that it derived its name. According to tradition, there was a nunnery in the largest of them, where a castle afterwards stood; and some, who are acquainted with the Gaelic, say, that Lochmaben signifies the *Loch of the Maidens*, or the *Loch of the Fair*. Lochmaben is situated in Annandale, a district of the shire of Dumfries, lying along the banks of the Annan, to the length of about 10 miles, and in breadth about 3. It is about 8 miles from Dumfries, and 12 from the town of Annan, where the river runs into the Solway Frith.

*Town of Lochmaben.*—Lochmaben is a royal borough, supposed to be very antient, and governed by a provost, three baillies, a dean of guild, treasurer, and nine common council men. There is a charter of *novodamus* by James VI. dated the 16th July 1612, giving, as a reason for the renewal, the inroads of the English, who had plundered and burnt the town, and destroyed their records. Tradition says, that it

was

was erected into a royal borough by Robert Bruce I. King of Scotland, whose paternal estate was the great lordship of Annandale. He gave the borough lands out of his own estate. It has been a town of greater note formerly than now, and has extensive borough roads and town commonry. Much of it is feued off, from which they have but a small feu-duty. There may be about 700 inhabitants in the town and borough roads.

*Linen Manufacture.*—There is a considerable manufacture carried on, in the town and country round it, of coarse linen cloth, to the extent of 60,000 yards yearly, which is all sold into England, mostly unbleached, at from 6 d. to 1 s. or 13 d. per yard.

*Church.*—The church is an old Gothic fabric, dedicated to St. Magdalen. In a bloody family feud, between the Maxwells of Nithsdale, and the Johnstons of Annandale, it suffered much. In an engagement between these on a plain called Dryfe Sands, the Maxwells, who were defeated with great slaughter, fled, and took sanctuary in the church of Lochmaben, and were pursued by the Johnstons, who burned the church to the ground. This happened about the year 1591. There appears to have been also several small chapels in the parish, the vestiges of which now scarcely remain. The stipend is 105 l. The Viscount of Stormont is patron.

*Castle at the Town.*—There is the site of a very antient castle close to the town, on a noble situation, between the castle and kirk lochs, surrounded by a deep moat and fosse. Tradition says, the stones of it were carried away to build another castle. It commands a pleasant prospect over an extensive plain, and was originally the seat of Robert Bruce,  
Lord

Lord of Annandale, before that family came to the crown of Scotland. They had other two seats, one at Annan, the other at Hoddam; and a very great estate, which continued in their possession long after they came to the crown. It is said, that Robert Bruce I. king of Scotland, was born in this castle. The ground on which it stood belongs now to Robert Maxwell, Esq; whose predecessors have been in possession of it for 200 years, when David Maxwell their ancestor, was appointed sub-governor of the Castle of Lochmaben, by Lord Maxwell, warden of the Western Borders, and keeper of the said castle. There are sufficient documents for this in the hands of the said Robert Maxwell, and in the town books of Lochmaben. The said Mr Maxwell, and his predecessors, have been often and long provosts of Lochmaben.

*Castle Loch, and Castle.*—The Castle Loch is a large and beautiful sheet of water, lying south of the town, in length a mile and a half, and in mean breadth a mile, abounding in a variety of fish. It is affirmed by the fishermen, that there are 15 or 16 different kinds fit for the table, among which there is one that, from every information that can be obtained, is peculiar to that loch, as it is to be found no where else in Britain. It is called the *Vendise* or *Vendace*, some say from Vendois in France, as being brought from thence by one of the Jameses, which is not very probable, as it is found by experience to die the moment it is touched, and has been attempted to be transported to other lochs in the neighbourhood, where it has always died. It is generally about the size of a small herring, which it resembles much in external appearance and in its anatomy; it has the taste and flavour of a fresh herring, not quite so strong, but more delicate, and is reckoned the most delicious fish that swims. They lie in the deepest parts of the loch, and are caught with a net.

The

The pike, which is the tyrant of the lake, destroys many of them. We have heard of a fresh water herring in Lochlond, it might be worth while to enquire, whether they are the same with our Vendises. They have the mark of a heart on the crown of the head.

The castle stands upon a peninsula of the loch, and is by far the largest and strongest of any, either on the English or Scotch borders, next to Carlisle, against which it was a frontier garrison. It was built by Robert Bruce, the first of that name king of Scotland. The original castle occupies about an acre of ground, and contains three courts, strongly built of stone and lime. The walls are twelve feet thick. It was surrounded by three deep fosses, each of which was filled with water from the loch, that met on either side. The whole fortification may contain 13 acres. The inner fossée went through the castle, within which there was a basin for holding the boats, to place them out of the reach of the enemy, and to shelter them from the weather. The principal entry to the castle seems to have been by water. It has been a very strong place, and, before the invention of cannon, might be said to be impregnable. Even in the present state of fortification, it might be made a place of strength, as it is surrounded by water and marshy ground for a mile, and only a narrow neck of land for the entry. Before the union of the Crowns, a garrison of 200 men was constantly kept in it. Among the titles of the Marquis of Annandale, he assumes that of Constable, or Hereditary Keeper of the Castle of Lochmaben. The governor had a salary of 300 l. Scotch, (a considerable sum, it is supposed, in those days), along with the fishing of the lochs. Though King James VI. in the foresaid charter, granted in the year 1612, gives the fishing of all the lochs to the borough of Lochmaben, yet the proprietors of the Castle have always enjoyed the property,  
and



and exclusive privilege of fishing in the Caffe and Mill Lochs with boats, nets, &c. The great estate of Murray Earl of Annandale, of which the Castle and Barony of Lochmaben is a part, fell, by succession, to Murray Lord Viscount Stormonth, who also claims the title of Hereditary Keeper, and Constable of the Castle of Lochmaben.

*Lairdner-mart Cow.*—The governor or constable of the Castle, had also, for the maintenance of the garrison, what was called *Laird a Mairt*, or *Lairdner Mart Cow*, which was one of the best fat cows out of every parish in Annandale. It is not above 60 years since it was lifted by the Marquis of Annandale. The conversion of it was 20 l. Scots, and was lifted out of 33 parishes, (which number is now reduced, by annexations, at the Reformation, to 21); and 39 meadow geese and *Fassen's-e'en* \* hens. All the parishes, at that time, joined in procuring a suspension, which was never recalled, or any payment demanded since. The Castle has long been in total ruin, and there is nothing now standing but a small part of the heart of the wall. The fine ashlar work is all stripped off, and there are few houses in the neighbourhood, in which some of the stones are not to be seen. This is much to be regretted; for had it been left to the devouring teeth of time alone, it would have been to this day the noblest ruin in Scotland. It is surrounded by a large tract of land, called the Castlemains, in a very uncultivated state, in which are two large lochs. In former times there was a deer park, and a very extensive oak forest. These castles, and this part of the country in general, were the scenes of some of the heroic actions of the renowned Sir William Wallace of Ellerslie.

*Loch-*

\* *Fassen's-e'en* signifies the evening before Shrove Tuesday.

*Lochmaben Barony, or Four Towns.*—Contiguous to the Castlemains lies Lochmaben Barony, or, as it is more commonly called, the Four Towns, a very large tract of rich fertile land on the banks of the Annan. The tenants hold their land by a very singular and peculiar tenure.—They are commonly called the King's kindly tenants. The original possessors were the garrison of the Castle, to whom the lands were granted for their attendance on the duties of the garrison, or, as some say, the domestic servants of the castle. There are three kinds of tenure of lands in Scotland, *First*, The feudal, which prevails over all Scotland, and indeed over Europe, in different modifications, according to the different laws and constitutions of the countries where it prevails. *Secondly*, the *Allodial*, which, in the German language, signifies *free*, without paying any quit rent, or having a superior; and, *Thirdly*, the *Udal*, being a right complete without writing; this obtains in Orkney and Zetland, and in the holdings of the Four Towns in the Parish of Lochmaben. As to the two first, antiquarians and lawyers may investigate them; with respect to the last, the lands of Four Towns were granted by one of our kings to his household servants, or garrison of the Castle, and the property of each being small, they were allowed, as a kind of indulgence, to hold it without the necessity of charter and sasine, bare possession being a sufficient title. The tenants pay a small rent to the Viscount of Stormont, but have no charter or sasine from him. The property of these lands is transferred from one person to another, by delivery and possession only; but they must be entered in the rental in Lord Stormont's rental-book, which is done without fee or reward. The tenants right was renewed by James VI. and Charles II. confirmed by the Court of Session, and by a decree of the British House of Peers, the 28th December 1726, and 14th  
 January

January 1727. The district is called Four Towns, as comprehending four populous villages. Their possessions are generally small. The land on the river side is rich and fertile, peculiarly favourable for the growth of flax, of which they raise a good quantity. Many of the men are weavers. The women spin their own flax, and a good deal of foreign flax also. Their possessions and valuations are distinguished by *acres*. There is a peculiarity in their land measure, and the ell by which their acres have been measured (called the Barony ell), contains 42 inches, whereas the common ell made use of in the country, is only 38 inches.

*Four Towns Commonty.*—There was a large and extensive commonty contiguous to the Four Towns, which they had an interest in. It was divided some years ago; they had a large share of it. Their several shares are mostly now improved, and are of higher value than their original property acres. On many of their shares are built small farm houses, which has considerably increased the number of inhabitants of the parish.

*Surnames in the Four Towns.*—The prevailing surnames of this district are, Richardson, Rae, Kennedy, Nicholson, Wright, &c. of which the Richardsons are by far the most numerous. They add bye-names or nicknames to distinguish one family from another of the same name. If possessing the same lands, from father to son, for many generations denominates an old family, and gives the appellation of *gentleman*, here are numbers who have a just claim to that title, having possessed the same ridges and acres for 500 years. Some of these names are to be found among the companions of Wallace and Bruce, in his wars for the recovery of his antient inheritance of the kingdom of Scotland. They are  
now

now engaged in a process of division and excambion of their property lands, which were formerly all run-ridge. This, when finished, will add much to their advantage, and to the beauty of the country.

*Rockhall Moat.*—There is a moat in the parish, called Rockhall Moat, of which there are many in this part of the country, and of the most remote antiquity. This is a most beautiful mount of earth, perfectly round, and terminating in a sharp top; it is larger than many of them, and is very entire. It stands on the side of a ridge of hills, which separates Annandale from Nithsdale, and overlooks an extensive plain on the foot of the river Nith, part of Galloway, and all the Solway Frith. As to the use of these moats, it is generally agreed, that the people met on them to make laws, and administer justice. To this day, the Twelve Keys of the Isle of Man, who are their parliament, meet on one of those mounts, in the open air; and some of the court-houses in England are called the *mote*, or *mute*, or *moot-hall*. The public courts among the Saxons were called *Witten mot*, or *Witten-a-gemote*, which was the original of parliaments in England, according to Rapin.

*Soil.*—The soil is very rich and fertile on the banks of the rivers. There are three, viz. Kinnel, Ae, and Dryte, that join the Annan, all within a mile of one another in this parish. These lands are exceedingly rich, but they are sometimes overflowed in the winter, which adds to their fertility. The lands on the rising ground are good, and very capable of improvement, and raise good crops, when properly managed. It is all arable, though not yet wholly in tillage.

*Lime.*—The manure made use of is lime, brought 12 and 14 miles distance; the price is 11 d. the Carlisle bushel, two of which make one Linlithgow boll.

*Coal.*—The coal, with which it is burnt, is brought from England, which is the reason of the high price. This coal, when carried by water, is liable to a high duty. There is no coal on the whole coast of Galloway, Nithsdale, or Annandale; they are mostly supplied with that article from Cumberland, on the other side of the Solway Frith. It is to be regretted, that the people who live at a great distance should, after shipping and unloading, paying freight, and carrying it many miles by land, after all be obliged to pay a heavy duty; while the people who live at the coal-pit should pay nothing, and at the same time all living under the same king, government, and laws. It is asserted, by those who know, that a farthing on the cart load, at the coal-pit, which would be little felt, and easier collected, would bring more money to government than all this duty. There have been frequent attempts made to obtain some redress in this matter, but hitherto without success. The fuel mostly made use of in this part is peat. The mosses are wearing out. Coal that is used for fuel and burning lime, is brought at 30 and 40 miles distance by land; and notwithstanding of the long land carriage, there have been great improvements made, by breaking up moorish and wild lands, with the assistance of lime, without which one cannot pretend to improve those kinds of ground, to any profit or advantage. The rich lands on the banks of the rivers, may let for 20 s. to 25 s. *per* acre; the uplands not so high.

*Farms.*—The farms are generally very small; there is only

ly one in the parish, the rent of which is 80 l. *per annum*. This contributes much to the populousness of the parish.

*Mills.*—There are two corn mills, which do the most of the work in the parish. There are two lint mills, which are insufficient to perform the work that would come to them.

*Swine.*—Swine are become a considerable article of commerce in this country, of late years. Every body, even the cottars, feed swine; many of the farmers 5 or 6, or more in the year. When fat, they are sold at between 3 l. 10s. and 4 l. Sterling *per head*, or 3½ d. *per pound*, as uncured pork; when salted and dried, they sell at 6 d. *per pound*. There are people who make a trade of salting and curing it. It is mostly sold into England; some little to Edinburgh. It is a ready money traffic, and brings a deal of cash into the country. There may be 1000 l. worth sold in this parish annually, besides what is consumed by the inhabitants. It is affirmed by some, who are conversant in that business, that from Nith to Sark and Eskfoot, on the border of England, an extent of country of about 30 miles the longest way, and about 16 the shortest, there is above 20,000 l. brought in annually for swine. They do not breed many in this parish. The young ones are mostly brought from England.

*Salmon Fishing.*—There is a fine salmon fishing on the Annan, which belongs mostly to the parish of Lochmaben. In wet seasons the fish are very rich and plentiful. They are sold, in their season, commonly at 3 d. *per pound*.

*Population.*—Number of inhabitants in 1755, - 1395  
Souls in this parish, about - - - 3000  
Annual

|                           |   |   |   |     |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Annual average of births, | - | - | - | 150 |
| ————— of marriages,       | - | - | - | 18  |

*State of the Poor.*—There is a great number of poor in this parish. There are 30 on the roll, that are served quarterly out of the public charity, which is but a small pittance to each, there being no fund or provision made for their support, but what is collected in the church. Those that are able are allowed to beg from door to door; and many strollers and idle vagrants are suffered to travel in the country, with which it is greatly oppressed; and by this means the poor of the parish are robbed of that charity which properly belongs to them.

*School.*—There is a legal school in the parish, of 200 merks of salary. James Richardson of Reading, in England, mortgaged, on the 26th of March 1726, the sum of 400 l. Sterling, in the following manner, viz. 200 l. to the grammar school of Lochmaben; the interest of it to be paid to the master, under the obligation of teaching 10 poor scholars, of the parish of Lochmaben, English, Latin, writing, and arithmetic, *gratis*: Another 100 l. for supporting a library, and keeping in repair a good house, built by the said Mr Richardson, for the use of the schoolmaster, and for preserving, supplying, and continuing the said library: And the interest of the last 100 l. to go for a school in Hightae, for the benefit of the whole Four Towns.

## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF URRA Y.

(Counties of Ross and Inverness.—Presbytery of Dingwall.—Synod of Ross.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN DOWNIE.

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

URRAY is composed of the united parishes of Urray and Kilchrist. The former seems to derive its name from its local situation. The church and burying-ground lie on a large plain, on the banks of the rapid river Orrin, near its conflux with the Connon. The Orrin has, in the course of ages, evidently shifted its bed, and its passable fords, through every part of that plain, and would repeat its ravages almost every season, were it not restrained by the annual exertions of the surrounding proprietors. Hence it is probable, the name is derived from *Ur-a*, the *new ford*. *Kilchrist* is evidently *Cella Christi*, a burying ground consecrated to Christ.—It is situated chiefly in the county of Ross: A small part of it lies in Inverness-shire. It extends from the Frith of Beaully on the south, to the north side of the river Connon, about 7 English miles in a straight line, nearly from south to north. Its breadth on the banks of the Connon, from east to west, is about 6 English miles, but does not exceed 3 towards the southern boundary, along the Frith of Beaully. The intermediate space lines the foot of the great chain of mountains which



which extend from thence to the west coast of Scotland. There is a *davoch* of land belonging to this parish in the valley of Strathconnon, in the bosom of the western mountains, at the distance of 10 computed, or 18 English miles. It is surrounded by the parish of Contin, and forms a part of the mission in that parish.

*Surface, Soil, and Climate.*—The general face of the parish presents a picturesque view of corn-fields, intermixed with barren muir, clumps of natural wood \*, rapid streams, large plantations around gentlemen's seats, with different views of the two beautiful Friths of Dingwall and Beaully, which, as canals formed by the hand of nature, and penetrating for upwards of 20 miles into a populous country, invite the merchant and manufacturer to settle on their banks.—The soil is as various as the general face of the ground; but, on the whole, is warm, dry, and productive. The fields on the slopes of the rising grounds are comparatively of a richer soil than the low ground, except a part of the estate of Lovat, which once belonged to the priory of Beaully, and is a deep, rich, carse ground. The plains abound with pebbles, from 4 to 6 or 8 pound weight, evidently rounded by friction, and intermixed with beds of dry sand and gravel. Hence a considerable part of the low ground is barren dry muir, producing only a short heath; and the arable land (with a few exceptions) of inferior quality to that on the high lands. On one estate there are several small hollows  
surrounded

\* Every little burn and meadow presents a bush of natural wood, consisting mostly of alder, interspersed with ash. There are a few bushes of birch, some oaks and willows. Around gentlemen's seats there are to be seen large plantations of firs, and other forest trees. They continue to plant every year, particularly Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth, who rears an extensive nursery for that purpose.

surrounded by this dry barren soil, which seem to have been once small lakes, but are now filled with peat moss. On the bottom of several of them some strata of shell marl have been found. These phenomena seem to prove the existence of a general deluge, by which these stones have been rounded, and the shells deposited. There are no lakes or swampy ground in the parish, except one large meadow on the banks of the Connon.—The air is dry, and free from noxious vapours, which conduces greatly to the healthfulness of the climate. No part of the common road, between the Frith of Beaully and the river Connon, (which is almost the whole length of the parish), seems to be above 50 feet higher than the surface of the sea. It is defended on the east from the storms of the German Ocean by a tract of country, upwards of 20 miles in extent, towards Tain and Cromarty, on the north by the hill of Weavas, and on the west by the great chain of mountains stretching to the west coast. It is worth remarking, that the western mountains make the weather alternately foul and fair on the east and west borders of them, in some measure similar to the monsoons on the Malabar and Coromandel coasts. The west and south-west winds blow most frequently, during which it generally rains on the west coast, and is fair weather on this side of the hills; or, at most, there are only slight occasional showers. On the other hand, the east wind uniformly brings rain or sleet on the east coast; but the storm dies away in the intermediate hills, and there is dry weather and sunshine on the west coast.

*Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle.*—Barley, oats, and potatoes, are the principal crops \*. Most of the gentlemen have  
inclosed

\* In the district of which this is a part, from Inverness round by Beaully to Dingwall, grain sells higher than in any other  
other

inclosed their farms; and, by putting them into a rotation of fallow, corn, and green crops, give a laudable example in agriculture to their tenants. They use the English plough with two horses, without a driver, with most of the other instruments of husbandry used in the Lothians. The tenants, however, have not yet surmounted their prejudices in favour of old customs, and are satisfied with following the mode used by their grand-fires, except in the culture of potatoes, which has taken place only within the last 30 years. The lands are still open; nor do they shew any desire to have them inclosed. They use a plough peculiar to the country, drawn for the most part by six small oxen, or by two horses and four oxen. Almost every kind of carriage is performed with carts\*. The wheels are timber tumblers, bought at about 2s. the pair, on which are placed frames for the different purposes, made by the tenants themselves. Horses are the only

other place in the north of Scotland. The reason is, that it abounds with licenced stills, which consume the barley. It is the nearest corn country to a large extent of the west coast and Mid Highlands. The Highlanders are supplied from thence with oat-meal and whisky: Hence considerable quantities of barley and oat-meal are imported by the Friths of Dingwall and Beaully to a sure and ready market. Home-made barley of crops 1789 and 1790 sold at 18s. *per* boll. At the same time, barley sold in Murray at 16s. and 16s. 6d. Oat-meal of these crops sold at from 16s. to 18s. 9 stones barley of crop 1791, sells at from 18s. 6d. to 20s. *per* boll. Potatoes generally sell at from 6d. to 8d. a peck; beef, from 2d. to 4d. a pound; mutton and pork at 2½ d.; a hen at 6d.; chickens at 2d. each; eggs at 1½ d. *per* dozen; a wedder of the country breed at 6s.

\* The great number of cottagers affords labourers, who are employed by the proprietors in improving their farms. The common hire is 6d. a day. In harvest, men and women earn 6d. and, in some places, their maintenance. Common men-servants are hired at 3l. a year, women at 1l. 10s. Several young people of both sexes, and some married men, go to the south country to earn harvest wages, and return the beginning of winter.

ly cattle whose numbers can be ascertained with the greatest precision. The tenants (of whom there are 120) keep, at an average, 4 horses each. Some of the cottagers have from 1 to 3 horses. Hence they may be estimated at 600. They are small, but hardy, and are reared by the western Highlanders, and sold at our markets. The price, till lately, was from 3 l. to 4 l. Within the last two years, the south country drovers have raised the price from 15 s. to 20 s. a head. The average value may be computed at 3 l. It will not be far wide of the truth to estimate the number of black cattle at 10 head each tenant, including his oxen; and each mailer at 1, which will amount to 1448, worth 40 s. each at an average. Both horses and black cattle are sent to graze in the western hills, from May to Michaelmas, at about 1 s. 6 d. *per head*. Of late, since sheep-farming is become prevalent in the Highlands, the price of grazing low country cattle is raised to 2 s. Horses are returned in July to bring home fuel. If the weather admit of that service being soon performed, they are sent back. The residing heritors keep about 40 draught horses, worth 15 l. each, and 250 black cattle, worth 5 l. at an average, besides riding horses and wheel carriages.

*Rivers and Fish.*—The Beaully empties itself into the Frith of that name at the S. W. point of the parish, and cannot be said to belong to it. The Connon intersects the parish near the north end, and is composed of four great branches\*.

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I i

The

\* There is a spring on the bank of the Connon, near the west end of the parish, strongly impregnated with sulphur. The water is as clear as any other spring, but smells like the scourgings of a foul gun. It is said to partake of the nature of Harrowgate water, and to be useful in scorbutic complaints and rheumatism. It is of the same kind with the much frequented spring of Strathpeffer, in the neighbourhood.

The Orrin, running from the S. W. falls into the Connon at Urray, and intersects the parish from south to north. About two miles west from Urray, the Garve falls in on the north side, which running from W. N. W. rises on the confines of Lechbroom. Thence 5 miles farther west is the junction of the other two branches, the Meig and the Lichart. The former rises on the borders of Lochcarron to the W. S. W.; and the source of the latter is on the confines of Gairloch to the west —The Connon abounds in salmon and pike. It has few trouts, except sea-trout in the months of July and August. A Company from Berwick farms the salmon fishing, along with several other fishings in the neighbourhood. During the spring months, and beginning of summer, they send considerable quantities of kitted salmon to the London market; but are kind enough, (though against their own interest), to indulge the neighbouring families with a competency for their tables at 2 d. a pound. But the body of the people are more indebted for their support, to the shoals of herrings, which, for the most part, appear annually in the Frith of Beaully, at the ferry of Keffock. They visit us in the beginning of harvest, and sometimes continue till February. They are smaller and leaner than those caught on the west coast, and therefore unfit for the foreign market. From 14 to 22 score were sold for 6 d. in the year 1791. They serve the adjacent parts of the counties of Ross, Inverness, Nairn, and Moray. People from the braes of Banff, Aberdeen, and Perth shires, come to purchase them. It is said, that, in the beginning of the fishing, their entrails have produced oil equal in value to the prime cost.

*Fuel, Roads, and Bridges.*—Most of the estates have mosses on the adjacent hills, yet the proprietors, in general, use coals along with peats in their own houses. Except on one estate,

estate, the moffes are at fuch a diftance, that only two draughts can be got home in a fummer's day. The roads are fteep. No part of a farmer's work exhausts his horfes fo much as the leading of his peats, and that at the time his horfes ought to be at grafs. Were that impolitic and oppreffive duty at the Red-head taken off, it were cheaper for the pooreft tenant in this parifh to burn coals, than to wear out his horfes leading peats. The poorer part of the cottagers muft therefore fatisfy themfelves with fandy clods picked from the adjacent moors with the breaft fpade.—The great north road \* leading to Sutherland and Caithnefs paffes through this parifh, and is kept in excellent repair. The county road, leading to the weft Highlands, was made about 30 years ago, and is kept in tolerable repair as far as the parifh extends. A road begins in this diftrict leading to Fort-refe, and another to Cromarty, both eaftward, befides crofs roads. The whole were made, and are kept in repair by the ftatute labour. The gentlemen of the county, availing themfelves of the plenty of hands, are attentive to this branch of police —There are two bridges; one of ftone over a branch of the Orrin; another over the Orrin itfelf, of timber; both built at the expence of the county.

*Manufactures.*

\* There are fome ftones ftanding on end, about 5 feet above the ground near Beauly, on the fide of the great north road. Several cairns or barrows have been lately opened, where human bones were found; and the remains of offensive armour made of copper, which the gentleman who found them fent to the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh. In a barrow opened at Brahan Caftle, an urn was found containing fmall pieces of bones, but was unluckily broken by the inattention of the labourers. It was made of burnt clay, and beautitully varnifhed over both within and without. The tower of Fairburn reminds one of that barbarous period, when every great man found it neceffary to live in a fortrefs.

*Manufactures.*—Small spots of lint are to be seen on every farm. Most of the inhabitants rear sheep, for their wool. They manufacture both the wool and the lint for their own use, or for home sale; but neither in sufficient quantity for their own consumption. A great deal of English cloth is every Sunday seen at church. The only article in this and the neighbouring parishes, that can be called a manufacture, is distilling of aquavita. There are 9 licenced stills in the parish, at 30 gallons each. Highlanders from Lochaber, the extensive west coast of Ross-shire, and the Isle of Sky, buy the spirits at between 10 s. and 14 s. *per* Scotch gallon. One man only in the parish occupies a still without partners. From 5 to 10 or 12 tenants join about one of these stills, by which means each has an opportunity of manufacturing his own growth of barley; and where that falls short of making up his proportion, he buys from his neighbours. The whole barley in the parish is distilled. Though no feed is left for the ensuing season, yet the whole growth is not equal to the quantity manufactured into spirits by 9 stills. They say, that no barley answers so well as the growth of the parish, which they attribute to the warmth and dryness of the soil. The barley crop is generally allotted for paying the rents. The principal or only profit resulting from the distillery is keeping up the price of grain, and converting it speedily into money. The profits otherwise are next to nothing, except the draff or grains. The only other resource they have is from black cattle; but grass being scanty, the increase of cattle seems hardly sufficient to supply the waste of horses, few of which are reared in the parish.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church was built about 12 years ago. It cost 900 l. Sterling, and was then the most elegant and substantial building of the kind in the county.

Since

Since that period, some neighbouring parishes affirm they have equalled it at less expence. The manse was built about 42 years ago, and was then the best in the synod. Several others have now outstripped it in elegance and convenience. Captain Kenneth M'Kenzie of Cromarty, representative of the Earls of that name, is patron. This, with several other patronages, was forfeited in 1747, but restored, along with the estate, to the late Lord Macleod, son to the last Earl.—The amount of the stipend depends on the price of victual. It consists of 10 chalders of barley. This, together with the glebe, may be estimated at 140 l. The decret of modification and locality is dated in 1719.—A clergyman of the Episcopal Church of Scotland resides in this parish. About a fourth part of the people attend his meeting. He has two other places of worship in the neighbouring parishes. When he is absent, his ordinary hearers attend the parish church as punctually as the other parishioners. There are no dissenters of any other denomination.—A parochial school is established, and well attended. The Society for propagating Christian Knowledge support a charity school and spinning mistresses, both of which are useful.—The poor's roll contains 62. There are no funds in the parish for their support, except the weekly collection, and another more general collection made on the first Sunday of every quarter, when every individual is supposed to contribute his mite. The whole amounts to about 10 l. Sterling, and is distributed by the session.

*Population.*—From a roll made up in 1791, there are in the parish 1860 persons, of whom 420 are under 10 years of age. The average of births for the last 3 years, while the present incumbent has officiated, is 40. Of these the Episcopal clergyman baptised 10. The average of marriages is 11. There is no register of burials kept in the parish. The  
great



great body of the people is divided into two classes, tenants and cottagers; or, as the latter are called here, *mailers*. The former amount to 120, who rent from 5 l. to 20 l. a year. Not above two or three pay 30 l. The mailers are those poor people who build huts on barren ground, and improve spots around them, for which they pay nothing for a stipulated number of years. The proprietor frequently indulges them with tools and seed for the first season. After the first period is expired, these crofts are rented at from 3 s. to 40 s. a year. Every year produces one or more of these new settlers. At present they consist of 248 families, of whom 148 have settled within the last 40 years. From this increase of the cottagers, and the great quantity of improved ground, an increase of the population has undoubtedly taken place within these 20 or 30 years; although there appears to be a decrease upon the whole since 1755, the return made to Dr Webster at that period having been 2456. This decrease can only be accounted for, by the annual emigrations to the south country in harvest, and by the great numbers enlisted into the Highland regiments, at the commencement of the two last wars.—The new settlers are not all natives of the parish. Several come down from the Hebrides, from the west coast, and mid Highlands, when a severe season has destroyed their cattle. This is the reason, why the number below 10 years of age is so high in proportion to the births. All the tradesmen in the parish are included among the mailers. They consist of 20 weavers, 1 house-carpenter, 3 millers, 15 tailors, 2 masons, 21 *brogue* or shoemakers. All of them work for the parishioners and immediate neighbourhood. No article is manufactured for exportation. There are also included in the above number 82 widows, 40 of whom are on the poor's roll. But, though these last have separate huts, they are not included in the above number of families. One

excise officer resides in the parish, but no physician, surgeon \*, or man of the law.—There are no instances of uncommon longevity. There are many vigorous men of 70, and a very few turned of 80, but none who have reached 90.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are 11 proprietors in the parish, of whom 3 have their seats in other parishes, and 8 in this. Of these last, 4 only reside constantly, and 4 occasionally. Brahan Castle is in this parish, the principal residence of Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth.—The valued rent is 2574l. 8s. Scotch. The real rent approaches to 2000l. Sterling. Few of the estates have been measured. From a gross computation from the quantity of seed sown, the average rent will be about 10s. an acre. The greater part of the rent is reckoned in barley and oat-meal. Few, however, choose to pay in kind. Hence the rent varies as the price of victual rises or falls. Some proprietors, of late, have passed from payment in kind for a fixed rent in money. The proprietors who live in the parish occupy land of the annual value of 500l. Sterling. Their families, including servants and labourers, do not exceed 80 persons. Hence there are about 1800 persons to be maintained on the produce of 1500l.'s worth of land, besides paying that sum as rent.

#### *Disadvantages*

\* There being no villages, and few mechanics who follow sedentary employments, the people work in the open air, and are, in general, lively and healthy; except when infectious distempers occur, as happened in the year 1789, when a putrid fever was introduced into a poor family; whence, as from a centre, it spread through this and the neighbouring parishes, thence to the west coast, and at last to the Hebrides, marking its progress with dreadful havoc. The gentry inoculate their children for the small-pox with success, but the great body of the people have not surmounted their religious prejudices against that innovation. The gout and gravel are not known. Rheumatisms are frequent, for which they apply strong spirits to the part affected.

*Disadvantages and Proposed Improvements.*—This parish is too narrow a field for industry in its present situation. Hence the people are idle for a considerable part of the year, especially in winter. The proprietors are sensible of the various disadvantages arising from this source, and that the establishment of a manufacture would be the only remedy. But no person has as yet been hardy enough to engage in such an enterprise. It is, indeed, an object only for a Company, endowed with the spirit of adventure, who would lay their account with loss for some time, till the people had learned the business, and become sensible of its benefit. But, if local situation, and numbers of hands, would induce such a Company to establish a manufacture, perhaps there is no station in Scotland more inviting for a settlement of that kind. There are 9 or 10 parishes, among which this occupies a central position round the heads of the Friths of Dingwall and Beaully, within sight of each other, containing, at a moderate computation, 15,000 inhabitants, with a well peopled country for upwards of 20 miles eastward, towards Cromarty and Tain. The borough of Dingwall, and village of Beaully, at the head of their respective friths, are at the distance of 9 miles only from each other, either of which, or both, would be convenient stations. The communication is easy, and the roads good in every direction. The rich corn country of Moray and East Ross are within a few hours sailing by either Frith. Were such a manufacture established, numbers of poor people from the Highlands and Western Isles would flock to it, rather than attempt crossing the Atlantic. This is not a matter of conjecture or mere probability. There is a daily intercourse between this country and the west coast. Several from that quarter come down annually to settle on the waste grounds. They feel themselves within reach of their relations and the sepulchres of their fathers. But they  
would

would come much more readily, if to these considerations were added the prospect of living more comfortably by their industry. The only local obstacle to an establishment of this kind, is the scarcity of fuel. Here one cannot help again execrating the partial (and it may even be added, *iniquitous*) tax on coals imported to the north; which operates as a dead weight on every attempt towards improvement. It is hoped, however, that this grievance will be soon alleviated, by the extensive plantations of firs laid out within these last 30 years, and every year enlarged.—It has been already observed, that the mode of farming amongst the common people is far from being improved; and it may be farther remarked, that there seem to be local obstacles to improvement, which manufactures only can remove, by introducing riches. The tenants alledge, that they cannot afford the expence of inclosing their lands, or of paying interest for inclosing them; and, even if they were inclosed, they say, they cannot lie out of their ordinary crops so long as would be necessary to put their farms in the modern rotation.—Again, foreign manure cannot be had for improvement, at such a price as the tenant can afford. Gentlemen who use lime for building, and manure, find it cheaper to bring it from Sunderland, than from any part of Scotland; yet it costs them from 10d. to 1s. per boll, at the ship's side. Neither is there any marl within reach.—*Thirlage* \* is also complained of as a bar to improvement.

\* **THIRLAGE** is an obligation over the possessors of lands, to manufacture all their corns at a certain mill; and seems to have originated with the great barons, with a view of exacting, for their own use, a stipulated portion of the produce of the soil, whether it was possessed by their own immediate tenants, or given away in feu to their vassals. The exaction is called *multure*, and is a real rent, reserved to himself by the superior. This rent, on some estates, amounts to the 12th, on others to the 16th, 20th, or 24th part of the unground corn; besides

ment. When estates are thirled to the mill of another heritor, the proprietors of the thirled estates growl at another man's reaping a certain part of the produce of their improvements, without contributing to the expence. One mill only of this description is in this parish. There are two others, belonging to two different heritors, to which their own estates only are thirled. It seems to be a general wish, that an equivalent were projected, under the eye of the legislature, for abolishing this species of vassalage.

*Character.*—A sense of religion and decency prevails among the people in general. One man only, within the memory of tradition, was convicted of a capital crime, and suffered for it about 50 years ago. No doubt, such a number engaged in distilling spirits, has a tendency to corrupt the morals; but the bad effects of this trade are less discernible than might be feared. Were the effects worse than they are, there is a fatal necessity of continuing the distillery, until some other manufacture be established in its stead, whereby the people will be enabled to find money to pay their rents. The worst effect of the great plenty of spirits is, that dram shops are set up almost in every village for retail, where young and idle people

about the 48th part of the meal after grinding. Mills and multures have been conveyed like other property. The conveyance includes *grana crescentia*; sometimes are included *invecta et illata*, and whatever *tholes* fire and water on the estate. *Use and wont* is also said to constitute a right, without any written document.

The miller's dues, or the wages for labour, are a separate article, consisting of a certain quantity of meal instantly paid out of every boll, (as formerly measured in ascertaining the multure), both to the head miller and his substitute. For this payment, the millers not only grind the corn, but support the machinery. Often the head miller pays a rent to his landlord for his place. The multure and miller's dues are so heavy, that, on some estates, they amount nearly to the value of the land rent.

people convene and get drunk. These tipling huts are kept by such only as are not able to pay a fine, or procure a licence. They are the greatest nuisance in the parish. It is a pity that no effectual mode has as yet been projected for suppressing them.

*Language.*—Gaelic is the vernacular language of the whole parish, except in gentlemen's families. Several of the inhabitants read the English Bible, and can transact business in that language; but they, as well as the bulk of the people, prefer religious instruction in Gaelic; and therefore are at pains to read the Gaelic New Testament, and Psalm Book, &c. The names of the places are uniformly Gaelic, expressive of their situation, or of some circumstance which struck the fancy of the original inhabitants. Some names of places recall to view the family economy of the great Barons, while the feudal government subsisted in its full vigour. The wages of their menial servants and tradesmen seem to have been paid in land. Hence we find the *Smith's Croft*, the *Arrow-maker's*, the *Bow-maker's*, the *Waulker's*, the *Cook's*, the *Baker's*, the *Piper's*, the *Fiddler's Croft*, &c. Of these there are, in this parish, *Belnagoun*, the town of the smiths; *Teanafie*, the residence of the fiddle; and *Cruitach*, the field of the harp, or harper's field. All the above names, and more from the same origin, are to be found near ancient seats.

## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF RATHO.

(County of Mid-Lothian.—Presbytery of Edinburgh.—  
Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES ROBERTSON.

*Situation, Extent, Surface, &c.*

**B**EFORE the Reformation, Ratho was a parsonage, under the provostry of Corstorphine; and, as every parish, in times of Popery, had a tutelary saint, that of Ratho had been dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This appears, not only from tradition, but from this farther circumstance, that the consecrated well near the church, a copious stream of very pure water, still bears the name of the *Lady's Well*.

The parish is a little more than 4 miles long and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  broad. A narrow irregular corner, which runs very far to the south-west, and in which there are few inhabitants, if taken into the computation, would extend the length of the parish above a mile farther. The east part of it is a fine flat country, lying exactly in the middle between the Pentland Hills and the Frith of Forth, and reaching within 5 miles of the capital. The western part contains several small hills, all covered with green, but very rocky. Those towards the north are all whin-stone; but the hills of Dalmahoy and Kaims, on the south side, abound much in free-stone.

*Soil and Culture.*—The soil of the land is generally a light loam, with a considerable mixture of sand in many places. In some parts, particularly towards the east, it is of a stronger quality, and tends to clay, a soil in which wheat and beans are produced to great advantage. The husbandry of this parish has been, for several years past, in a progressive state of improvement. Considerable quantities of manure, brought regularly from Edinburgh, and abundance of lime in the near neighbourhood, have contributed much to produce this happy effect. Several gentlemen in the parish farm on a large scale, and with great spirit and success. Their general practice is, to summer fallow a large field, to manure it richly, and sow it with wheat, by which they have of product generally from 9 to 12 bolls on the acre. Their subsequent crop is commonly beans and pease; after which they take a crop of barley or oats, with which they sow grass feeds; they then take one or two crops of hay, and afterwards keep it some years in pasture. By this rotation, they preserve their ground in excellent order. The following is given, as one instance out of many, of the fertility of these lands. Mr Kirkland, two years ago, summer fallowed and manured a field of 16 acres; it produced, of good grain, 14 bolls *per* acre. The price of wheat was so high that year, as to sell from 26 s. to 28 s. *per* boll; so that, from his wheat and the straw, he realized 20 l. Sterling *per* acre, i. e. 320 l. on the 16 acres. This fact may be depended upon, as the writer hereof had it from himself. Other instances of great improvement in husbandry, and corresponding produce, might be mentioned; but this is by no means the general condition of the parish. Many of the smaller tenants continue in the old tract, and thereby retard the progress of improvement.

*Climate,*



*Climate, Longevity, &c.*—As there is but a small proportion of marshy ground, the climate is thought, upon the whole, salutary, and some parts of it, namely the villages of Norton and Bonington, both on elevated situations, and built on rock, have been reputed to be particularly conducive to longevity. The incumbent has known many instances, in the course of his ministry, of persons above 90 years old, though few now in life have arrived at so advanced a period. One instance, however, of uncommon longevity, deserves particular attention. William Ritchie, now living in Long Dalmahoy, formerly a tenant to the Earl of Morton, and now supported by his Lordship's bounty, is believed to be at least 105 years old. His birth is not to be found in any parish record, but may be ascertained from this circumstance: His brother, Adam Ritchie, cowfeeder in Fountainbridge, was only three years older than William; Adam died above three years ago, aged 106. His age was properly authenticated, and published at the time in the newspapers. This very old man has been twice married, and has had 22 children, alternately sons and daughters. His youngest son is at present about 10 years old. The incumbent has baptized at least two children to him since he was 90 years of age, and his wife has the character of being a very honest woman.

*Proprietors and Rent.*—This parish is very respectable in point of heritors. They are eight in number, and, though not always resident, have mostly their principal seats here. The estate of Hatton, by far the most considerable, being nearly equal, in value and extent, to half the parish, was formerly the property of the Earl of Lauderdale, and long in the possession of that noble family. This great estate was sold last summer, by the present Earl, along with the patronage,

patronage, to Miss Scott of Scotstarvet, for 84,000 l.\*.—The Earl of Morton has his principal seat at Dalmahoy, about a mile east from Hatton. The pleasure ground of this place is more modern, being formed within these 50 years, by James Earl of Morton, P. R. S. and grandfather to the present Earl. Dalmahoy house is finely situated in the middle of a great park, containing between 400 and 500 acres, inclosed by one of the best built walls in Scotland, and subdivided into commodious inclosures, by sunk fences and belts of plantation, forming, altogether, a very beautiful and extensive scene.—The other heritors are, Thomas M'Knight, Esq; of Ratho, who purchased that estate about 5 years ago, and has already distinguished himself exceedingly, by the uncommon spirit with which he conducts his improvements, and whereby he is greatly increasing the value of his property; Robert Liston, Esq; of Damhead, at present ambassador from the court of Britain to that of Stockholm, and justly distinguished for his abilities in the diplomatic line;—William Cunningham, Esq; of Bonington;—Messrs Alexander Reid of Rathobyres, and his brother, Cumberland Reid of Gogarbank; and James Wilkie portioner of Rathobyres. A small proportion of the land lets as high as two guineas *per* acre; but these are principally the grounds round the village. The rent of the parish, at a medium, may be reckoned from 22 s. to 25 s. *per* acre. The real rent of the whole parish amounts very nearly to 5000 l. Sterling; the valued rent is exactly 6250 l. 13 s. 8 d. Scotch.

*Prospects, Pleasure Grounds, &c.*—Perhaps no parish in this country affords more varied and delightful prospects than that

\* An estate, equal in extent, value, situation, and many other advantages, is rarely to be found. The principal seat at Hatton is a venerable old house, with extensive gardens, and surrounded with large plantations and inclosures, of at least 800 acres of ground.

that of Ratho; almost from every part of it, the capital, with its extensive environs and surrounding hills, are in full view. From the small eminences in the west end of the parish, these views appear to the greatest advantage. One of these demands particular attention. From the top of the South Platt Hill, immediately above the manse \*, can be pointed out 14 different counties full in view. Some assert, that parts of 16 counties, making one half of Scotland, may be seen from that spot. This prospect gives a full view of the Forth, from the island of May towards Stirling; the coasts of Fife, Kinross, and Clackmannan; the hills in the shires of Perth, Stirling, and Dunbarton, as far as Ben-Lomond; the three Lothians, Berwickshire, &c.—The great road from Edinburgh to Glasgow runs nearly through the middle of the parish, and along it from Addiston Bridge to Bonington, for more than two miles, there is one uninterrupted scene of the most beautiful and valuable plantation any where to be seen. It comprehends the extensive pleasure grounds of Addiston, Ratho, Dalmahoy, Hatton, and Bonington.

*Church and School.*—The church is situated exactly 7 miles west from Edinburgh. It is very old; but when it was founded is uncertain. The stipend consists of 5 chalders of victual, 58 l. 8 s. 6 d. Sterling in money, which, at the county conversion of 10 s. 5 d. *per* boll, makes the stipend equal to 100 l. Sterling. But, from the usual difference between the county conversion and the selling prices, it is equal to 120 l. *communibus*

\* There are the remains of two encampments, both probably Danish; the one on Kaimes Hill, in the south-west corner of the parish, the other on the South Platt Hill, immediately above the manse; but the last, within these few years, has been, in a great measure, destroyed, by blowing and carrying off the stones for building dikes and other purposes.

*tribus annis.* The glebe consists of near 9 acres, whereof 5 is meadow ground, of no great value; but the whole, with the manse and garden, may be reckoned equal to 20 l. a year.—The schoolmaster's salary, about 25 years ago, was only 8 l. 3 s. Sterling. Upon an application to the heritors, they augmented it to 13 l. 3 s. About 10 years ago, the schoolmaster being rendered unfit, by age, for the duties of his office, most of the heritors voluntarily agreed to double the salary, and raised it to about 24 l. of which 10 l. with a free house, was allotted to the old schoolmaster for life, and 14 l. established as a salary for an efficient teacher, the choice of whom was left to the minister. Ever since there has been at Ratho a numerous and thriving school; and within these two years, the heritors have expended above 150 l. Sterling in enlarging the schoolmaster's house and rebuilding the school; which is finished and furnished in so complete a manner, that it may be considered as a model for other parts of the country, there being few such in Scotland.

*Poor.*—In the year 1760, the parish had no money at interest, and not above 10 l. of stock in the treasurer's hand for exigencies. There have been, almost ever since, however, about 40 indigent persons, at an average, regularly supplied, to the extent of near 70 l. Sterling annually, which sum has been produced altogether from weekly collections at the church doors. This may appear incredible in so small a parish; but one circumstance, which deserves to be recorded, to the honour of the late noble patron, will explain it. The late Earl of Lauderdale, who was remarkable, in his rank, for religious decency, and for his regular attendance on public ordinances, gave, every Sabbath, a guinea of collection, and still more liberal donations on sacramental occasions; so that, in the way of weekly collection, in little more than 30 years, he gave at

least 1500 l. Sterling to the support of the poor, besides other extensive charities in the parish. In this manner have the poor here been more regularly and amply supplied than in most other parishes, till within these 3 years, when we were obliged to have recourse to parochial assessments, and only 75 l. have hitherto been demanded in that way. The poor have, of monthly pension, from 2 s. 6 d. to 6 s. according to their various exigencies. In the year 1782, there was a voluntary contribution, to the amount of near 50 l. which, with their ordinary pensions, supported them in a pretty comfortable way during that very hard year.

*Population.*—With respect to the number of people, there has been a considerable decrease \* since the commencement of the present incumbent's ministry. In the year 1760, the number was about 1145. At that time, indeed, there were  
many

\* There is no record kept of burials, but the following table of births and marriages, extracted from the minutes of session, by the clerk, will shew that the population has not varied much these last 10 years.

| MARRIAGES,                                   |             | BIRTHS,                        |                 |               |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>From 1st Jan. 1782, to 1st Jan. 1792.</i> |             | <i>During the same period.</i> |                 |               |
|                                              |             | <i>Males.</i>                  | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
| 1782                                         | 4           | 10                             | 16              | 26            |
| 1783                                         | 8           | 14                             | 16              | 30            |
| 1784                                         | 5           | 9                              | 12              | 21            |
| 1785                                         | 6           | 10                             | 16              | 26            |
| 1786                                         | 9           | 11                             | 7               | 18            |
| 1787                                         | 7           | 14                             | 11              | 25            |
| 1788                                         | 5           | 11                             | 10              | 21            |
| 1789                                         | 8           | 11                             | 15              | 26            |
| 1790                                         | 10          | 9                              | 12              | 21            |
| 1791                                         | 3           | 8                              | 15              | 23            |
| Total,                                       | 65          | 107                            | 130             | 237           |
| Average                                      | 6½ per ann. | 10⅞                            | 13              | 23⅞           |

many people employed carrying on improvements at Dalmahoy and other places. They soon began to decrease, and at present do not exceed 825 souls. So great a diminution, in a parish so near the capital, in the space of little more than 30 years, may seem surprising; but the cause has arisen principally from letting the lands in large farms, and turning much of them into pasture grounds, whereby some villages have been entirely depopulated, and others considerably reduced in numbers. If it be a good maxim, that the riches of a country consist chiefly in the number of its inhabitants, the policy of the proprietors has not been directed, in this respect, to the best interests of the parish. One circumstance, indeed, that obstructs the increase of population in this district, is, the great distance from coals, the parish being, in this respect, the most unhappily situated of any in the three Lothians. It is equally distant from the east and west hills, being between 10 and 12 miles distant from both; and many bring them from Bonharr, which is 17 miles distant, on account of the goodness of the roads. This circumstance must prove an insurmountable obstacle to the establishment of manufactures, and consequently to the population of this parish; which, however, upon the whole, has only decreased 105 within these 37 years; the number returned to Dr Webster, in the year 1755, being 930.

*Eminent Men.*—The immediate predecessor of the present incumbent, was Dr William Wilkie, who, in 1760, was translated to the professorship of natural philosophy in the university of St. Andrew's. This gentleman, along with many peculiarities of character, possessed much valuable knowledge, and, in point of extent and originality of genius, had perhaps no superior in his time. He was author of the *Epigoniad*, an epic poem of great merit, and which, as a monument

ment of his poetical abilities, will long do honour to his memory. He wrote also a volume of fables, which he dedicated to his noble patron, the Earl of Lauderdale. It is perhaps to be regretted, that many valuable manuscripts of his, both scientific and miscellaneous, have never been published. He died about 18 years ago.

NUM.

N U M B E R XXV.

PARISH OF NEW OR EAST MONKLAND.

(*County of Lanark.—Presbytery of Hamilton.—Synod  
of Glasgow and Ayr.*)

By *Mr WILLIAM MACK, Writer in Edinburgh.*

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HE parishes of Old and New Monkland, were formerly united, under the general name of Monkland, from the Monks of Newbottle, to whom they originally belonged. But part of it being erected into a separate parish, about the year 1640, it was called *New Monkland*, and the other district Old Monkland, for distinction's sake. In most writings, however, the former is called *East Monkland*, from its being situated to the east of Old Monkland.—East Monkland is situated in that district or subdivision of Lanarkshire, called the Middle Ward, and is the most northerly parish in the county. It is about 10 miles in length, from east to west, and 7 in breadth about the middle, but narrower at both ends.

*Surface, Soil, Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—There is neither hill nor mountain in the whole district, although the greater part of it lies considerably above the level of the sea. The highest lands are in the middle of the parish, and run the whole length of it, from east to west, declining gently on each side to the rivers Calder and Luggie, which are its  
fouthern



southern and northern boundaries. The whole is a beautiful champaign country, agreeably diversified by vales and gentle risings. The eastern part of the parish is rather encumbered with moss.—The soil is various. The north and west parts of the parish are the best, consisting, generally, of a strong clay soil, and, when properly cultivated, yield good crops. The middle and east parts are of a mossy soil, and, in early seasons, yield good crops of oats and potatoes; but, in cold late seasons, seldom ripen well. Wheat, barley, pease, beans, oats, flax, clover, and rye-grass, are sown annually; but oats are the most general crop. Great quantities of flax are raised for sale, some years to the extent of above 100 acres. The flax is generally sown the second year after the lands are broken up from pasture, after a crop of oats or pease. An acre of ground let for flax, brings 5 l. or 6 l. Sterling of rent for that year. There are 114 ploughgates of land in the parish. The ploughgates differ greatly with regard to extent; but, on an average, may contain from 70 to 80 acres of arable land, besides pasture and moss, of which last there are some thousands of acres in the middle and eastern parts of the parish. The estates of Airdrie, Rothfolloch, Monkland, and Rochfoles, are greatly improved, well inclosed, and finely sheltered with large plantations of forest trees, which thrive well. The parish, in general, is inclosed with ditches and hedges of white thorn; but many of the hedges are bad, partly owing to want of care, and partly to the mossy soil of the higher grounds, where it is found, that thorns never thrive, and seldom live above 20 years. The best improved lands are occupied in pasture, and let yearly to graziers, for fattening sheep and black cattle. By this method, the lands are not only improved, but also bring more rent, than by letting them on leases. Manures of all kinds are rather ex-  
pensive.

penfive. Lime \* is the most general one. Ploughs of different kinds are used, but chiefly the Scotch plough, of a light construction, which is most commonly drawn by 2, sometimes 3 horses, it being now rare to see 4 horses yoked in one plough. From the high prices given for cattle, butter, and cheese, the farmers have of late turned their attention chiefly to the rearing young cows and horses, and improving the breed, in which they have made great progress. They now rear as fine draught horses and milk cows as any in Scotland. There are about 200 milk cows kept in the town of Airdrie, which not only supply the inhabitants with milk, but have greatly improved the neighbouring fields by their dung. Potatoes † are now become a general crop, and are used both for family use and feeding cattle. Turnip and cabbage husbandry are little practised, though the few trials made, have succeeded well. The management of the dairy is well understood, and carefully attended to. Cheese, equal to Stilton, (perhaps not inferior to Parmesan), is made by some families; but this superior kind is mostly made for private

\* It is got from the lime-works in Cumbernauld parish; but the long carriage makes it very expensive. This, however, will be in some degree remedied, when the Monkland navigation is finished, (which it is expected to be in the course of next year), as lime will then be brought by water carriage. The most approved method of using lime, is to lay it on the surface some years before breaking up. This makes the pasture more valuable, and never fails to produce plentiful crops. A considerable quantity of dung is got at Airdrie, which sells as high as 20 d. and 1 s. the single cart-load.

† They answer the purpose well; but there is a prejudice against the culture of them, that they weaken and impoverish the land, although the very reverse is the fact, as it has been found, by every judicious inquirer, that potatoes, next to pease and turnips, are the most enriching crop that can be put on any soil. A disease in this valuable root has lately made its appearance, commonly called the *curled leaf*; but this disease chiefly affects potatoes planted in wet or low grounds.

vate use. From the vicinity of Glasgow, which is only 10 miles distant, every article the farmer can spare, finds a ready market and a high price.

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are above 100 heritors in the parish, besides the feuers of Airdrie after mentioned; and as the lands in general are farmed by the proprietors themselves, they are better cultivated than could be expected, if they were farmed by tenants on short leases. The principal heritors are Misses Isobel, Bethia, and Margaret Aitchison, of Rochfolloch and Airdrie, Andrew Stirling of Drumpellier, John Henry Cochrane of Rochfoles, James Dunlop of Garnkirk, Andrew Buchanan of Ardinconnal, William Hamilton of Wishaw, and John Nisbet of Cairnhill, Esquires, none of whom reside in the parish, but the Miss Aitchisons, and occasionally, Mr Cochrane.—The valued rent is 6822 l. 6 s. 8 d. Scotch. The real rent cannot be ascertained, as the greater part of the lands are possessed by the proprietors; but if the whole were rented, the lands might yield between 5000 l. and 6000 l. Sterling, and the houses in the town of Airdrie about 1000 l.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church was rebuilt in the year 1777. It is a very handsome country church, and contains 1200 people. The manse was built about 50 years ago, and lately got a complete reparation, with a new set of offices. The church, with the repairs of the manse, new school-house, and church-yard dike, cost near 1000 l. The heritors are patrons. The stipend is 8 chalders of oatmeal, or 128 bolls, and is paid by the College of Glasgow, who are titulars of the teinds, according to the fiars of the commissariat of Hamilton and Campsie. The minister is also allowed half a chalders of meal for communion elements. The glebe, manse,  
and

and garden, are worth about 15 l. yearly. When oat-meal sells at 1 s. the peck, which is about the average price, the whole living is about 120 l. yearly. The stipend has never been augmented \*. A very handsome chapel of ease was built last year for the accommodation of the town of Airdrie, by a voluntary subscription, and a meeting-house, for the people of the Burgher Association, was lately also built at Airdrie, although there are very few dissenters in the parish. Their congregation is therefore collected from neighbouring parishes.

*Schools and Poor.*—There is a public school at the parish church. The salary is 5 l. 11 s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. with a school and dwelling-house, but no garden. This salary, being paid by more than 100 heritors, is scarcely worth collecting. The schoolmaster is also precentor and session clerk. The emoluments of these offices, though trifling, are better than the salary, but the whole is a shameful pittance in so wealthy a parish; and it is a disgrace to the country, that so useful a body of men are, in Scotland, so poorly provided for in general, and calls loudly for redress. There are generally two schools in the town of Airdrie; but as they have neither school-house nor salary, the teachers continue no longer than till a better place offers. If one penny upon the pound Scotch of valued rent, all over Scotland, were levied, along with the land-tax, and paid to the parochial schoolmasters, in addition to their present trifling salaries, it might make their

\* The Reverend Mr PATRICK MAXWELL is the present incumbent; he was settled in the year 1760, and is married, but has no children. To the great concern of the parishioners, he has, for some time past, been in a bad state of health, which rendered him unfit to draw up the statistical account of the parish, and induced the writer hereof to undertake the task.

living more decent, and their usefulness more general. This could be levied without expence, and such a trifle would never be missed by the proprietors.—The number of poor on the parish roll, are between 40 and 50. The sum distributed among them, for some time past, is about 70 l. annually. The funds for supplying them do not exceed 100 l. the interest of which, with the collection at the church doors, mortcloths or pall-dues, proclamations of the banns of marriage, and an extraordinary collection on the first Sabbath of June yearly, has hitherto raised a sum equal to the yearly distribution. There are 4 different charitable societies in the town of Airdrie, who have about 500 l. of stock, and are very useful in supporting poor members. Their funds are well managed, and increasing yearly. If such societies were established in every parish, and properly conducted, they would be very beneficial, particularly in times of dearth, by laying out their stock for the purchase of grain, and selling it to the poor at prime cost, as was done here in the year 1783, upon the general failure of the preceding crop\*.

*Minerals and Mineral Springs.*—Coal and iron-stone are, or may be found, almost in every farm. The Monkland coal has been long famed for the quality and richness of its seams, Twenty years ago, coal sold so low as 6 d. the cart load; but since the Monkland navigation was opened, it sells at 18 d.  
the

\* There are few or no begging poor in the parish; but no place of the country is more pestered with vagrants and gypsies, as there is neither work-house, jail, nor resident magistrate in the parish. A set of respectable constables who understood, and could properly exercise, the ample powers committed to them, might be of great use, in cleaning the country of such vagrants; but as this office is generally filled by the most ignorant and worthless, they are become a nuisance instead of a benefit.

the cart, weighing 12 cwt. Excellent smithy coal, and blind coal for drying grain and malt, are found at Airdrie, and sell at 2s. 6d. the cart. On account of its superior quality, it is carried 20 miles and upwards round the country. Lime has been found in the north part of the parish, but is not wrought at present. There are plenty of free-stone quarries, and abundance of whin or moor-stones in every part of the parish. There are several mineral springs, chiefly of the chalybeate kind; but the one called Monkland Well, near Airdrie, is the most famous, and has long been used successfully, in all scorbutic, scrophulous, and other cutaneous cases, and in complaints of the stomach and eyes. About 40 years ago, it was frequented by the gay and fashionable from all quarters; but now only by the poor and lame. But if the rich, who need a cure, knew the value of this water, they might find real advantage from it, at a small expence, in comparison of the English watering places, as every accommodation can be got in the neighbourhood at easy rates.

*Roads, Bridges, &c.*—The roads were in a most wretched state, till the year 1772, when the county obtained an act of Parliament for commuting the statute work for money. Since that period, the roads are greatly improved, and a bridge built over almost every rivulet. The present conversion is 15s. Sterling for each ploughgate of land, and 18d. for each householder, which amounts to 100l. or thereby, annually. This fund is managed in the best manner, and as there are plenty of excellent materials, few parishes in Scotland have such good roads. An act was obtained last session of Parliament, for making a turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glasgow, by Bathgate and Airdrie, the tract of which will run through this parish for many miles, and, when finished, will

will be of the greatest benefit to the country in general, and this parish in particular.

*Population.*—The village, or, as it is commonly called, the town of Airdrie \*, is the only one in the parish, and stands near the south-west extremity, on a beautiful rising ground, between two small rivulets, regularly built, with wide streets, and extends near an English mile in length from east to west. It had very few inhabitants at the beginning of the present century; but they are much increased since. In the year 1760, there were only 300 examinable persons; in the year 1789 they amounted to 1100; and from an actual survey, taken this present year, (1792), there are 1762 souls in the town and suburbs. The number of souls, in the landward part of the parish, is not exactly known; but in the year 1789, there were found to be 1300 persons above 8 years of age, members of the church of Scotland, besides dissenters. Adding, therefore, these numbers together, with that of the children below 8 years of age, (who will amount to about 500 more), it is evident, that the population of the whole parish cannot be less than 3560, which is 847 more than it was 40 years ago, the return to Dr Webster, in 1755, being only 2713.

The following table will give a concise view of the state of the population, as well as of the different employments of the inhabitants :

*Population*

\* It was, by act of Parliament, in the year 1695, erected into a market town, with the privilege of holding a weekly market on Tuesday, and two fairs annually, the one on the third Tuesday of May, and the other on the first Tuesday of November, O. S. A Lammas and Candlemas fair have been added to the number, but the two old fairs are best frequented.

*Population Table of the Parish of New Monkland.*

|                             |      |                                |        |       |     |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------------|--------|-------|-----|
| Population in 1792,         | 3560 | Wrights,                       | -      | -     | 21  |
| — anno 1755,                | 2713 | Coopers,                       | -      | -     | 3   |
|                             | —    | Weavers,                       | -      | -     | 227 |
| Increase,                   | 847  | Shoemakers,                    | -      | -     | 16  |
| Average of births, for 3    |      | Tailors,                       | -      | -     | 13  |
| years preceding 1792,       | 116  | Butchers,                      | -      | -     | 4   |
| Ditto of deaths *,          | 60   | Millers,                       | -      | -     | 14  |
| Ditto of marriages,         | 36   | Bakers, including apprentices, | 7      |       |     |
| Inhabitants in Airdrie,     | 1762 | Candlemakers,                  | -      | -     | 2   |
| — in the country,           | 1800 | Brewers,                       | -      | -     | 3   |
| Proprietors residing, above | 95   | Sadlers,                       | -      | -     | 3   |
| — non-residing,             | 5    | Clockmaker,                    | -      | -     | 1   |
| Clergyman,                  | -    | Iron founder and servants,     | 3      |       |     |
| Surgeons,                   | -    | Stockingmakers,                | -      | 25    |     |
| Druggists,                  | -    | Poor, on an average,           | 45     |       |     |
| Writer,                     | -    | Capital of their funds,        | L. 100 |       |     |
| Messengers,                 | -    | Annual income and expen-       |        |       |     |
| Schoolmasters,              | -    | diture, about                  | -      | L. 70 |     |
| Farmers,                    | -    | Exciseman,                     | -      | -     | 1   |
| Shopkeepers, grocers, and   |      | Distillers and their servants, | 9      |       |     |
| victual dealers,            | -    | Tambourers, (children who      |        |       |     |
| Slaters,                    | -    | flower mullin with the         |        |       |     |
| Masons,                     | -    | tambour-needle),               | -      | 202   |     |

*Manufactures.*

\* There is no bill of mortality kept in the parish; but, from the account of the mort-cloth dues, the average number of deaths, for these 3 years past, is 45 yearly, buried at the parish church, besides those buried elsewhere, which may be reckoned about 15 more. The average of marriages, for the same period, is 36 yearly. The births are not all recorded; some parents neglect it to save the expence, and some, from religious scruples against the tax. The average number of baptisms, recorded for the last 3 years, is 96 *per annum*, but it is supposed that 20 more yearly are not recorded.



*Manufactures.*—The distillery of malt spirits, brewing of ale, malting, candle making, and iron founding, are the only manufactures of consequence carried on at Airdrie, as the weavers and tambourers are chiefly employed by Glasgow manufacturers. The distillery is carried on to a considerable amount, there being about 40,000 gallons of proof spirits made annually. It is allowed, by judges, that the malt spirits made at Airdrie are of a peculiar fine quality and flavour; and although a small quantity only is used here, there is a constant demand for it from every part of the country, and some of it is exported to America and the West Indies on account of its quality. There are 7 corn mills, 6 lint mills, and 3 sets of rollers for crushing malt. The thirlage is no great hardship here, as the multures are generally small. On that account, some proprietors of mills have allowed them to fall to ruin.

*Character.*—Considering the number of the inhabitants, and the want of magistrates, the morals of the people are much better than could be expected. None born in the parish have ever suffered either corporal or capital punishment. The people, in general, are hospitable and sober. Diffipation is only to be found among a few of the lower rank. They attend church regularly, and are generally very clean and well dressed. As every person, who chooses to work, finds employment, the trades people, in general, are in easy circumstances, and appear to be contented. Almost every tradesman is proprietor of a house and garden, which gives them a natural attachment to the place. The people of Airdrie seem to have a peculiar foible of keeping a great number of useless dogs, which are a nuisance to every passenger, and plainly points out the propriety of a tax being laid on these animals.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The parish is, on the whole, more beautiful than fertile. Its chief advantages are the plenty of coals and peats, water and free stone, good roads, and cheap living; but one great disadvantage is, the distance from lime, which is the manure that answers the soil best. Another disadvantage is, that the College of Glasgow are titulars of the teinds, which are said to be mortified by an act of Parliament, and are therefore not saleable. This, and several neighbouring parishes, are therefore obliged, either to take leases of their teinds every 19 years, and to pay an arbitrary grassum to the college, or else to get them valued by a process before the Court of Session, which is attended with great expence. This calls loudly for redress, as it hurts the spirit of improving the lands, the College having a right to the fifth part of the rents, in case of a valuation. It would, therefore, be for the interest of these parishes, as well as of the College, to apply for an act of Parliament to make the teinds saleable, and to lay out the price upon lands for behoof of the College, by Commissioners appointed for that purpose; which would not only remedy this grievance, but secure the College revenue, encourage agriculture, and prevent many expensive processes between the College and the landholders. The parish, in general, is deemed healthy. No epidemical distempers are known here. Many persons now living are above 80 years of age, and 3 near 100. The small-pox is the most fatal disease, as inoculation, by some fatal prejudice, is not yet become general. Considering the prodigious number that Great Britain loses annually by this disease, a premium should be given by government, for some limited time, to encourage the general practice of inoculation, amongst the middling and lower ranks of people. It appears, that the ancient Celts or Gauls once inhabited this part of the country, as many places have Gaelic names, such as Roch-  
folloch,

folloch, Airdrie, Drumgray, Drumschioch, Ballochnie, &c. The only antiquity \* worth remarking, is a large artificial cave, dug out of a bold rocky eminence, on the banks of the river Calder, in the estate of Monkland, in a most romantic and sequestered spot, and which seems to have been a very laborious undertaking. But whether it has been intended as an asylum in barbarous times, or the abode of the melancholy hermit, tradition is perfectly silent, although the former is most probable.

\* There were also to be seen, a few years ago, the remains of a Roman Catholic chapel, at a place called Kipps, which was destroyed at the Reformation. At this chapel, the abbots of Newbottle held annual courts, for levying the rents and feus of the hundred pound land of the barony of Monkland, then belonging to the Abbey of Newbottle; but this venerable monument of antiquity is now demolished, a more than *ruffic* farmer having lately removed the walls, and turned the scite of it into a corn field. Upon a rising ground, there is still to be seen an upright granite stone, where it is said, in former times, they burnt those imaginary criminals, called witches.

N U M B E R XXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF LUNDIE  
AND FOULIS.

(Counties of Angus and Perth.—Presbytery of Dundee.  
—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Reverend Mr ANDREW HALLY.

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*Erection and Constitution.*

THESE parishes, originally distinct, were united in 1618, by decret of the High Commission, and have ever since been under the charge of one minister, who dispenses ordinances alternately at each church; but, as they lie in different shires, (Lundie in Forfar, and Foulis in Perth), each parish continues to have its own kirk-session, poor's box, and session register. It will therefore be proper to describe each of them separately. And, first, of

L U N D I E.

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*—LUNDIE, the name of the largest lake in the parish, as well as of the parish itself, is of Gaelic origin, being derived from *Linn-Dé*, which signifies the *water or pool of God*, probably on account of its great extent; as high hills, of old, were called *the hills of God*, and deep waters, *the waters of God*. It is of a circular form, and contains 3258 acres, of which 2000 are arable, about

110 in lakes, 119 in meadow ground, and the remainder hill and pasture. It is surrounded by Siddley-hills on the north and west. The south slope is green, and affords good pasture. The north or back part is heathy. The middle of the parish is pretty flat, and the soil is sufficiently productive, except in rainy or late seasons, when the crop is seldom got in without damage. The air is not unhealthy \*, though it must necessarily be moist, from the number of lakes and fens in the parish.

*Lakes and Echo.*—There are 4 lakes, all of which are supposed to be full of marl, from the specimens that have been dug from their sides; but none of them have as yet been drained, Lundie loch, which is about a gun-shot from the church, covers 72½ acres, and is 60 feet deep in some places. All of them abound in pikes, perches, and eels; but there are no trouts, or any other kind of fish in them. These lakes are the fountains of Dighty Water, which is so beneficial to the country in general, particularly to Dundee; and which empties itself into the sea at Monyfeith, about 10 or 12 miles from this.—At a small hill, about 60 feet above the lake of Pitlail, there is a remarkable echo. When a person stands upon this hill, the surrounding mountains of Siddley forming a kind of amphitheatre, he will find a loud cry distinctly repeated three times at least, if not four †.

*Heritors*

\* There are no local distempers prevalent in either of these parishes. The most frequent disease is the rheumatism. Instances of extraordinary longevity sometimes occur. One man died here, about 20 years ago, aged 106; and many have exceeded 80.

† The following anecdote strongly marks the simplicity of country people:—One summer evening, a young fellow sat down on this hill to divert himself and some friends, by playing on the shepherd's

*Heritors and Rent.*—There are 3 heritors, but none of them reside in the parish. About 30 years ago, the land rent of Lundie was superior to that of Foulis; but the case is now reversed, which may be owing to the long leases or liferent tacks granted, by which the principal heritor of the former parish has not had it in his power to inclose and improve the ground, whereby the greater part of it is still in its natural state. The difference between the rent of Lundie and that of Foulis cannot be stated with precision; the former is reckoned not much under 1000 l.; and some idea of the advance of rent may be formed from one farm, which, in 1642, was let at 50 merks Scotch, but is now esteemed a good bargain at 100 l. Sterling.

*Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle.*—The chief productions are barley, oats, potatoes, and flax. There is more of this last article raised here than at Foulis, but not so much artificial grass. Several farmers have tried the culture of wheat, but have all given it up, except one. The seed time for oats is from the 1st of March; for barley, about the 20th of May; and for wheat, from the middle of September to the end of October. Considerable quantities of oats, barley, and oat-meal, are exported, besides supplying the inhabitants. The crop is somewhat later than at Foulis.—There are 140 horses, and 364 cattle; 28 ploughs, chiefly of the construction recommended by Mr James Small, in his Treatise on  
Ploughs,

shepherd's pipe, an instrument upon which he was reckoned a good performer. But he had hardly played a single tune, when, hearing his music distinctly repeated three times over, he got up in great terror, averring that the Devil was certainly in the place; that he had never before engaged with *Satan*, and he was determined he never would again; whereupon he broke his pipe in pieces, and could never afterwards be prevailed upon to play any more.

Ploughs, &c. ; and about 37 carts, with hay tops for leading corn. Where the ground is level, and the ridges straight, these ploughs are managed by two horses only ; and one man both holds and drives, which occasions a considerable saving of time and labour \*.

*Population.*—For these 30 years past, the population has varied little ; though, from the register of baptisms and burials, there appears to be a great increase ; the number of the former, within that period, being 343, and that of the latter only 145. The number of inhabitants, at present, is 334, all of whom attend the established Church, except two or three Seceders. Of these, there are 16 farmers, who keep two ploughs each ; 2 smaller ones, who have a horse and some cows ; 14 weavers and 2 wrights, who have a cow and an acre of ground apiece ; 2 taylor, 2 ale-fellers, and 1 smith. There is also a small bleachfield, with a washing-mill, beetles, &c. and a thread mill, which give work to 14 or 15 people.

#### F O U L I S.

*Extent, Surface, and Soil.*—This parish is of a triangular form, lying nearly east and west. The greatest length is four  
measured

\* The average annual wages of a plowman, in both parishes, are 8l. though some have 10l. ; those of a maid-servant 3l. including bounties ; such as 2 yards of linen and an apron, with ground for 2 lippies of lintseed. About 40 years ago, the wages of the former were only 2 l. and of the latter 20 s. with the bounties. A day's wages of a man employed in agriculture are 1 s. or 8 d. with his victuals ; those of a wright 10 d. a mason 1 s. and a taylor 8 d. with their maintenance. These wages are found sufficient for the support of themselves and families while in health ; and, when in distress, they are aided from the funds.

measured miles, and the medium breadth somewhat more than one. It contains 1200 acres of arable land, and 744 of hill, wood, and pasture ground.—The soil is, in general, rich, well cultivated, and mostly inclosed. The ground has an easy slope towards the south, which renders the situation very agreeable. There is only one hill, called the *Black Law*, which, though noted for good pasturage formerly, is now become of little value, by the total removal of sheep from it. There are neither rivers nor rivulets in either of the parishes, but several lakes. One, which was called the *Piper Dam*, and which covered 55 acres, was drained about 15 years ago. A considerable quantity of marl, as well as of peats, has been dug from it. It not only supplies the parish, but part of the neighbourhood, with that species of manure, and yields a considerable sum yearly to the proprietor.

*Heritor, Tenants, and Rent*—The whole parish is the property of Sir William Murray of Auchtertyre, Baronet, who does not reside in it.—More than one half is occupied by one farmer and his son; another farms 180 acres, a third 150, and the rest is divided into about 20 small farms. The rent is above 1000 l. Sterling. The farms let at from 10 s. to 20 s. an acre.

*Agriculture, Produce, and Cattle*—About one third of the arable land in this parish, amounting to nearly 400 acres, is laid out in green crops, grass, turnips, potatoes, and flax. The rest produces wheat, oats, and barley. Foulis was the first parish in this country where a regular rotation of crops was attempted. It is about 20 years since the proprietors introduced it, and the success encourages the continuance. The seed time is the same as at Lundie; and the crop is generally all cut down and gathered in by the 1st of October.

The



The parish, besides supplying itself with provisions \*, exports considerable quantities of grain. There are about 90 horses, and 300 head of cattle. The number of ploughs and carts is much the same as at Lundie.

*Population.*—Owing to the enlarging of farms, and throwing several possessions into one, the population has decreased to the number of about 100. The number of baptisms, during the first ten years of the present century, was 163; and, during the last ten years preceding 1790, only 91. Yet, during the last 30 years, the number of baptisms exceeds that of the burials by nearly one third, there having been 300 baptised, and only 208 buried in the parish within that period. The number of inhabitants, at present, is 314, all members of the established Church, except 8 or 9 Seceders; among whom there are 10 weavers, 2 wrights, 2 taylors, 1 smith, 1 shoemaker, 1 distiller, and 20 small farmers, each of whom has a plough, some with 4 horses, and others 1 or 2, besides the 4 great farmers above mentioned. But the present state of both parishes will best appear from the following

*Statistical Table of the united Parishes of Lundie and Foulis.*

|                          |     |                           |     |
|--------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| Length in English miles, | 7½  | Number of births for 30   |     |
| Breadth, - - -           | 1½  | years preceding 1790,     | 643 |
| Population in 1790, -    | 648 | Ditto of deaths, -        | 353 |
| ———— <i>anno</i> 1755,   | 586 | Members of the Establish- |     |
|                          |     | ed Church, -              | 636 |
| Increase,                | 62  | Seceders - -              | 12  |
|                          |     | Proprietors,              |     |

\* The prices of provisions have risen greatly of late in both parishes; beef, mutton, veal, &c. from 2 d. to 4 d. *per* lib.; hens from 6d. to 1 s.; butter from 4 d. to 9 d.; wheat from 14 s. to 21 s. *per* boll; barley from 10 s. to 15 s.; and meal in proportion.

|                                              |    |                            |         |
|----------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|---------|
| Proprietors, - - -                           | 4  | Persons employed about the |         |
| Clergyman, - - -                             | 1  | bleachfield, - - -         | 15      |
| Schoolmasters, - - -                         | 2  | Distiller, - - -           | 1       |
| Farmers above 50 l. <i>per annum</i> , - - - | 4  | Poor, - - -                | 10      |
| Ditto under 50 l. - - -                      | 38 | Horses, - - -              | 230     |
| Keepers of ale-houses, - - -                 | 2  | Cattle, - - -              | 664     |
| Smiths, - - -                                | 2  | Carts, - - -               | 74      |
| Wrights, - - -                               | 4  | Ploughs, - - -             | 56      |
| Weavers, - - -                               | 24 | Total extent in acres,     | 5257    |
| Shoemaker, - - -                             | 1  | Ditto of arable ground,    | 3200    |
| Tailors, - - -                               | 4  | Rent in Sterling money a-  |         |
|                                              |    | bout - - -                 | L. 2000 |

*Ecclesiastical State of both Parishes.*—The manse, and a glebe of six acres, are situated at Lundie. The stipend consists of 4 chalders of victual, one half meal, the other barley, and 30 l. in money, including communion elements. It may be estimated at 70 l. *per annum*. Colonel Alexander Duncan of Lundie is supposed to be patron of both parishes, though Sir William Murray claims the patronage of Foulis. The church of Lundie lies exactly 3 miles and 120 feet distant from Foulis, in a north-west direction. When it was built cannot be ascertained; nor is there any thing very remarkable about it, except an elegant monument lately erected at the east end of it, by Lady M. Duncan of London, in memory of her husband, the late Sir William Duncan, physician to his Majesty, who lies interred there. But the church of Foulis merits particular notice, as a remarkable piece of ancient architecture. It is 88 feet 10 inches in length, and 27 feet 9 in breadth, and is built all of hewn stone. It is perfectly entire, without the least symptom of decay, although it was built in the year 1142, during the time of the Crusades, as appears by an inscription on a large oak beam that supported the organ loft, having been erected in consequence  
of

of a vow made by the wife of one of the lords of this place, that, "in case her husband should return in safety from the holy wars, she would build and endow a church \*." It was made collegiate by Andrew the first Lord Gray, who placed therein a provost and several prebends, with suitable endowments, in the reign of James II. On the top of the east gavel of the church there is a cross; in the church-yard there is another, 8 foot high; and, about 10 or 12 years ago, there was a third cross, 14 or 15 feet high, with steps all round, about a quarter of a mile north from the church. A new roof was put on the church about four years ago.

*Schools and Poor.*—There are two schools, one in each parish, but both are poorly provided, the legal salary of each being only 40*l.* Scotch. The average number of scholars attending each is 30; and, though aided by voluntary subscriptions, the encouragement is so trifling, that the parishes are often exposed to changes, and as often but indifferently supplied. The average number of poor in each parish is 5. The collections at church, with the dues of the mort-cloth, and the interest of a small sum lent, has hitherto been found sufficient for their support; and none are allowed to beg.

*Miscellaneous*

\* Part of this inscription is still legible, viz. *Hæc Templum structum fuit Anno Millesimo centesimo Quadragesimo secundo ab A. Gray.*—There are several other remains of antiquity to be seen here, particularly a number of paintings upon a wainscot partition, (which separates Lord Gray's burial-place from the church, and is supposed to be equally ancient), representing our Saviour in various attitudes, the Apostles, with the insignia of their martyrdom, the Roman Centurion, &c. At the west end of the church, there are the remains of a large font, besides another without, and a third within the door. About 20 years ago, there stood in the east end of the church a large black oak table, which went by the name of *the altar*. It was placed before a press in the wall, with an iron door. Upon these are representations of priests in their sacerdotal robes, &c.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The roads were formerly made by statute labour, which is now commuted. Turnpikes are beginning to be erected; the people, in general, approve of them; but some of the inferior ranks are not yet reconciled to them.—The fuel generally used here is coals, at the rate of 3*l.* *per* chalders. Some peats are also used.—The principal advantages of Lundie and Foulis are their vicinity to the Tay, by which lime and coals are easily procured, and the extra produce of the parishes exported.—The names of several of the villages are derived from the Gaelic; *e. g.* *Balsbando*, the old black town on the back of the hill; *Lincreeff*, a town on the side of a hill, with trees, and the like: Others from their situation; as *Smistown*, because mists lie long upon it, &c.—The people, in general, are sober, regular, and industrious. They enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts of life, and seem to be contented with their condition.

## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF MOUSWALD.

(County of Dumfries.—Presbytery of Lochmaben.—Synod of Dumfries.)

By the Reverend Mr JACOB DICKSON.

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

THE name *Moufwald* is supposed to be of Saxon original, signifying a wood, or as some think, a plain rising country, not covered with wood. The term *wold* seems to have been descriptive of long ranges of high land lying in a particular direction. Those places so named in England, viz. York Wolds, Lincoln Wolds, &c. and the range of which this district makes a part, lie from S. E. to N. W.; and, having the S. W. side much exposed to the strong and frequent S. S. W. and W. winds, blowing from the mouth of the Solway Frith, probably accounts for their appearance without trees on the higher parts, while there was formerly plenty of wood on the lower ground; and perhaps *wold* was the term for the whole range of hills from the S. E. end in Moufwald to the N. W. end in Tinwald. But in later times, when the country became better peopled, and was divided into districts, or parishes, it was necessary to distinguish each, by annexing some other word or name, which, in this instance, seems to have been from the English. And, because this district was nearest to the great moss, called

*Locharmosi,*

*Locharmoss* \*, perhaps it might originally have been named *Mosswald*, or that division nearest to the moss; which, from the situation of the church, has been a striking object for time immemorial, and almost the whole of which (for 12 miles in length, and full 3 English miles in breadth in some places) is seen by the observer in one view. Now, if we allow that the latter part of the name is not according to the original spelling, we may as well suppose *moss*, as now used, to have formerly been *moss*.—The parish is a part of that district formerly called the stewartry of Annandale, now united to the shire of Dumfries. It is, in length, between 4 and 5 English miles, from north to south; and, excluding the moss, nearly about 2 English miles in breadth, on an average, from east to west; but, including the moss, its figure nearly resembles that of a heart, narrowing both on the north and south quarter, as it descends to the moss, and still growing narrower, till it terminates on the small river Lochar, which divides it from Carlaverock. It would measure from the east to this south-westerly point between 4 and 5 miles.

*Surface and Soil*.—The surface of the parish is plain and level, rather than hilly; and, though there are several rising grounds in it, they have so gentle an ascent as to be cultivated with the plough to the very summit.—The soil is various; two or three farms adjoining the moss have a considerable quantity of pasture ground, which is wet and marshy, and some of the arable land is also wet; while other parts of these farms, rising considerably above the level of Locharmoss, are light and sandy. A considerable part of the parish next to these, though rising a little above them, appears, for

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\* See the accounts of the parishes of Tinwald and Torthorwald, in the 1st and 2d Volumes.

a mile in breadth, to be pretty level, and is either light and sandy, or a thin foil, and gravelly bottom; and, in some places, very stony, much inclined to produce broom in the course of 3 or 4 years, even when laid down rich with grass feeds. Next to these farms, the rising grounds towards the eastern part of the parish are of a moderately deep and rich foil\*.

*Air, Climate, and Diseases.*—Notwithstanding 882 acres and 2 roods of Lochar Moss lie in the western extremity of this parish, and notwithstanding its contiguity to that large track of moss, of which it is a part, the air is pure, and tolerably healthy, owing to the vicinity of the sea, which flows within 4 English miles of the center of the district, and the dry and sandy bottom of the far greater part of it. No epidemical diseases are peculiar to the inhabitants. Rheumatisms and nervous or hysterical complaints prevail of late years much more than formerly. On the whole, although the inhabitants, in general, do not arrive at extreme old age, yet numbers attain to 70, and several to 80 years. There are a few  
at

\* The face of the parish is greatly altered to the worse within these 12 years. In the grounds belonging to the Duke of Queensberry, consisting of about 2870 acres of arable, pasture, moss, and meadow; 92 acres, or somewhat more, were lately wood lands, consisting chiefly of beautiful thriving oak, ash, and other forest trees, finely interspersed with corn fields, checquered, both in the low and rising grounds, with clumps and beautiful strips of natural wood. But these woods, which were so ornamental to the country, and useful both to the proprietor and to the public, have not only been sold and cut down, but left uninclosed, and exposed to the cattle; so that not one in a hundred of them will ever again arrive at perfection. The farmhouse which the traveller had formerly only here and there a peep of, are now left naked, and exposed to view in every direction; and, what is worse, without any thing to shelter them from the furious gusts of wind which sometimes blow from the opening of the Solway Frith, and from the S. W. and W.

at present above 80, and one woman in the 88th year of her age.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—The crops consist of oats, barley, and potatoes. Some few farmers raise a little wheat and rye. Some, too, sow turnips, which seem to agree very well with our soil. A very few plant field-cabbages, and sow small quantities of grey pease. Most of the farmers in this district sow red clover and rye grass, with barley, for cutting, the greatest part of which is consumed by their own horses. They also begin to lay out their grounds much richer than formerly, and sow them with white clover and stable feeds for pasture, and find themselves well repaid. The soil of this parish, however, seems to be too light and thin, in general, for producing wheat in sufficient quantities to indemnify the farmer for his labour and expence. They sow wheat after a potatoe fallow, a summer fallow, or after turnips, which had been sown in the drill way; and, after all the pains and expence bestowed on a summer fallow, it hardly brings them 10*l.* *per* acre, which is scarcely two thirds of what an acre of wheat in a wheat country would fetch. Most farmers sow a little lintseed for their own use. A considerable quantity of potatoes is carried to Dumfries market, 6 miles distant from the center of this parish, or to floops at different parts of the Solway Frith, about 5 or 6 miles from hence. Oats and barley are the chief grains the farmers, in general, depend upon for paying their rent; and they raise a considerable quantity of both, of an excellent quality. A good deal of hemp was raised and spun in this parish 40 years ago. At present, there is very little to be seen. There is no land in common in the district, every proprietor and every tenant knowing his own property. There is very little waste ground, the above moss excepted, which affords  
but



but little pasture, and a small spot of moor on the N. E. quarter of the parish, which is the highest ground in it, and which still remains in a state of nature, and on the summit of which there is some little heath; a few sheep, to the number of 140, are supported on it, and on the farm of which it is a part.

*Wood and Wild Animals.*—There are some thriving natural woods, the property of Sir Robert Grierson of Lagg, on the north quarter of the parish; and several acres have lately been planted by that gentleman, with different sorts of fir and other forest trees. There is also a small piece of natural wood, consisting of oak and ash, on a farm on the south side of the parish, lately purchased by the Viscount of Stormont.—The wood-lark, bullfinch, and most of the other kinds of birds common to the south of Scotland, are to be found in the woods. It is said there are numbers of the golden-crested wrens seen here. In the moss there are the bittern, snipe, moorfowl, and curlew. Some black game have also been seen. Plenty of wild ducks hatch here, and abundance of wild geese in hard winters. Woodcocks are also found here in winter; and the swallow, cuckoo, field-fare, green and grey plovers, in their seasons. Polecats, commonly called *fumarts*, abound here; and there are numbers of foxes; both of which, particularly the latter, make great havoc among the poultry.

*Rivulets.*—There are no rivers in the parish, Lochar, as has been noticed, only touching it for a few yards in one point. But it is well watered with several rivulets, which take their rise in the higher grounds, and run into Lochar. It has also plenty of fine spring wells. St Peters, about 100 yards west from the church, is one continued spring for 30  
or

or 40 yards. It never freezes even in the hardest winters; nor does the rivulet into which it runs freeze for a considerable distance after their junction. The rivulets afford burn trouts in the spring and summer months; and plenty of sea trouts, of no considerable value, are caught in them, from Michaelmas till after Martinmas \*.

*Population.*—Previous to the survey taken by Dr Webster, the population of this parish cannot be ascertained; but, from a pretty accurate survey taken in spring 1791, the numbers and professions of the inhabitants were found to be as stated in the following statistical table.

*Statistical Table of the Parish of Mouswald.*

|                          |       |                          |        |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|
| Length in English miles, | 4½    | Average of births for 10 |        |
| Breadth, - - -           | 4     | years preceding 1791 †,  | 16½    |
| Population in 1791,      | - 628 | Ditto of deaths,         | - 9    |
| ———— <i>anno</i> 1755,   | - 553 | Ditto of marriages,      | - 5    |
|                          | —     | Inhabitants in villages, | 242    |
| Increase,                | 75    | ———— in the country,     | 386    |
|                          |       |                          | Males, |

\* From the dry land quite through Lochar Moss, there is a fine spot of meadow ground, made in the course of ages by the rivulet, which was the ancient boundary, in this district, between Nithsdale and Annandale, and by those rivulets which run by the Cleughbrae-mill, and by the village of Mouswald, and which meet at the side of the glebe, a little below the manse, and thence got the name of the *Minister's Burn*. Of this meadow ground, 102 acres, lying in this parish, and belonging to the Duke of Queensberry, were divided among his tenants about 40 years ago, and inclosed by ditches. A considerable part of it is still laid under water by the Michaelmas floods, whereby it is enriched, but seldom suffers any damage by the floods which happen about Lammas, as the meadows on the side of Lochar often do.

† The Births entered on the register for the last ten years are as follows;

*Males.*

|                            |     |                             |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| Males, - - -               | 298 | Members of the Estab-       |     |
| Females, - - -             | 330 | lished Church, -            | 614 |
| Persons under 10 years     |     | Burgher Seceders, -         | 2   |
| of age, - - -              | 157 | Antiburgher ditto, - -      | 10  |
| Ditto from 10 to 20, -     | 109 | Ditto of the Relief Chapel, | 2   |
| Ditto from 20 to 50, -     | 253 | Persons born in England,    | 2   |
| Ditto from 50 to 70, -     | 94  | ----- in Ireland,           | 3   |
| Ditto above 70, -          | 15  | Proprietors residing, -     | 2   |
| Families, - - -            | 123 | ----- non-residing,         | 2   |
| Houses inhabited by 1      |     | Clergyman, - - -            | 1   |
| person each, - - -         | 14  | Schoolmaster, - - -         | 1   |
| Ditto inhabited by 2 per-  |     | Farmers, - - - -            | 48  |
| sons each, - - -           | 11  | Ditto from 3 to 9 acres,    | 12  |
| Married persons, -         | 94  | Smiths 3, journeymen 2,     | 5   |
| Children, at an average,   |     | Masons, - - -               | 1   |
| from each marriage, 5 or 6 |     | Carpenters, 4 journeymen,   |     |
| Widowers, - - -            | 5   | and 4 apprentices, -        | 8   |
| Widows, - - -              | 19  |                             |     |
|                            |     | Weavers,                    |     |

|       |       | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> | <i>Deaths for the<br/>same period.</i> |
|-------|-------|---------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1781, | 11    | 5             | 6           | 9                                      |
| 1782, | 16    | 9             | 7           | 11                                     |
| 1783, | 16    | 6             | 10          | 0                                      |
| 1784, | 17    | 7             | 10          | 11                                     |
| 1785, | 16    | 7             | 9           | 15                                     |
| 1786, | 17    | 13            | 4           | 8                                      |
| 1787, | 17    | 7             | 10          | 10                                     |
| 1788, | 22    | 8             | 14          | 5                                      |
| 1789, | 12    | 4             | 8           | 13                                     |
| 1790, | 21    | 16            | 5           | 8                                      |
|       | <hr/> | <hr/>         | <hr/>       | <hr/>                                  |
| Total | 165   | 82            | 83          | Total deaths 90                        |

The register of marriages cannot be depended on; the average may probably be about 4 or 5. Nor is the register of burials exact, no account being kept of children dying under 3 years of age. Each marriage, at an average, produces 5 or 6. Many have 8, several 10, and some 12 children.

|                            |                                 |    |         |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----|---------|
| Weavers, 10 journeymen,    | Two Wheel chaise,               | -  | 1       |
| and 5 apprentices,         | 15 Carts,                       | -  | 96      |
| Stockingmaker, - - 1       | Ditto in 1740,                  | -  | 2       |
| Tailors, 4 journeymen, and | Ploughs, (mottly Scotch)        | 52 |         |
| 2 apprentices, - 6         | Valued rent, in Scotch          |    |         |
| Millers, - - - 2           | money, merks,                   | -  | 2850    |
| Day-labourers, - - 10      | Real rent, <i>anno</i> 1791, in |    |         |
| Cottagers, - - - 60        | Sterling,                       | -  | L. 1500 |
| Male farm fervants, - 24   | Horfes,                         | -  | 142     |
| Female ditto, - 25         | Black cattle,                   | -  | 753     |
| Poor, - - - 6              | Sheep,                          | -  | 386     |

*Rent.*—The farms, in general, are but small, and pay from 12l. 10 s. to 47l. of yearly rent. One farm pays 165 l. besides public burdens; another 140 l.; another 70 l. and one 56 l.; but the generality of them are under 20 l. Best arable ground pays 1 l. 1 s. *per* acre. The Duke of Queensberry has several cottagers, who possess a house, kept in repair at their own expence, and a small kail-yard, for which they pay 3 s. and the highest 5 s. yearly. The farmer's cottagers, in general, pay 1 l. for a house and yard, or shear in harvest to the tenant; who keeps their house in repair, and sows them 4 pound weight of lintseed, and plants them a fur or two of potatoes\*.

*Village and Antiquities.*—The village of Moufwald is the only one in the parish, that comes properly under this description.

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scription.

\* The prices of provisions are always regulated here by the market of Dumfries, which is only 6 miles from the center of this parish; and most articles may be bought full as low in the market as on the spot. Labour is much the same price in all the neighbourhood of Dumfries. Servant's wages are more than doubled within these 50 years; male-servants 3 l. 10 s. and 4 l. the half year; female-servants 30 s. to 40 s. for the same space.

scription. It consists of 26 inhabited houses, and contains 116 souls. Woodside contains 66 persons, Cleughbrae 35, and Banks 29; the rest of the parish having only 2 or 3 houses standing together, or a single farm-house, and the offices belonging to it. There are the remains of five old stone square buildings in this parish, all of which probably, in former times, were used both as places of residence and defence against the depredations of the English. Three of them, though now ruinous, had part of three stories standing within these 50 years. One, at a place called *Buckler-hole*, (or, as some would have it, *Bucklerhold*), had lately two stories, and what they called a *watch-house*. Great part of the walls are now taken down. Another at Raffles was pretty entire 12 years ago. And the old part of the manse, in the memory of those with whom the present incumbent has conversed, was a high tower, having a pigeon-house at top. Its walls are very thick\*.

#### Roads

\* The most considerable of these old buildings is that at Moufwald Mains, or, as it is sometimes called, *the Place*. It has been the largest, and is very strongly built. It was the seat of a Sir Simon Carruthers, the Laird of Moufwald, who was what the old people called a *belted knight*. His only daughter, it is said, married into the Queensberry family, by which means they came into possession of the estate. In the aisle of the church there were formerly two statues as big as the life; the one is said to be an effigy of Sir Simon, and the other of his Lady. The latter was of beautiful white free stone, and has been quite carried off. That representing Sir Simon now lies on the outside of the aisle; his head lying on a pillow; his feet on a lion; his hands elevated in a supplicating posture. There is no inscription. There are also several camps in the parish, probably British; one at Burronhill, with a strong double fosse or ditch. In digging the foundation for a new schoolhouse there three years ago, several human bones were found. It is a fine situation. Another nigh the top of a little hill, called Panteth-hill, which has an extensive and commanding prospect.

There

*Roads and Bridges.*—There are excellent roads in the parish, and abundance of the best materials for making and keeping them in repair. The great military road from Carlisle to Portpatrick, which was finished in this parish in 1776, runs through it from S. E. to N. W. by the church and manse. A new turnpike road is nearly finished, running in the same direction, and nearly parallel, along the rising ground of the eastern quarter of the parish; and, between these two, a road leading from the church to Torthorwald, made lately by the road-money, which is now paid instead of the statute labour. There are bridges over every rivulet both on the public and private roads.

*Church and School.*—It is not known when the church was built. It has been often repaired, and cost the heritors about 90l. Sterling within these 3 years. It still requires something more to be done to make it even tolerably comfortable. It stands nearly in the center of the parish, on a fine eminence, and is seen from every farm, 2 or 3 only excepted; but suffers much from its exposure to the S. W. winds. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. It is uncertain when the old part of the manse was built, part of it being very ancient; but an addition was made to it about 50 years ago. It was repaired about 9 years since. The stipend is 86l. 12s. including communion element money; and the glebe consists  
of

There are several burrows, or, as they are called here, *cairns*, in which human bones have lately been found, and urns containing small pieces of bones. One of these, situated about a mile and a quarter east from the church, bears the name of the *Stryal*, or, as some say, the *Tryal-cairn*. Its circumference is 288 feet; and is nigh to what is still called *Deadmangill*. At one of these places, tradition says, malefactors were tried, and executed at the other. Urns have also been found in some places where there was no appearance of *tumuli*.

of about 15 acres, viz. 10 acres arable, 3 of bog meadow, and 2 of woodland and pasture, worth about 15 l. *per annum*. The schoolmaster's Salary is 100 merks Scotch. The school fees are only 1 s. *per* quarter for English and writing, 1 s. 6 d. for arithmetic, and 2 s. *per* quarter for Latin. Both salary and fees are by far too small to encourage a person of classical education to continue the toilsome office for any length of time: Hence we are often changing masters. It is a great pity but that some suitable provision were made for so useful an order of men. In winter, there is a private school kept in another quarter of the parish, to which there is between 30 s. and 40 s. *per annum* left by the late schoolmaster, a native of the parish, and between 4 l. and 5 l. to the poor, which fall to them at the death of two men, to whom these small sums are left in liferent. Several children find it more convenient to attend the above school, and one in the parish of Ruthwell; so that the public schoolmaster's income will not exceed 13 l. *per annum*. There is a very good school-house lately built, but no house for the schoolmaster.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the roll, who receive quarterly supplies, has not exceeded 6 in any one year since 1772; besides whom, some few others receive occasional aid. There are no poor's funds in this parish besides what arise from the weekly collections. An addition of 5 l. Sterling, however, was left at Whitfunday 1791, by a man who died in the parish of Dumfries, and left several children of his own, whose progenitors were natives of Mouswald. There are none belonging to this parish who beg, yet it is daily infested with beggars from Ireland and the neighbourhood of Dumfries. Numbers from Ireland go up to England driving cattle, and return home begging.

There

There was not a single pig, fed in the parish, 40 years ago. Now, almost every cottager feeds one. Pork or bacon is all the butcher meat that the poor use in their families; and the breeding and feeding of swine is now carried on by the farmers, to a considerable extent, for sale, mostly for the English market.

*Fuel.*—Peats are the fuel commonly used. The Duke's tenants get their's from the moss within the parish. The other proprietors tenants get their's from the same moss in the parishes of Torthorwald and Ruthwell; and, though there is an inexhaustible fund of moss, and they have peats for the casting, winning, and leading, yet they consume a great deal of time, which might and would be employed to much better purpose in the management of their farms, were coals to be got at a moderate distance. Several of the farmers are so convinced of this, that they have of late brought coals above 30 miles distance, and cast fewer peats than formerly.

*Character, &c.*—The people are, in general, sober, industrious, and discreet, and seemingly content with their circumstances. None have emigrated, though a good many young men go from hence to England and the West India Islands, in different lines of life; and several men, and some few women, pass over to England, where they are employed as servants. None have stood a trial before the Court of Justiciary for any capital crime. None have been banished. Within these 20 years, one woman, about the age of 50, who had been insane for some months, was guilty of suicide; and a man, above that age, was killed by lightning in the open fields, while herding black cattle, in the year 1781. None have  
enlisted



enlisted into the army, nor entered into the navy, for a great many years past; and none have died for want in the memory of the oldest person living.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—One great advantage which the tenants of the Duke of Queensberry enjoy, is, that they have got leases for 19 years, and are freed from all public burdens whatever, road-money excepted, which they pay in lieu of the statute labour formerly exacted; and have all their farms, (most of which, in former tacks, lay run-ridge), now laid by themselves, and are setting about inclosing them with ditch and hedge at their own expence. Some are already inclosed and subdivided, so sensible are they of the benefit of inclosing. All the tenants in the parish have been so fully satisfied of this, that they have been for several years past willing to pay 5 *per cent.* to their landlords for money to lay out in this way. Another advantage they enjoy is good roads, and the easy access they have to lime from the parishes of Cummertrees and Ruthwell, (the latter quarry discovered and wrought only about 13 years ago), and the ready market they find at Dumfries for every article they can spare. The lime at these places is sold at 11 d. the Carlisle bushel, containing 3 of Winchester, 4 bushels making an ordinary single cart-load. It might be sold lower, were it not for the high duty laid on English coals brought across the Frith, which duty is heavily felt, and is a great discouragement both to agriculture and manufactures. The thirlage to the two mills is light and easy. Some of the tenants in the parish, however, have still various services exacted from them; and tacks only for 9 years, both which are certainly great discouragements to improvement.

*Miscellaneous Facts.*—Dress, and the mode of living, are  
much

much improved within these 40 years; and a change to the better seems to have taken place in the minds of the inhabitants, who can now laugh at the superstition and credulity of their ancestors, who, it is said, could swallow down the absurd nonsense of a boon of shearers, *i. e.* reapers, being turned into large grey stones, on account of their *kemping*, *i. e.* striving. These stones, about 20 years ago, after being blasted with gun-powder, were used in building the farm-houses then erecting near the spot, which had formerly been part of a common.

The higher grounds afford the most extensive prospect that is to be met with in the south of Scotland. From thence one has a full view of the Solway Frith, and many of the ports both on the English and Scotch side of it; the Isle of Man, and many of the neighbouring counties, the greatest part of Dumfries-shire, Galloway, part of Lanarkshire, Peebles-shire, Northumberland, and Cumberland, in England. At the western extremity of the parish, a person may stand on a particular spot, and throw a stone into each of the four neighbouring parishes, Torthorwald, Dumfries, Carlawerock, Ruthwell, and this parish, all terminating on the side of the small river Lochar, near that point.

## N U M B E R XXVIII.

## P A R I S H O F C U M M E R T R E E S .

(*County of Dumfries.—Presbytery of Annan.—Synod of Dumfries.*)

*By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.*

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**F**ROM the name of the parish there is little doubt of its having been formerly covered with timber. Considerable tracts of natural wood still remain, besides the subterranean forests of oak, fir, and birch, with which the mosses are every where replenished. It now consists of the antient parish of Cummertrees, and of the parish or chaplainry of Trailtrow annexed to it after the Reformation; and the whole is bounded by the Solway Frith on the south, by the parishes of Annan and St. Mungo on the east, and Dalton and Ruthwell on the north and west. The parish is about 4 miles long and 3 miles broad; but, as its figure is very irregular, its extent cannot be accurately determined.

*Climate and Soil.*—The climate is like that of most of the other parishes on the Solway Frith, humid, but by no means unhealthy; and the division that has lately taken place of large tracts of common, and the consequent improvement of those lands, by inclosing and draining, do no doubt contribute to the salubrity of the air, and the prevention of diseases  
occasioned

occasioned by stagnated water. The soil is various, but in general good; in the northern part, it is a loam above a free-stone; in some of the central parts, it is remarkably rich and fertile, and lies above lime-stone; near the sea, the soil is sandy, and what is now converted into arable, was formerly an extensive rabbit warren; there are also many large tracts of flow moss in this parish, not capable of improvement, unless at an enormous expence.

*Population.*—In 1755, the population was rated at 631. It is probable that this estimate was inaccurately made. The examinable persons, above 8 years of age, amount, by a late account taken of them, to 845, amongst whom are included some transient people, who are employed in the lime works at Kilhead. Notwithstanding the quantity of waste or common land brought into culture in this parish, it is doubtful whether population has increased since the beginning of this century, as the farms are much more extensive than they formerly were, and the number of tenants have decreased in a proportional ratio. Twenty-five years ago, about 40 people, some of them farmers, but mostly labourers and tradesmen, emigrated from this parish to America, enticed by advertisements, sent from thence by persons who had acquired large tracts of country, and wished to have it peopled. The emigrants, upon their arrival, were miserably deceived and disappointed, and those of them who had money enough to pay for their passage home, returned, bewailing their credulity. There is no town or village in the parish. It is possessed by 4 heritors, 3 of whom are resident.

*Rivers and Fishings.*—The Annan, which bounds this parish on the east, is the only river; it produces salmon, salmon trouts, and a small fish called hirlings, that are some-

times taken in great quantities, and are, it is said, peculiar to the rivers that discharge themselves into the Solway Frith. They are of the size of a good burn trout, or herring, and are of two kinds, the red and the white; but the red are of a much superior quality to the other, and are remarkably delicate: They afford much sport to the angler. In the Solway Frith, great quantities of flounders and cod are taken, and some times turbot and soles are also caught; the prices, therefore, of both red and white fish, are, in general, moderate.

*Quarries.*—Free-stone, of a very hard and durable kind, and extremely proper for building, abounds in the northern and central parts of this parish; but the excellent lime-stone quarry near Kilhead, has been the sole means of bringing the waste lands into culture, and promoting the improvement of every part of the parish. The limestone got here is of an exceeding fine quality, and is purchased, either calcined, or in a raw state, by the whole country around. The price, when burnt, is high, occasioned by the duty laid upon coals imported from the opposite side of the Frith, as it is sold at 11 d. *per* Carlisle bushel, each of which contains 3 Winchester bushels; but if the duty was taken off, might be afforded at 8 d. or 8½ d. which would be a considerable saving to the poor farmers, and the loss to the revenue so inconsiderable, especially when balanced by other advantages, as not to merit any attention. The duty upon water-born coal appears the more grievous and partial to the people on the Scotch side of the Frith, because their neighbours on the English side are exempted from it, although it is difficult to determine upon what principle such exemption was founded. Many applications have been made to government upon this subject, but the duty still remains unrepealed, to the great obstruction of the improvement and cultivation of the country.

try. To this unaccountable duty may also be ascribed the low state of manufactures, not only in this parish, but in most other parts of the county of Dumfries, and in all Galloway; it is therefore hoped, that administration will in time yield to the repeated representations made upon this matter, and will substitute some other tax, upon the luxuries of life, in lieu of a duty which so manifestly tends to hurt agriculture, and to prevent the introduction of manufactures into the south of Scotland.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The patronage of this parish is in the Crown. The stipend has been lately augmented, and now is 50 l. Sterling in money, 100 merks for communion elements, and 6 chalders of victual, viz. 4 of meal and 2 of barley, which, at the ordinary prices of these articles in the country, brings the stipend to a total of at least 120 l. Sterling *per annum*. The minister has also a glebe of 7 or 8 acres of rich land, and 16 acres laid off to him at the division of a common in his neighbourhood, which is now mostly brought into culture.—The schoolmaster has the legal salary of 100 merks Scotch, 5 l. 11 s. 3 d. Sterling.—The number of poor is not great, and there is no other fund for their support, except the weekly collections at the church, and the fines exacted for irregular marriages, and from other delinquents, who have been brought before the kirk-session.

*Agriculture, Produce, &c.*—The improvement of the land, in consequence of the discovery of lime-stone, has, within these 30 years past, been remarkably advanced. The chief crops are oats and barley, with some wheat; potatoes are also cultivated to exceeding good purpose, and constitute a large proportion of the food of the people. Every farmer,  
also,

also, sows some turnips, which, with the potatoes, are planted in rows, according to the drill husbandry, and as they are kept clean, hewed, and often plowed between the rows, are a good preparation for a barley crop the ensuing season. Oats are never sown earlier than the middle of March, or the beginning of April, and barley from the end of April to the middle of May, wheat commonly in October, rye-grass and clover are now almost universally sown in with the barley crop, a large part of the parish is subdivided and inclosed with hedges and ditches, and, upon the whole, improvements; in agriculture are daily advancing.

*Valuation and Real Rent.*—The valued rent is 3181 merks the real rent about 2800 l. Sterling, and what may appear extraordinary is, that the real rent in the year 1733, when the late incumbent got an augmentation, was little more than 500 l. Sterling. This great advance is only to be ascribed to the discovery and use of lime, and the division of the commons. The whole extent of the parish, by actual measurement, is nearly 7800 acres, in which is comprehended large tracts of moss and muir incapable of culture.

*Horses, Black Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—The number of horses cannot be exactly ascertained, but the breed is much improved by English stallions coming into the parish, in the summer season, and the tenants, in general, breed and bring up as many young horses as supply themselves. Every farmer rears a considerable number of young cattle, which, after reserving a sufficient number to keep up their stock, are sold to jobbers and dealers, when they are one or two years old, who carry them to the Carlisle and other markets. The price of a good year old stirk is 3 l. or 3 l. 3 s. The number of sheep kept in the parish is very inconsiderable, most  
of

of the tenants being debarred from keeping them, on account of the hedges and planting. Many swine are also raised in this parish, which are fed with potatoes and corn, and, when fat, sold to dealers, who cure and export their carcases.

*Price of Provisions, Labour, &c.*—The average price of oat-meal, for these 7 years past, has been 20 d. *per* stone; the price of barley, during that period, has not been lower than 6 s. nor higher than 10 s. 6 d. *per* Carlisle bushel; the medium, therefore, may be estimated at 8 s. Considerable quantities of oat-meal are annually exported to Greenock and the west coast; and all the barley, except the small portion retained for home consumption, is bought up for the Liverpool market, where oats are frequently sent. Considerable quantities of potatoes are also exported. Grain is shipped at the mouth of the river Annan, and at a small harbour called Powfoot, in this parish. The wages of men servants are, in general, about 8 l. *per annum*; of women, 3 l. 10 s. or 4 l. *per annum*, besides maintenance. They are all hired from half year to half year; and the late increase of wages may be imputed to the vicinity of England, where they are still higher, and where many of the servants in the lower part of Annandale frequently engage themselves. The wages of day-labourers, employed in hedging or ditching, are 1 s. and sometimes 1 s. 2 d. *per* day without victuals; masons and joiners have 1 s. 6 d. *per* day.

*Roads.*—The military road, from Portpatrick to Gretna, made at the expence of government, intersects the southern part of the parish. As it was lately falling into disrepair, the funds arising from the composition of the statute not being sufficient for preserving it, the trustees for the high-roads made an application to Parliament for an act to erect turn-pikes,



pikes, and levy tolls for keeping this road in repair ; but they having discovered, at the same time, that the distance between Dumfries and Annan might be shortened by following another tract, they obtained a power also to carry a road by that line, and to levy tolls for its support. This has accordingly been done ; and the new road is carried to the northward of the military road, through a country rather in an uncultivated state, which has already received much benefit from it. The other roads in the parish are supported by the composition for the statute labour, which, however, is very inadequate to the purpose.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—The Castle of Hoddam, situated near the river Annan, is as perfect, and kept in as good repair as any building of the kind in Scotland, it was constructed originally by the Lord Herries, who frequently resided here, but was greatly increased, and improved with additional buildings, by John Murray Earl of Annandale, into whose possession it came, in the course of the last century. Mr Sharpe of Hoddam resides with his family in the Castle, which he has repaired, and much improved, by adding several rooms to it. On the hill immediately above the Castle, stands the *Tower of Repentance*, a square building, with remarkably thick walls, about 25 feet in height. There are various traditions concerning its name, and the motives for erecting it ; but as it is situated on very high ground, and seen at a considerable distance, there is no doubt that it was used as a watch tower, from whence the motions of the English, before the union of the crowns, were discerned, and upon which beacons were lighted, to alarm the country when the enemy appeared. This tower stands in the church-yard of Trailtrow, where the people of that side of the parish are in use to bury, and where Mr Murray of Murraythwaite has

a burying place walled in, adjoining to the tower. In the lime-stone quarries of Kilhead, several veins of a beautiful spotted dark coloured marble have appeared, and large blocks of it being cut out, have been worked up for chimneys and hearths, some of which have been sent to London. This marble is of a dark colour, and is mixed with shells, petrified vegetables, and other bodies, which greatly add to its variety and beauty, as the whole receives a very fine polish.

*Fuel.*—Peats are the only fuel used in this parish; the casting and preparing of which, during the summer, consumes much of the time which the people ought to dedicate to the improvement of their farms. From this labour, they would be in a great measure relieved, if coal was either found in this country, or allowed to be imported free of duty, from the opposite shore of the Solway Frith.

## NUMBER XXIX.

## PARISH OF BALLINGRY.

(County of Fife.—Presbytery of Kirkaldy.—Synod of Fife.)

By the Reverend Mr THOMAS SCOTT.

*Origin of the Name.*

**B**ALLINGRY signifies the Village of the Cross. It is a compound of the Gaelic word *Bal*, which is a village, and *inri*, being the initials found on those crosses erected often in the fields, in honour of Christianity, on which were inscribed J. N. R. J. *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judicorum*, Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews.

*Appearance and Soil.*—The figure of this parish is irregular, its utmost length being 3 miles, its utmost breadth not above one. The soil, in this parish, is in general reckoned good, though not strong; there is not more than a fourth of it in tillage, the rest is employed in pasturage. In general, this part of the country is very imperfectly improved, and extremely naked of planting, excepting the estates of Lochore, Ballingry, and Navity, which have attained a considerable degree, both of cultivation and of beauty.

*Crops generally raised, and Times of sowing.*—Oats is the grain most generally sown here, and it is esteemed the most  
advan-

advantageous crop; they sow also a mixture of rough bear and barley, pease and beans and some wheat; but of this last, very little. The time of sowing oats is towards the end of March, or the beginning of April; they sow their bear from the beginning to about the middle of May. The rotation of crops here in general is, after breaking up ground, to take two crops of oats, and one of bear; with this last crop they sow grafs feeds, and the ground then commonly remains in grafs 3 or 4 years before it is again broke up. There is, in this parish, one mill, that of Inchgaw, to which the different estates are bound *thirle*, that is, must have ground at that particular mill what quantity of victual is consumed by the families living on the estate.

|                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Population.</i> —In 1755, the numbers were rated at | 464 |
| At present, the number of souls in this parish, is     | 220 |
| Families, - - - - -                                    | 55  |
| Being, to a family, - - - - -                          | 4   |
| Of the above there are, males, - - - - -               | 94  |
| Females, - - - - -                                     | 126 |

Of the above there are 80 Seceders. About 30 years ago, it appears this parish contained above double the number of inhabitants, which it does at present. The obvious cause of this decrease of population, has been the throwing the principal estates into grafs farms, which are now in the hands of a few considerable dealers in cattle.

*Productions.*—Although there is a considerable quantity of grain raised in this parish, yet the soil being better calculated for grafs, the rearing of cattle forms the most considerable employment of the tenants, and is one of the principal productions of the parish. There are also in this parish both coal and lime; the last hath only been wrought since Captain

Park purchased Lochore, upon which estate they both lie. They are of an excellent quality; and will be of considerable benefit to this part of the country, as affording the means of improvement at a convenient distance, and at a moderate price.

*Church and Poor.*—The living consists of 48 bolls of victual, one third being bear, and two thirds meal, and 48 l. in money. The manse and offices are in very good repair.—In so small a parish, the number of poor cannot be considerable; at present there are 7 upon the poor's list. The funds for their maintenance are extremely good. The collections at the church door may amount to 5 l. *per annum*; but there is an income besides the collections, of about 30 l. Sterling annually, arising partly from money, and partly from land, the property of the poor. The poor receive according to their necessities, from 6 d. to 2 s. *per week*.

*Waters.*—There are no rivers of any consequence in this parish. There is one small rivulet named *Orr*, which issues from a considerable lake, called *Lochore*, from which the estate takes its name. The present proprietor hath formed a plan for draining this lake, which is already far advanced, the success of which will gain about 150 acres of excellent land, besides draining the surrounding grounds, which at present are annually overflowed. Towards the eastern extremity of the lake, there is a small island, upon which is situated an old castle, surrounded by a high wall. The building consists of an old tower, and several lower houses. It was built by Duncan de Lochore, former proprietor of the estate, in the reign of Malcolm III.; but the estate passing into the hands of the Wardlaws of Torry, it from them received considerable repairs; and the name of *Robertus Wardlaw*, is upon

upon the chief entry to the tower. At present it is ruinous, but forms a very beautiful object in the lake.

In this parish there is a Roman camp, a little to the westward of the house of Lochore, which is still remarkably entire, although, in some places, it is levelled and defaced. Its form is nearly square. There appear, on the north and west sides, three rows of ditches, and as many ramparts of earth and stone. There is a round turret on that side which is next the loch, the total circumference measuring about 2020 feet.

It has been conjectured, with much probability, that this was the spot where the ninth legion was attacked, and nearly cut off, by the Caledonians, as we have it narrated by Tacitus, in his life of Agricola. The present proprietor of Lochore, in prosecuting the plan mentioned above, for draining the lake, having occasion to cut some ditches immediately under the camp, the workmen have dug up several antiquities, which are evidently Roman, particularly the head of a Roman spear. Just by the camp is a village called *Blair*, which, in the original, is said to signify *locus pugnae*, or a place where a battle has been fought.

## N U M B E R   X X X .

## P A R I S H   O F   G L A D S M U I R .

(*County of East Lothian.—Presbytery of Haddington.—  
Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.*)

*By the Reverend Mr GEORGE HAMILTON.*

*Origin and Name.*

**T**HE church of Gladsmuir was built by Baillie of Lamington, in the year 1695, and the parish was then formed by annexations from the contiguous parishes, Trant, Haddington, and Aberlady. The etymology of the name offers nothing worth enquiry; it probably arose from the number of glades (kites), which frequented this parish in its barren state, and are yet not unfrequent in the neighbourhood.

*Soil and Climate.*—Between the Frith on the north, and the banks of the Tyne on the south, the country rises gently to a ridge, on the summit of which the church is placed. The top of this ridge, which was long an open muir, was for ages robbed of its soil, being incessantly pared of its turf by the neighbouring inhabitants; it is now, therefore, clayey, shallow, and barren; but the soil becomes more fertile as you descend on either side. The air is pure, dry, and healthy, and epedemical distempers accordingly are rare.

*Landed*

*Landed Property, Agriculture, &c.*—The parish is divided amongst 15 landed proprietors, only three of whom reside within its bounds. It contains between 5 and 6000 acres of land, of which 3000 are in tillage; above 500 acres are annually sown with grass seeds; about 1600 are in pasture, and above 200 in wood. The real rent is about 4500 l. paid by 22 farmers, 4 of whom pay above 300 l. a year each, and 7 under 100 l. The rents are wholly paid in money, the kane and carriages, which were formerly exacted, being now converted.

One hundred and six two horse ploughs, and 240 horses, are employed; 134 black cattle, and about 100 sheep are kept. Wheat, barley, oats, and pease, are the common produce of this district; cabbage and turnip crops are little raised, nor are potatoes so much cultivated as perhaps they ought to be, considering what a wholesome and cheap food they yield to the lower class of people.

*Population, Employment, Seats, and Manners.*—The villages in this parish are 3 in number, and, by a singular coincidence, they contain exactly 50 families each. The number of families in the whole parish is 340; of souls, 1380; of these 647 are males, 733 are females, 1010 are above 10 years of age, and 370 are under 10. By Dr Webster's table in 1755 the numbers were 1415. From the appearance of ruined houses on the north side of the parish, an opinion has prevailed, that the inhabitants were once more numerous than they are now; but by a numeration which was made at the first seating of the church in the year 1697, it appears that the number of inhabitants then must have been under 1350. The baptism roll, at an average for the last 30 years, gives only 47 each year, which would denote a population considerably inferior to that which is here given; but many who attend



attend the church are careless about enrolling their childrens names; and Seceders often do not enroll at all in the parish register.

No foreign trade is carried on, nor is any considerable manufacture established in the parish; the inhabitants (excepting colliers) are mostly employed in agriculture, or in the occupations connected with it. Twenty-two are farmers, and 140 farm servants are employed by them. Nine are smiths or journeymen, 8 carpenters, 20 weavers, 26 shoemakers, 7 taylors, 4 masons, 4 millers, and 40 colliers.

About a twelfth part of the whole number may be Seceders.

The people, in general, are industrious and sober. Few of them go into the army or navy. Very few crimes are committed, and punishments, accordingly, are but seldom required.

*Rate of Wages.*—Farm servants generally receive 3 l. 8 s. in money, half a boll barley, half a boll pease, 6 bolls and a half oat-meal, and a cow's pasture, which, altogether, may amount to 12 guineas, or 13 l. a year. The wife's labour in harvest pays for the cottage which they inhabit; and they pay kane (a few fowls) for their garden. Women servants, living in the house, have from 50 s. to 70 s. a year; men servants, in the same situation, have from 5 l. to 7 l. Day-labourers earn 10 d. a day in winter, and 1 s. or 14 d. in summer. Carpenters earn 1 s. 2 d. in winter, and 1 s. 6 d. in summer; masons, 1 s. 8 d. and 1 s. 10 d.

The wages of the colliers depend upon the work which they perform; when the seam of coal is about a yard in thickness, one active collier will employ two bearers, and, with their help, will earn a guinea or 25 s. a week. At present, when the stratum of coal is only two feet thick, even

an industrious collier can employ but one bearer; with her help, he throws out from 80 to 90 loads of coals in the week, each load weighs 200 lb. and for this he is paid 2 d.

In general, over the whole country, (a strong and a pleasing proof of its improvement), the wages of labour are in a state of rapid progression; in time of health, they are equal to all the necessary expences of the sober labourer, and even enable him to rear a numerous family.

*Poor and Poor's Funds.*—But sickness and other misfortunes are unavoidable, and will often reduce the most industrious families to unexpected distress; in such cases the aid of public charity is required. This parish admits no vagrant poor to receive parochial aid, farther than is necessary for transporting them, when lame, beyond the bounds of the parish, therefore no common beggars reside within its bounds. The settled poor are maintained in their own houses, or are boarded with any relation who is willing to receive them. To prevent improper claims, the kirk-session require an assignation of their effects, from all who become regular pensioners. There are at present 21 of this description upon the poor's list, who receive, at an average, about 40 s. a year each. This, with charity to occasional pensioners, and session clerk's salary, make the whole annual expenditure amount to about

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  | L. 55 0 0 |
|--|-----------|

This is defrayed by collections at the church doors, amounting to about

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  | L. 18 0 0 |
|--|-----------|

By fines upon irregular marriages,  
and fees for the use of mort-cloths,

|  |       |
|--|-------|
|  | 5 0 0 |
|--|-------|

By interest of a sum of money,

|  |        |
|--|--------|
|  | 7 10 0 |
|--|--------|

|  |            |
|--|------------|
|  | L. 30 10 0 |
|  | and        |

and the deficiency is made up by an assessment laid equally upon the heritors and tenants.

Besides the public parochial fund, the poor of this district derive considerable advantage from private friendly societies, instituted by themselves. Into the funds of these, they pay a small proportion of their weekly earnings, and receive a comfortable allowance in case of sickness or distress. This is the most effectual method yet devised, for preserving the industry, and at the same time relieving the wants, of the labouring poor.

*Church and Schools*—The church was built in the year 1695; the manse was erected 30 years later; both were lately repaired, and are now in very good condition. The parish having been principally formed by annexations from the parishes of Tranent and Haddington, the King and Earl of Hopeton, who are patrons of these two churches, are alternately patrons of Gladsmuir. The glebe contains between 5 and 6 acres of indifferent land. The stipend consists of 34 bolls wheat, 35 bolls barley,  $31\frac{1}{2}$  bolls oats, and 18 l. of money.

There is a parochial school at the church, which is attended by about 60 boys and girls. The master has a pretty good house and garden, and 8 l. 6 s. 8 d. a year as schoolmaster, which, with 40 s. as session clerk, and perquisites on registering births and marriages, together with fees of teaching, make an income of 24 l. or 25 l. a year. There are, besides, two lesser schools on the north and south extremities of the parish. The masters are allowed 1 l. 2 s. 2 d. by the heritors, and teach about 30 children each.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish gave birth to George Heriot, founder of the hospital in Edinburgh, which still bears his name,

name. His ancestors were proprietors of the small village of Trabrowne, and their names appear sometimes on the roll of the Scotch Parliament. What is still more to the honour of the parish, it was the first settlement of Dr Robertson, the historian of Scotland; and his History of Scotland was composed here.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—On the 21st of July 1789, a thunder storm began in the north, and came gradually nearer, having circled round by the west. The school, where above 70 children were then assembled, unfortunately stood in its way. The thunder burst upon the house, and seemed at first to have levelled it with the ground. The walls were rent, the windows shattered, and the roof demolished. A thick darkness, caused by the smoke and dust, for a while concealed the extent of the mischief; when it subsided, the neighbours, who first entered, anxious for the fate of their children, had reason to fear the worst; for few signs of life appeared, the whole crowd of little ones, either stunned or terrified, lay stretched upon the ground, beneath the tables or benches where they sat. Many were quite senseless, but afterwards recovered. Two boys were killed outright, and the master, with many others, much injured. The effect of such a scene is not soon worn off from the minds of children; a black cloud still terrifies the whole school, and a clap of thunder, more than ordinarily loud, scatters the whole little troop in an instant.

The present incumbent was not then minister of Gladsmuir, but he has since been at pains to obtain information as to all the particulars of so uncommon an event. The following, amongst others, is singular: Two boys, who were in a separate apartment in the west end of the school, (the

thunder came from the west) declared that they saw a ball of fire, which hovered for a few instants over their heads.

There was a sky light in this part of the house; but it was through the tiles, or rather within the roof, as the boys imagined, that the glare of this meteor was seen. They had no apprehension of danger; and were still gazing at it, when it burst with the fatal explosion.

Accidents like this, however, but rarely occur, and, upon the whole, the inhabitants of this district are very well satisfied with their lot, nor have they any partial or local inconvenience to complain of. One great improvement, indeed, might be made in the situation of all the lower class of inhabitants, in this corner of the kingdom, by such an alteration in the excise laws, as would enable and induce them to drink good ale, for their common beverage, in place of whisky and other spirituous liquors. Such a change would be favourable to the health, the morals, and the industry of the people.

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF DUNBLANE.

(County of Perth.—Presbytery of Dunblane.—Synod of Perth and Stirling.)

By the Reverend Messrs JOHN ROBERTSON and ROBERT STIRLING.

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*Origin of the Name.*

**D**UNBLANE is supposed to take its name from St Blane, the tutelar saint of the place. It was once a cell of Culdees; and, in the reign of King David, was erected into a bishop's see\*. It is uncertain at what time, or by whom the cathedral was built. The chartulary, and other records of the bishopric of Dunblane, are not to be found. The diocese consisted of part of Perth and Stirling shires. The rental of the bishopric, at the Reformation, was nearly as follows: 1 Chalder wheat; 11 chalders, 11 bolls, 3 firlots, and half a peck of bear; 50 chalders, 1 boll, 1 firlot, 3 pecks and a half of meal; 9 chalders and 12 bolls of oats; and 313 l. Scots †.

*Library.*—Dr Robert Leighton was consecrated Bishop of Dunblane in the year 1662, and was translated to the Archbishopric of Glasgow in the year 1669, where he continued till the year 1675. Besides his daily charities to the poor, he

\* Buchanani Historia.

† Keith's History.

he settled a fund for some pious and public good work, in all the places where he had interest and charge. He mortified 300 l. Sterling for the founding of his burfaries of philosophy, in the College of Glasgow; likewise 300 l. Sterling for the maintenance of four old men in St Nicholas's Hospital at Glasgow. In the College of Edinburgh, he likewise founded a burfary of philosophy, upon the interest of 150 l. Sterling. In 1673, he mortified the sum of 1024 l. Scotch money, to the poor of the parish of Dunblane. And, last of all, he bequeathed and left his library to the cathedral and clergy of the diocefe of Dunblane, by his last will and testament, in the following words: "My books I leave and bequeath to the Cathedral of Dunblane in Scotland, to remain there for the use of the clergy of that diocefe."—The Reverend Mr Robert Douglas, son of Bishop Douglas, bequeathed to the library the sum of 300 merks Scots, and his own collection of books.—The Reverend Mr James Inglis, Episcopal minister at Muthill, left his books to the library.—Mrs Imbry, sister and executrix to the Reverend Mr William Simson minister at Dunblane, left 300 merks Scotch to the library.—The Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer in Scotland gave 20 l. Sterling to the library, out of the vacant stipend of Dunblane.—Considerable additions have, from time to time, been made to the library, out of the interest of the mortified money, besides paying the librarian's salary, and repairing the house.—The library is under the direction of the following trustees, nominated by Mrs Saphira Lightmaker, and Mr Edward Lightmaker, executors of the Bishop, in their deed of mortification, viz. The Right Honourable the Viscount of Strathallan, Sir Hugh Paterfon of Bannockburn, Sir James Campbell of Aberuchil, John Graham commissary-clerk of Dunblane, and their heirs male; the minister of Dunblane for the time being, and two other clergymen of the

the presbytery of Dunblane, chosen by the synod of Perth and Stirling.

Mr Lightmaker sent a very rich marble stone, of oval figure, well cut, having on it Bishop Leighton's arms, with this inscription, *Bibliotheca Leightoniana*, and a gilded mitre on the top of it, which is set upon the front of the house towards the street, as Lord Strathallan had advised. The inscription and carving are now very much defaced.

*Situation and Surface.*—This parish, which is about 9 miles long, and 6 broad, is situated within the western district of the county of Perth. It is the seat of a presbytery, which bears its name, and subject to the superior jurisdiction of the synod of Perth and Stirling. The soil is various. A great part of the parish consists of arable land. But the greatest part of it is moorland, covered with heath, and swampy. The grounds, in general, have a gradual declivity from the surrounding hills to the river Allan, which runs through the parish, giving the name of *Strathallan* to a considerable track of land along the river. These hills are partly green; but, for the most part, covered with heath. There are a considerable number of sheep, and some black cattle, grazed upon them; but very few of either, in proportion to the extent of surface. There is a great deal of moor game here; and the low grounds produce plenty of hares and partridges, which afford excellent coursing and shooting.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The climate is in general healthy. The rheumatism is a very frequent disorder among the lower ranks, and a great number die of consumptions. Several have survived 90, during the incumbency of the present minister; and many now living are above 80. The ravages  
made



made by the small-pox have sometimes been very great, occasioned by the aversion of the common people to inoculation.

*Births, Deaths, and Marriages.*—There is no exact register of the births and deaths in this parish. This is partly owing to the negligence of some, and to the unwillingness of others, to pay the tax and trifling dues on births, to which the session-clerk is legally entitled, for his trouble in filling up the register. According to the most probable account, the burials in the parish church amount annually to about 30. But some families bury in the chapel ground at Kilbryde, and others in the chapel ground at Ardoch; so that no certain conclusion can be formed from this article. The number of births is supposed to exceed 70 *per annum*. The number of marriages, at an average, for 6 years past, amounts to 23; but there are some irregular marriages in this parish and neighbourhood.

*Rivers.*—The river Allan, which runs through this parish, takes its rise at Gleneagles, in the parish of Blackford, about the distance of 11 miles from Dunblane. It abounds with burn trouts, and in some places with pike. Some salmon, gilfes, and sea trout, are got in summer floods. Its course is rapid for several miles. Afterwards it flows in beautiful curves through wide and fertile haughs. And, in the last part of its course, it is rapid, its banks steep, and mostly covered with wood, and falls into the Forth, after it leaves this parish, a little above Stirling Bridge.—The river Ardoch, which takes its rise at Lochmahaick, in the parish of Kilmaddock, likewise runs through the west part of this parish. It abounds with burn trout.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 75781. 6s. 8d.  
Scotch.

Scotch. The real rent cannot be easily ascertained. The rent of the land varies. The farms are, in general, small; two thirds of them kept in grass, and the other third under tillage. Some farms let from 5 s. to 15 s. *per acre*. Land in the immediate neighbourhood of Dunblane lets from 1 l. 5 s. to 2 l. 2 s. *per acre*.

*Proprietors, &c.*—There are 11 greater, and several smaller proprietors. Four of the former reside in the parish, viz. Sir James Campbell, Baronet, of Aberuchil, William Stirling, Esquire, of Keir, John Stirling, Esquire, of Kippendavie, and Alexander Jaffray, Esquire, of Gleffingall. There is a commissary, and sheriff-substitute, a surgeon, and four writers or attorneys.

*Antiquities.*—The Cathedral, and the ruins of the Bishop's Palace, are the only antiquities in this parish. The Cathedral has been elegant and regular; but great part of it is in ruins. The length of it is 216 feet, breadth 56 feet, and the height of the wall to the battlements 50 feet. The steeple appears to be a more modern building, in height 128 feet. In it are two fine toned bells. The quire, which is used as the place of public worship, is almost entire. Several of the prebends stalls remain in good order, as likewise the original roof and cieling.

*Church and Poor.*—There are three clergymen in the town of Dunblane; the minister of the established Church, of the Burgher, and of the Antiburgher Seceders. The King is patron of the parish. The living consists of 32 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear; 6 l. 13 s. 4 d. in money, including 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. for communion elements; a manse, and a glebe of 4½ English acres. The minister's stipend was originally the Dean's living; and, besides what is paid from the teinds

of

of the parish, consists of feu-duties paid from Deanskier, in the parish of Muthil; from Dean's Lundie, and Deanstown, in the parish of Kilmadock; from Gogar, in the parish of Logie; from Craigarnhall, in the parish of Lecropt; and of teind-duty from Logie Almond, in the parish of Monzie.

The number of poor upon the roll of this parish is 34. Some years it has been above 40. They are maintained by assessments. These commenced in 1775. The number of poor then upon the roll was 19; and the assessment 7 s. 6 d. was on the 100 l. Scotch of valued rent. The assessment has gradually risen to 20 s. on the 100 l. Scotch. Last assessment was fixed at 15 s. The deficiency is made up from the interest of money mortified for behoof of the poor. Occasional charities, given by the kirk-session to poor householders not on the roll, amount to about 5 l. *per annum*. These are given out of the collections at the church-doors, dues of mort, cloths, &c.

*Crops.*—The principal crops are oats and barley. A considerable quantity of flax and potatoes, also of clover and ryegrass, are sown in this parish. More grain of every kind (except wheat, which is sown only in small quantities) than what is necessary for the maintenance of its inhabitants, is raised in this district.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The roads were originally made by the statute labour; but it is hardly sufficient to keep them in repair. The great military road to the north passes through nearly the length of this parish; and, being one of the greatest thoroughfares in Scotland, would require more than the statute labour to keep it in sufficient repair. Many of the landed gentlemen are of opinion, that it should be made a turnpike; but this has been prevented by a different opinion prevailing

prevailing in the district to the north of this parish.—The bridges on the Allan are good. There are no less than 6 upon it, 4 of which are within the parish. The Bridge of Dunblane, and the other bridges upon the public road, are kept in repair by the statute labour and conversion money.

*Fuel.*—The greatest part of the inhabitants use coals, brought from pits in the neighbourhood of Alloa, at the distance of 10 or 12 miles. Many of the farmers still use peats dug in the moors. But the great length of time spent in working them, and the moderate price of coals, have induced the greatest number to use this last as most comfortable, and, upon the whole, the cheapest.

*Manure.*—There are several pits of excellent shell marl in the parish; and plenty of lime, by water carriage on the Forth, is to be got at the distance of a few miles; and it is much used in improving the grounds.

*Woods.*—In this parish there is plenty of coppice wood and other kinds, such as oak, elm, beech, plane, &c. besides many plantations of firs.

*Plane at Kippenrofs*—This plane is supposed to be one of the largest trees in Scotland. Its dimensions are:

|                                          | <i>Feet.</i> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| The height of the trunk                  | 13           |
| Circumference of the trunk at the bottom | 27           |
| _____ at the smallest part               | 18           |
| _____ where it branches                  | 30           |

*Battle.*—The battle of Dunblane, in November 1715, was fought at Sheriff Moor, in this parish, between the Duke of Argyle and Earl of Mar.

*Population.*—By a late survey, it is found that there are in this parish 2750 souls; and it is supposed that the population has not increased much for 40 years; but no exact accounts of it have been kept. The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 2728 souls.

*Schools.*—In the town of Dunblane there are, besides the parochial school, three others, to which the generality of the people send their children to be initiated in the principles of the English language, previous to their being sent to the principal school. Owing to the extent of the parish, there are three other schools in different quarters of it, for the accommodation of those who cannot come into the town. The number of scholars at the parish school is, at an average, about 60. The schoolmaster's salary is 12 l. Sterling in money, and 7 stons of cheese, a house, and garden, in value about 6 l. Sterling. He is likewise session-clerk. The perquisites of which office are, including the salary, about 10 l. Sterling.

*Alehouses, Inns, &c.*—There are no less than 41 houses where ale and spirits are retailed, 29 in the town of Dunblane, and 12 in other parts of the parish. These are the causes of misery and poverty prevailing among many of the lower rank, who, laying aside their industry, become dissipated and abandoned, and at last, through disease, age, and infirmity, become, with their families, a burden upon the parish. In this manner the number of poor has increased much of late years. The greatest number of those upon the roll are virtuous labouring people, who are aged and infirm; but there are among them several of the above description.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF INVERURY.

(County of Aberdeen—Presbytery of Garioch.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM DAVIDSON.

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*Name.*

**I**NVERURY, so called from its situation at the confluence of the rivers Don and Ury, lies in the county of Aberdeen, and that district thereof called the Garioch, 14 miles north-west from Aberdeen.

*Soil.*—The parish of Inverury contains about 4000 acres, but scarce 2000 are arable.—The land near the rivers is generally a light rich mould, on a bed of sand, and produces excellent crops, especially in showry summers, and earlier than most of the neighbourhood. From the rivers it rises gradually to the skirts of the mountain of Benochee, which lies within a mile of the north-west boundary of the parish; and the soil is not so fertile on the higher, as on the lower ground, by the rivers.

*The Borough.*—The town of Inverury, where the parish church stands, is a royal borough. Tradition says, that it obtained this privilege from King Robert Bruce, on occasion of a signal victory obtained by him there, over Comyn Earl of

of Buchan, the king of England's general in Scotland, which proved the beginning of that good fortune that attended him ever after during the whole of his reign. The oldest charter is a *novodamus* by Queen Mary, narrating, that "Inverury had been a royal borough time immemorial, but the charter of its erection lost in the time of the civil wars." It is governed by a provost, three baillies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and three counsellors. It does not appear to have ever been a place considerable for trade or manufactures. A great part of the townsmen are mechanics, such as weavers, shoemakers, taylors, cart and square wrights, and blacksmiths; and they are all employed in working for the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood; none in manufacturing articles for market. At the same time, they cultivate their small pieces of property, of from one to six acres of land. There are about 60 of these small proprietors of land within the borough, called *portioners*; and the Earl of Kintore is proprietor of about one half of the land. When let to tenants, it pays from 10 s. to 40 s. Sterling the acre, according to its quality. The women are generally employed in knitting stockings for the Aberdeen manufacturers, and earn from 18 d. to 2 s. a week.

*Bridges.*—The situation of Inverury, between two such considerable rivers, and sometimes in land floods inaccessible even with boats, on all sides but one, has been a great obstacle to its improvement. This obstacle is now, however, in a great measure, happily removed. By the public spirited exertions of the Earl of Kintore, and Doctor Thom the present provost, subscriptions have been promoted for a bridge upon Don; and an elegant and stately one was built last year, at the south end of the town, which cost 2000 l. Sterling. The accommodation, however, is not complete, without a bridge  
upon

upon Ury too. This will not cost near so much as the other; and it is hoped some aid will be obtained from government, as the King's high-way, from Aberdeen to Elgin, Fort George, and Inverness, passes through Inverury; and there is a saving of 14 miles by travelling that road, rather than the lower one by Old Meldrum and Turreff.

*Heritors.*—In the country part of the parish there are 7 heritors; none of whom reside in it but one, viz. Mr Johnston of Woodhill, who occupies a well improved farm on the banks of the Don. He has planted 50 or 60 acres of the higher ground with various kinds of forest trees, principally Scotch firs, and they are in a very thriving condition.

The names of the old farm towns appear to be Gaelic, though this language has not been spoken in that part of the country for many centuries.

*Agriculture.*—The farms are of various sizes, from 4 l. to 40 l. of yearly rent. The mode of cultivation is considerably improved of late, but much yet remains to be done in that way. Oats and barley are the principal crops. The average of the returns may be reckoned 4 of the former, and 5 of the latter.

The farmers have only of late begun to bring lime from Aberdeen, in any considerable quantities, to lay on their land. Every one now sows turnips, and plants potatoes in the field, and the ground next year is sown with barley and grass seeds, for hay or pasture.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is 1634 l. Scotch, exclusive of the borough, which has no valuation in the collector of the counties books. The real rent of the whole parish is about 700 l. Sterling.

*Population.*



*Population.*—In Dr Webster's list, in 1755, the number of inhabitants were 730. In the month of August 1791, the number of inhabitants were 712, viz.

|                            |            |              |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| In the borough,            | 162 males. | 198 females, |
| In the rest of the parish, | 178        | 174          |

|                                  |     |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                  | —   | —   |
| In all,                          | 340 | 372 |
| Under 10 years of age,           | -   | 146 |
| Above 70,                        | -   | 35  |
| Above 80,                        | -   | 8   |
| Above 90,                        | -   | 1   |
| Average number of births yearly, | -   | 18  |

They are all members of the established Church, except 5 Papists, 10 Episcopalians, 8 Quakers, 4 Seceders, and a few Methodists.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are in the whole parish about 600 black cattle, 130 horses, and 1000 sheep, mostly of a small size. The people are generally sober and industrious, and appear contented with their condition. A very remarkable alteration to the better has taken place within the last 20 years among them, in their dress, diet, and lodging, but especially in the first of these articles.

The greatest inconveniency they labour under, is scarcity of fuel. There are neither peat nor turf in the parish. They are obliged to fetch their fuel from other parishes, at a considerable distance; and this takes up their time for great part of the summer, when they ought to be more profitably employed. Coal are brought from Aberdeen by the people of the town. A boll (36 stone Amsterdam weight) costs 4s. 6d. at the ship, and 2s. 6d. for carriage to Inverury. Another inconvenience, most sensibly felt of late by the farmers, is a scarcity of servants. Both men and women servants are  
repair-

repairing to Aberdeen, where they readily find employment in the extensive manufactures lately established there, and get high wages. The consequence is, that servants wages in the country are at least double of what they were a few years ago, and it is very difficult to get them at any rate.—There is an ancient Druidical temple in the parish, but nothing very remarkable about it. At the south end of the town of Inverury, and near the confluence of the rivers, there stands a curious artificial mount of sand, covered with a fine green sward. It is called the *Bass*. It is a truncated cone, very regular, and 40 feet of perpendicular height. Adjoining to it, on the east side, is another about 20 feet high, but not so regularly shapen. The vulgar tradition, about this mount, is a very senseless one. Probably it was a moot-hill, or place where courts were held for administering justice. A noted antiquarian, some years ago, when on the spot, pronounced it to have been such, and pointed out the places where the judges and the parties stood.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church of Inverury was built in the year 1774, and the manse in 1762. The stipend is 37 l. 10 s. Sterling, and 64 bolls of meal and bear, with a glebe of 4 acres. The Earl of Kintore is patron of the parish.

The schoolmaster's salary is 100 l. Scotch, and the number of scholars about 40 in winter, and 30 in summer.

There are no parochial funds for maintenance of the poor. About 14 l. Sterling, collected in the church annually, are distributed by the church-session among 12 or 14 poor people.

## N U M B E R XXXIII.

## PARISH OF ROUSAY AND EGLISHAY.

(*County of Orkney.—Presbytery of North Isles.—Synod of Orkney.*)

*By the Reverend Mr JAMES LESLIE.*

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*Situation.*

**T**HIS parish is composed of four islands, Rousay, Eglishay, Weir, and Inhallow, and two small holms or uninhabited islands. They are situated about three leagues north-west of the county town, Kirkwall, and lie contiguous to each other.

*Rousay*.—The largest island of the parish, is altogether one range of hills; and the arable ground is separated from the hill ground by a poor irregular earthen dyke. The hill ground is covered with heath, and contains deep moss. It is a pleasant island, and healthful, and abounds with moor game. In it are abundance of springs of the purest water, and of rivulets which issue from small lakes, of which there are numbers in the island. All around the island is safe harbour for shipping of any burden. The soil is good; and might produce plentiful returns, were it well cultivated. There is a small church, about five miles distant from the manse, dedicated to our Lady. The number of inhabitants is,

is, in this island of Rousay, 772, the youngest child being included.

*Eglisay.*—Eglisay is a pleasant, low lying island, with a small Gothic church in the west part of the island, which has been dedicated to St Magnus, the tutelary saint of all Orkney. It has a pyramidal steeple at the west end, and a vaulted quire at the east end, which joins to the body of the church. In Eglisay there is a small lake of fresh water; and the soil is very good, and fit for culture; but it is poorly cultivated. There is a small bay of shell sand, of the best kind, on the west side of this island, and a large track of sand on the north side, with much bent, and many rabbits. Sponge is cast on shore in October, in great abundance, about this island. The number of inhabitants in this island of Eglisay is 210, the youngest child being included.

*Weir Island.*—Weir Island is a small low lying island, not so large as is Eglisay. The soil is the same, and the culture very poor, and the crops unequal to what might be expected from proper management. There is a ruinous church here, and a quire, but no steeple; and there are the vestiges of a fortification on a rising ground, a little from the place where the church stands. There is moss ground in a part of this island; and many seals are to be seen on the rocks at the west end of this island. The number of the inhabitants is 65, the youngest child included.

*Inhallow Island.*—Inhallow Island is very small, but very pleasantly situated, being overlooked by the hills and headlands of main land, on the south, and of Rousay, on the north. The soil is good, but not skilfully managed. The number of inhabitants is 25, the youngest child being in-

cluded. The whole united parish of Roufay and Eglisay includes in it 1072 persons. In 1755, the numbers were rated at 978.

*Manners.*—There is no difference in manners and habits between the cottager and the master of the farm. The master often turns to cottager, and the cottager sometimes becomes the master. They all take social snuff together. Their houses and their furniture are exactly the same. They all, without distinction, sit at the oar in their boats; and at land they all jointly perform the same labour and work. Youth and old age constitute the only distinction of rank. The old often are so reduced, that they betake themselves to going from house to house for sustenance; and then they are well received; and it is not accounted beggary when they do so.

*Baptisms and Marriages.*

|          | <i>Baptisms.</i> |             | <i>Marriages.</i> |
|----------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|          | <i>Males.</i>    | <i>Fem.</i> |                   |
| In 1777, | 13               | 28          | 6                 |
| 1778,    | 11               | 13          | 7                 |
| 1779,    | 11               | 10          | 4                 |
| 1786,    | 17               | 14          | 4                 |
| 1787,    | 12               | 14          | 7                 |
| 1788,    | 18               | 14          | 5                 |
| 1789,    | 19               | 20          | 8                 |
| 1791,    | 10               | 17          | 8                 |

*Boats.*—In Roufay they keep 24 boats, in Eglisay 12 boats, in Weir 6 boats, in Inhallow 2 boats, making in all 44 boats, each being about the value of 3 l. Sterling. With these they used to go to fish; but, for some years past, the fishing has failed entirely.

*Cattle,*

*Cattle.*—They plow with horses of a small size, which are brought from Strathnavern when two years old, and some Shetland horses. Three horses, or, at the most, four horses are put into the plough. These horses are, of value, from 3 l. Sterling to 4 l. never hardly above 5 l. Sterling. There are in the parish upwards of 200 ploughs. There are a prodigious number of black cattle, no less than 2500, almost all cows, from which they make grease butter. The value of the cows may be from 2 l. to 2 l. 10 s. hardly ever 3 l. Sterling.—The sheep in this parish have fine wool, and, for the most part, two lambs at a birth. The sheep, when sold, cost 4 s. a head, or thereabout. The number of small swine is considerable, as are the flocks of geese. The swine sell for 3 s. or 4 s. and the geese at 1 s. There are no mice in the island of Inhallow, and no rats in any one of the other islands of the parish.—There is a great quantity of kelp made annually in this parish from May to July. The people employ themselves at this work. There is a little woollen stuff made, and some linen, but to no amount. These they trade with to Shetland, and sell at the great annual market at Kirkwall.

## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF ARBROATH.

(County of Forfar.—Presbytery of Arbroath.—Synod of Angus and Mearns.)

By the Reverend Mr GEORGE GLEIG.

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Town, &c.

**A**BERBROTHOCK, or Arbroath, is a royal burgh, situated on the discharge of the small river of Brothock into the sea, from whence it has its name, *Aber* implying such a situation. In conjunction with Aberdeen, Bervie, Montrose, and Brechin, it sends a member to Parliament. The post-road from Edinburgh to Aberdeen runs through it. It is distant 17 miles from Dundee, and 12 from Montrose. It is the general opinion, that it was erected into a royalty by King William the Lion about the year 1186; but this cannot be properly ascertained, owing to the loss of the original charter, which was taken away by force out of the Abbey of Arbroath, where it was lodged in the time of the civil wars, during the minority of James VI. by George Bishop of Moray, called Postulat of Arbroath. It was, however, confirmed in all the privileges of a royal burgh, which it had formerly enjoyed, by a *novodamus* granted by James VI. in the year 1599. The town is pleasantly situated within an amphitheatre of a ridge of small hills, enjoying a south exposure, and having a fair and extensive prospect of the Lo-

thian

thian hills, the east coast of Fife, and the entries into the Frith of Forth, and the river Tay. The prospect towards the north is bounded by the Grampian Hills. Few places equal it in point of situation. It is governed by a provost, two bailies, and 16 counsellors. The dean of guild and deacon convener of the trades are members of council *ex officio*. Besides the town-clerk, there are 5 writers, who are notaries public, and 2 messengers at arms. The revenue of the town amounts to about 800*l.* which arises principally from rents of land, harbour dues, town's mills, and 2 pennies Scotch on each pint of ale sold within the royalty. There are 7 trades incorporated; smiths, glovers, taylor, weavers, shoemakers, wrights, and bakers.

*Trade.*—Before the year 1736, Arbroath had little or no commerce, unless a little traffic in fish, and a kind of contraband or smuggling trade deserve the name. It had no manufactures; and any piece of cloth that was made was carried to Montrose, and sold there. It imported nothing, except now and then a small cargo of wood from Norway. Flax, iron, and other commodities, were purchased by the inhabitants from the merchants in Montrose and Dundee. A few years subsequent to that mentioned above, several gentlemen of property jointly undertook to establish the manufacture of Oznaburghs, and other brown linens here, and to import their own materials. They laid out considerable sums of money on different kinds of machinery, which were executed on a very complete and extensive scale. Success attended their spirited exertions; and, at that time, the Arbroath fabrics procured a superiority, and commanded a sale, in preference to any other of the kind, which they still hold. From this establishment, the rise and progress of the trade and manufactures of Arbroath are to be dated. The principal



principal manufactures are fail-cloth, Oznaburghs, and other brown linens. From November 1790, to November 1791, 1,055,303 yards of the two last were manufactured in the town and stamp-office district, which extends about 6 or 8 miles round the town, equal in value to 39,660*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* There is likewise yearly manufactured in the town, fail-cloth to the same amount; and nearly 500 looms are employed. The greatest part of the linen and fail-cloth is shipped for London. A small part is sent to Glasgow and Dundee. The principal imports are flax and hemp from Russia, and wood and iron from Norway and Sweden. Of the two first, there were imported last year from 700 to 800 tons; and wood and iron to the value of 4000*l.* A very considerable trade is likewise carried on in lime and coals. Of the former, there are unloaded at the harbour about 18,000 bolls of shells; and from 6000 to 8000 tons of the latter yearly. This quantity will not seem so great, when it is considered that this town not only supplies its own neighbourhood, but sends a great quantity of coals to Forfar, Brechin, and their neighbourhood. A repeal of the coal-tax would considerably affect the revenue of this town, and be a loss to individuals, who deal solely in the coal-trade; yet the people are not so selfish as to throw any obstacle in the way of a repeal, so ardently desired by their northern neighbours, nor so blind to their own interest as to solicit its abolition. About 18,000 bolls of barley are yearly shipped here, and the trades import about 3000 bolls of oat-meal.—There is a tan-yard, which employs 6 men; and hides are yearly dressed, to the value of 2500*l.* During the late war, and some time prior to it, a great number of shoes were exported; but, since the peace, that trade has almost, if not entirely failed. A short time ago, a cotton manufactory was established, which employs 18 men, women, and children. Yarn is spun to the value

value of 1000 l. ; and 6 looms weave of calicoes to the amount of 500 l. yearly. There is also lately established here a manufacture of particular kinds of brown linens, never attempted in this part of the country. The number of looms employed is 18. The cloth is mostly used by coachmakers and upholsterers ; and the proprietor has a shop in London for selling it. One of the kinds is remarkable for its thinness, and more properly may be termed *gauze* than linen, of which a person will weave 40 yards a day, though it is yard wide. The common price of this last is 4 d. *per* yard.— In the year 1740, a thread manufactory was established, which was for many years carried on to a great extent, and turned out to good account. By it thousands of people gained a livelihood. For some time past it has been greatly on the decline, owing to the high prices of flax, the great rise on spinning, the high wages allowed to labourers in the Oznaburgh and linen manufactories, and more especially to the want of a proportionable rise of price for the thread in the London market. From these causes, the thread trade in this place may be said to be turned *thread bare*. But, though it has failed, trade goes briskly forward ; and, to show its increase, the increase of the imports and exports, it is only necessary to mention, that the harbour-dues were this year (1792) let at public roup for 293 l. exclusive of the guildry-dues, when 40 years ago they did not bring more than 70 l. guildry dues included.

*Harbour.*—The harbour was originally at the end of the East causeway, and built in the year 1194. There is yet extant an agreement between the abbot of Arbroath and the inhabitants, concerning the building of it, by which both parties were bound to contribute their proportions ; but the largest share fell to the abbot, for which he was to receive an  
yearly

yearly tax, payable out of every rood of land lying within the burgh. The pier was built of wood, and but ill constructed to defend the vessels in stormy weather, from the heavy surges which roll on shore. In the year 1725, a brief was obtained for building a new one, which is situated a little to the west of the old. It is strongly built of stone all round, small, but very commodious, and so constructed that a vessel can lie to at any part of it, either to receive or discharge her cargo. It is likewise perfectly safe, being contracted at the entrance to the width of 31 feet, and defended by what is called the *gates*, which are 14 or 15 strong beams of wood, let down in a groove on each side, and locked in on the top by iron bars. These beams, which are easily put in or taken out in 15 minutes, by means of a crane made for the purpose, completely break the force of the sea, which runs into the harbour, so that it is *fida statio carinis*. It is always dry at low water; but has a sluice on the north side, by which the water of Brothock is admitted, when it is thought necessary to clean it. At spring tides there is, at its entrance, a depth of 15 or 16 feet; and at neep tides, of 9 or 10 feet water.

In the year 1781, there belonged to this harbour no more than 17 or 18 vessels, making all together only about 900 tons; now there are 32 vessels, making 1704 tons, which employ about 160 seamen. There are besides two vessels on the stocks, together above 150 tons.

To this harbour belong also 3 fishing boats, besides the pilot boats, which employ 14 fishermen; but these depend upon a living more on what they make by pilotage, than on what they can earn in the fishing trade, which has mostly failed\*.

*Soil*

\* During the late war, in the year 1781, the shipping on this coast was much annoyed by a French privateer, named the *Fearnought of Dunkirk*, commanded by one Fall. On the evening

*Soil and Produce.*—The soil is various. On the northern extremity it is a thin muirish soil, with a clay bottom; about  
the

evening of the 23d of May, he came to anchor in the Bay, and fired a few shot into the town; after which salute, he sent a flag of truce on shore, with the following letter:

*“ At sea, May twenty third.*

“ Gentlemen, I send these two words to inform you, that  
“ I will have you to bring to the French colour, in less  
“ than a quarter of an hour, or I set the town on fire directly;  
“ such is the order of my master the King of France I am sent  
“ by. Send directly the mair and chiefs of the town to make  
“ some agreement with me, or I’ll make my duty. It is the  
“ will of yours.

“ To Messieurs Mair of the town called Arbrought, or in  
“ his absence, to the chief man after him in Scotland.”

The Magistrates, wishing to gain time to arm the inhabitants, and send expresses to the neighbouring towns for military, gave an evasive answer to this letter, intimating; that he had mentioned no terms of ransom, and begging he would do no injury to the town, till he should hear from them again. Upon this Fall wrote a second letter, which is as follows:

*“ At Sea, eighth o’clock in the afternoon.*

“ Gentlemen, I received just now your answer, by which you  
“ say I ask no terms. I thought it was useless, since I asked you  
“ to come aboard for agreement. But here are my terms; I  
“ will have 30,000l. Sterling at least, and 6 of the chiefs men  
“ of the town for otage. Be speedy, or I shoot your town away  
“ directly, and I set fire to it. I am, Gentlemen, your servant.

“ I sent some of my crew to you; but if some harm happens  
“ to them, you’ll be sure will hang up the main-yard all the  
“ preseners we have aboard.

“ To Messieurs the chiefs men of Arbrought in Scotland.”

The magistrates, before sending a return to this letter, having got some of the inhabitants armed, and some military from Montrose, set Fall at defiance, and ordered him to do his worst, for they would not give him a farthing. Terribly enraged, and no doubt greatly disappointed, he began a heavy fire upon the town, and continued it for a long time; but happily it did no harm, except knocking down some chimney tops, and burning the fingers of those who took up his balls, which were heated. On the 24th he sent a third letter on shore, by some of our own people, whom he had captured at sea. It runs thus:

the middle it is black loam; and hard on the shore, the ground is light and sandy. The whole has been much improved of late, and it produces excellent crops of wheat, oats, barley, pease, rye-grass, turnip, potatoes, &c. About 27 years ago, the magistrates planted 110 acres of muir with Scotch firs, which are thriving very well, and in a short time will bring a considerable addition to the revenue of the town.—The coast is flat and rocky, and, from the rocks, sea-weed is cut every third year, for the purpose of making kelp. The quantity made is very inconsiderable, and the emolument thence arising to the town not worth the mentioning.

*Population.**At Sea, May 24th.*

“Gentlemen, See whether you will come to some terms with me, or I come in presently with my cutter into the harbour, and I will cast down the town all over. Make haste, because I have no time to spare. I give you a quarter of an hour for your decision, and after I’ll make my duty. I think it would be better for you, Gentlemen, to come some you aboard presently, to settle the affairs of your town. You’ll sure no to be hurt. I give you my parole of honor. I am your,” &c.

To this letter the magistrates sent a verbal message to Fall, that they would be glad to see him on shore, and hoisted a flag of defiance on the Ballast Hill. Finding his threats to be in vain, after firing some few ineffectual shot, he weighed anchor, and sailed in pursuit of some sloops which came into the offing, which he captured, but did not return.

To prevent all insults of this kind, from so mean an enemy, for the future, a battery was proposed to be built. A subscription was opened for this purpose, which was soon filled up. Government was applied to, and Captain Andrew Fraser was sent down to plan the work, which was quickly finished. The battery, mounting 6 12 pounders, is built somewhat in the form of a half-moon, of stone and lime, and faced with large banks of fods. The platform is paved with stone, and below it there are vaults bomb proof, for keeping powder and shot, with other necessaries. It is built on the Ballast Hill, between the harbour and the sea, and has a compleat command of the Bay, so that now no Fall, with his Fearnought, dare insult Arbroath with impunity.

*Population, &c.*—In the year 1755, the numbers were 2098. In the year 1776, the number of souls in the parish amounted to 3943; the total amount this year, (1792), in town and country, is 4676, of which there are, in the country, 131, and 4545 in town. But to gain a complete list of the number of people in the town of Arbroath, we must add the number of souls in that part of it belonging to the parish of St. Vigeans, which is 638, and then the number of souls in the town is exactly 5183.

In this parish there are 517 females more than males. An exact register of births and deaths has not hitherto been kept: For the year 1791, it stood as follows:

|           |                                                    | Total. |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Baptisms, | 61 males.                      53 females.         | 114    |
| Deaths,   | 21                                      47         | 110    |
| Mariages, | 48 both parties in par. 20 one party out of parish | 68     |

For some years past the town has increased considerably. Last year 30 houses were built, many of them of considerable value; and this year there is much about the same number, though not of equal value. This increase is no doubt owing to our manufactures; and from the aspect which they at present wear, there is every reason to look for a rapid increase of population, and consequently of buildings.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Arbroath, which formerly belonged to the parish of St Vigeans, was erected into a parochial charge about the year 1560. Besides the established church there are meetings both of English and Scotch Episcopalians, Anti-burgher Seceders, and Independents; and in the suburbs belonging to St Vigeans parish there is a meeting-house, the property of the Methodists. The church is built in the south-west corner of the Abbey ground, and the tower serves for a bell steeple. It was repaired and enlarged about thirty years

years ago, and fitted up in a very neat and commodious manner, capable to contain from 1800 to 2000 people. It is now rather small for the congregation, and it will be soon necessary to have another, or a chapel of ease. The right of patronage formerly belonged to the Earl of Panmure, but fell to the Crown by forfeiture in the year 1715. The stipend is 6 bolls of wheat, 22 bolls 2 firlots 3 pecks and 1 lippie of barley, 23 bolls 2 firlots and 2 pecks of meal, and 54 l. 8 s. 10 d. including the rent for the church-yard grafs, 4 l. 3 s. 4 d. for communion elements, and 4 l. 8 s. 11 d. for house-rent. There is neither manse nor glebe.—A sorry stipend for so large a place. Arbroath is a single charge, but the minister has an ordained assistant who acts the part of a colleague. His stipend arises in part from the interest of 565 l. mortified by a Convener Mill for that purpose; and some gentlemen in the town have bound themselves to make it at least equal to 50 l.

*School.*—There is only one established school, which was built about 20 years ago. It is spacious, and in every respect well situated, fit to accommodate with ease 120 scholars. There is only one master and an assistant. The master's salary which is paid by the town is 10 l. and the emoluments arising to him from being session-clerk and precentor in the church may amount to about 12 l. The number of scholars for 26 years past has been between 70 and 80. The school-fees are 2 s. 6 d. for each scholar *per* quarter, and have been the same for more than 30 years; of which the master receives 1 s. 6 d. and the assistant 1 s. The assistant has 9 l. 2 s. 2 d. as salary, of which the town pays 5 l. and the rest is paid by the kirk-session. The branches of education taught are English, writing, arithmetic, Euclid's elements, mensuration, geography, navigation, Latin, Greek, and French, but  
the

the two last are seldom required. There are likewise two or three private schools, one of which is supported by a number of the principal inhabitants of the town, who give the master 36 l. *per annum* for teaching 36 scholars.

*Poor.*—The funds for the support of the poor arise from rents of land, mort-cloths, seats in the church, marriages, legacies, and collections at the church-door. There are distributed yearly among them, about Martinmas, between 70 and 80 bolls of coals. The weekly pensioners receive among them 16 s. *per week*; and about 16 l. or 17 l. are divided among the poor at the sacrament; besides, they receive occasionally as circumstances require. The distribution, *communibus annis*, is about 130 l. The number of poor is about 120. There is also a fund for the support of seven poor widows of shipmasters left by John Carmichael shipmaster, about 60 years ago, in money, houses, and land. This charity is not confined to Arbroath, but extends to Montrose and Dundee. Widows of the names of Carmichael, Pearson, and Strachan, have a preferable claim, and after them, widows whose husbands have been of any of the preceding names. None can be admitted upon this charity who do not live nine months in the year in Arbroath, or whose yearly income amounts to a sum equal to that which they can receive from the fund.—An improper behaviour also excludes from the benefit of this charity.

This fund is under the direction of the magistrates, minister, kirk-treasurer, and boxmaster to the fraternity of seamen in Arbroath; and by the care and attention of the managers, it has increased considerably for some years past, so that each of the widows instead of 5 l. or 6 l. which they formerly received, now draw above 13 l. yearly.

*Climate,*



*Climate, &c.*—The air is dry and salubrious.—The people in general healthy. About 20 years ago, intermittent fevers were very prevalent, particularly during the spring months; but since the lands in the neighbourhood, in consequence of a keen spirit for agriculture, have been drained of their exuberant latent moisture, the disease has totally disappeared. Continued fevers, which used rarely to occur, have been more frequent within these last two years; they are of a type between the nervous and inflammatory, and seldom prove fatal. They probably owe their existence to our winters having been uncommonly open and moist. Comparatively speaking, Arbroath is a remarkably healthy place, and the people live to a good old age. There are many of 70 and 80, and a few considerably above 90 years. I know five persons whose ages added together make 476; one of these is an old woman aged 97, yet strong and healthy, who never drank a dram. Another of them is an old man aged 96, whose wife, not included in the above number, is 85.—She is the man's third wife, and he is her third husband. Prejudices against inoculation for the small pox are almost entirely eradicated.

*Mineral Spring.*—About a quarter of a mile to the westward of the town, in a high ground called the Common, there is one of the strongest Spaws, or Chalybeate springs, in Scotland. It is much frequented by people affected with scrophula, nervous, and stomachic disorders, and other diseases arising from relaxation of the habit; and in numberless cases, the medical practitioners are obliged to acknowledge the superior effect of the water, as a corroborant to any remedy they can prescribe. Probably this spring would be more frequented, if there were some attention paid to the well, and proper accommodations for the reception of its visitors. An inducement to the invalid to repair to this place,

is the opportunity of sea-bathing, which is the purest exercise of health, and perhaps does no less good, than the incredibly large gulps of water, which many in faith of its healing powers, force themselves to swallow.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—A common labourer receives from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. *per day*. The wages of a journeyman smith are from 5 l. to 7 l. a-year, with his victuals. A shoemaker will earn from 6 s. to 8 s.—a house-carpenter about 8 s.—a mason 10 s.—a flater 12 s.—and a weaver from 7 s. to 10 s. *per week*. A gardener has 1 s. 3 d. *per day*. The wages of a baker are much the same with the smiths; and a taylor receives from 6 d. to 8 d. *per day*, with his victuals. The common wages of a servant-maid is 3 l.; some receive 3 l. 10 s. and some 4 l. *per annum*.

Beef, mutton, lamb, veal, and pork, are sold at from 3½ d. to 5 d. *per lib.*—Butter from 8 d. to 11 d. *per lib.* which is 24 ounces.—Cheese, 5 s. *per stone*.—Eggs from 3½ to 4 d. *per dozen*.—Fowls from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. *per pair*.—Oat-meal sold this year for 15 s. 6 d.—Wheat for 1 l. 1 s.—and barley from 17 s. to 18 s. *per boll*.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The town is well supplied with butcher meat; and nearly 500 head of black cattle, and 350 calves, besides sheep, lambs, and swine, are slaughtered at the shambles. Formerly, fish were plenty, now they are scarce, and consequently very dear. The coast being rocky, we have plenty of crabs and lobsters, which find a ready market; but the greatest part of the latter is sent to London; and it is said, that the fishermen last year drew no less than 80 l. for lobsters sent thither. About the summer markets, boats loaded with dry fish, such as cod, ling, skate, &c. come

come to us from Peterhead, and other small fishing towns in the north country. The country people buy the greatest part of them, and some of the Arbroath merchants buy of them to sell to their customers. It is supposed, that this year there was sold in the harbour, dry fish to the value of 1000l.

NUM.

N U M B E R   X X X V .

P A R I S H   O F   S T   Q U I V O X .

(County of Ayr.—Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr M'QUAE.

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*Extent and Soil.*

**T**HE parish of St Quivox contains about 3500 acres of land, all of which is arable, except some part of the banks of the river of Ayr, which are steep, and covered with natural wood or plantations. The soil is various; nearest to the sea it is sandy—a small part of it is a light gravelly soil, with a dry bottom: Towards the east it is more clayey; and in general has a hard bottom of till or rotten rock, which makes the uneven surface stratum, springy, and wet. There are about 100 acres of meadow land; a part of which is much injured by the overflowing of a small rivulet, that is stopped in its course by a mill-dam. There are likewise about 100 acres of wood and plantations. The whole parish has been inclosed with hedge and ditch within the last 30 or 40 years, and in general the hedges are in a thriving condition.

*Population.*—In 1755, the population was 499. In the country part of the parish there are at present 96 families, which contain 490 souls of all ages. There are two excel-

lent modern built mansion-houses, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river; the one belonging to Mr Oswald of Auchencruive, and the other to Mr Campbell of Craigie, who reside in them occasionally. Two-thirds of the parish are the property of Mr Oswald, and the other third is divided among 7 different heritors. Three of these farm their own property. Thirty families live by farming; 4 blacksmiths, 4 masons, 5 colliers, 4 house-carpenters, 3 weavers; the remaining 43 are labourers, or poor, or employed in different ways about the collieries.

|                |   |   |       |
|----------------|---|---|-------|
| Married pairs, | - | - | 81    |
| Widows,        | - | - | 8     |
| Bachelors,     | - | - | 5     |
| Widowers,      | - | - | 2     |
|                |   |   | <hr/> |
|                |   |   | 96    |

There are 5 married men above 80 years of age, all poor, except one; and their wives above 70, except one.

| <i>Males.</i> |       | <i>Females.</i> |       |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Above 80      | 5     | Above 70        | 4     |
| — 60          | 12    | — 60            | 12    |
| — 50          | 17    | — 50            | 22    |
| — 40          | 28    | — 40            | 26    |
| — 30          | 22    | — 30            | 31    |
| — 20          | 36    | — 20            | 53    |
| — 10          | 41    | — 10            | 38    |
| Under 10      | 76    | Under 10        | 67    |
|               | <hr/> |                 | <hr/> |
|               | 237   |                 | 253   |
|               | 253   |                 |       |
|               | <hr/> |                 |       |
| Total,        | 490   |                 |       |

*Rent and Produce.*—The lands are set from 12 s. to 40 s. an acre, and even some so high as 3 l.; but the average of the whole parish is about 20 s. an acre. There are in the parish about

|                           |   |               |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| 132 horses,               | - | value L. 1475 |
| 350 milch cows,           | - | 2000          |
| 200 young cattle, at 2 l. | - | 400           |
| 200 fat cattle, at 5 l.   | - | 1000          |
| 104 carts, at 4 l.        | - | 416           |

None of the farmers keep a regular stock of sheep on account of their hedges. A few are bought in occasionally to be fattened for the butcher, and a few of English breed are kept as pets.—These together may be valued at 50 l. The annual produce of a milch cow, besides her calf, is from 3 l. to 4 l. the average 3 l. 10 s.—Butter, 9 d. *per* lib. of 24 ounces; and cheese, from 2½ d. to 6 d. the same weight.

*Agriculture.*—As to agriculture, the general practice is to plough the land for 3 years, and lay it out into grafs for 6; after which, it is again plowed for 3 years, and so on during the tack. Lands are commonly let for 19 years; and the above course of management is specified in the tacks; however, a better rotation of crops is sometimes followed. 1st, Potatoes with dung, or (though seldom) turnips. 2d, Barley with red clover, 10 or 12 lib. to the acre. 3d, Red clover. 4th, Oats. Then, 5th, Potatoes with dung, and so on as before. This is found to be a good plan on dry land. But the staple articles with the farmers here are oats and bear. Small patches only are sown with wheat, pease, beans, and barley. Lime is universally used as a manure; it is laid upon the grafs a year or two before the field is to be plowed; the quantity about 100 bolls *per* acre; that is, 200 Winchester bushels of unslacked lime, which commonly yield 400 bushels of slacked lime. Sometimes it is laid upon a fallow,

but

but seldom. Lime costs 5 d. *per* boll, and the carriage 4 d.; the kilns being 6 or 7 miles distant. Hence, at the rate of 100 bolls *per* acre, it costs the farmers 3 l. 15 s. They sow, for two successive years, 6 or 7 Winchester bushels of oats *per* acre, in the month of April, and reap from 4 to 10 bolls, in the month of September or October. The third year, the whole dung of the farm is applied as far as it will go, for bear, of which they sow 4 bushels *per* acre, and reap from 4 to 7 bolls. Along with the bear, they sow 3 bushels of rye-grass seed, 8 lib. of red clover, and 5 or 6 lib. of white clover. The crop of hay is sometimes 200 stone, 24 lib. to the stone, each acre; but more frequently does not exceed 100 stone. It is usually cut for 2 years; then pastured for 4; after which it is plowed for oats.

*Wages.*—Men servants receive from 6 l. to 8 l. a year of wages. Women servants from 3 l. to 4 l. a year; but they are commonly hired for half a year only. A labourer receives a shilling a day; for mowing hay, 18 d.; a mason, 20 d.—The farmers plough with 4, or 3 horses with a driver, or with 2 horses without a driver, as they think the nature of their soil requires; but most generally with 3 horses and a driver. The plough most in use is the Scotch plough, with a curved mould-board.—The price of all sorts of provisions is fixed by the markets at Ayr.

*Wallacetown.*—About 30 years ago, the late Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie began to feu houses and gardens from the north end of the old bridge at Ayr. At that time, there were not above 8 or 10 straggling houses about the Bridge-end; and now, in 1792, by a gradual increase, there are 250 families living in Wallacetown, so named after its founder.

This

This increase of inhabitants has been owing, 1st, to the extensive collieries which have been wrought on the Blackhouse estate in this parish, and on the lands belonging to the community of Newton adjoining to it. 2d, Many farmers advanced in life, or unwilling to take their farms at a high additional rent, find houses in Wallacetown, to which they carried their capital, and became dealers in grain, meal, malt, &c. 3d, Mechanics of all sorts flocked into it, and feued houses, or rented those that were built by others, with a view to profit. They are here exempted from the laws or regulations of the incorporated trades in the adjoining royal burgh of Ayr. 4th, A considerable number from Ireland and the West Highlands settled here, as weavers, day-labourers, &c. because they could get higher wages than at home. It is a considerable disadvantage to this populous and thriving town, that there are no established magistrates residing in it; an evil which is the less likely to be soon remedied, as the present superior of Wallacetown resides at a distance, and has little more connection with it than to uplift the feu-duties. The attention and activity of the magistrates in Ayr and Newton to preserve good order in their towns, often drives disorderly people, and vagrants of different descriptions, into Wallacetown. By the activity of some of the principal inhabitants, who, from regard to peace and good order, officiate as constables, this evil has been in some degree checked; and the managers of the collieries have much merit in their attention to the morals of the people employed by them. When it is considered, that the inhabitants are a mixture of English, Irish, and Highlanders, with the original feuers, who were natives of the county of Ayr, it will be found that there is as much peace and decency of behaviour among them as can well be expected. They are 3 miles distant from the parish church, in which they have no seats; but have good opportunity



opportunity of attending public worship at the church of Newton, which is built at the west end of one of their streets, or at the Seceding meeting-house, which stands at the east end of it.

*Population of Wallacetown.*—The town contains 250 families, in all 960 souls, 187 married pairs, 38 widows, 8 widowers, 7 bachelors, 10 unmarried women that keep house.

| Above 70 years of age, | 7 males.   | 4 females.   |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| — 60 —————             | 29         | 39           |
| — 50 —————             | 41         | 49           |
| — 40 —————             | 58         | 52           |
| — 30 —————             | 65         | 72           |
| — 20 —————             | 51         | 74           |
| — 10 —————             | 99         | 72           |
| Under 10 —————         | 129        | 119          |
|                        | 479 males, | 481 females. |
|                        | 481        |              |
| Total,                 | 960        |              |

*Religion.*—There is one Antiburgher Seceding minister. Four families in the country part of the parish, and 20 families in Wallacetown, belong to this congregation. Three Burghers, 3 Moravians, 3 Methodists, and 10 of the Church of England. All the rest are of the established Church.

*Baptisms.*—The register of baptisms for the whole parish is regularly kept, and also the register of marriages; but as many, from adjoining parishes, have burial places in the church-yard of St. Quivox, and some are buried at the Seceding meeting-house, no exact information can be given concerning

cerning the number of deaths. For the last 8 years, there have been baptized, in

|      | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> | <i>Married.</i> |
|------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1784 | 24            | 19              | 43            | 7 pair.         |
| 1785 | 33            | 23              | 56            | 10              |
| 1786 | 16            | 14              | 30            | 9               |
| 1787 | 31            | 16              | 47            | 16              |
| 1788 | 20            | 13              | 33            | 14              |
| 1789 | 26            | 24              | 50            | 10              |
| 1790 | 13            | 18              | 31            | 19              |
| 1791 | 21            | 16              | 37            | 13              |
|      | <hr/>         | <hr/>           | <hr/>         | <hr/>           |
|      | 184           | 143             | 327           | 98              |

The average is 23 males, and nearly 18 females born annually, and about 12 couple married.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The stipend is, 96 bolls of meal, at 13 s. 4 d.     -     -     -     L. 64 0 0  
 20 bolls of bear, at 18 s.     -     -     -     18 0 0  
 In money,     -     -     -     11 8 0

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L. 93 8 0

Augmented in 1787, with the unanimous consent of the heritors, by 25 l. and 2 l. 10 s. for communion elements,     -     -     -     27 10 0

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L. 120 18 0

The church was repaired in 1767, uniformly seated, and plaistered by the heritors; and a new aisle built by the patron, Mr Oswald of Auchencruive. There are about 20 on the poor's list, who receive only 2 s. each *per* month; and even this small allowance could not be afforded them from the weekly collections in the church, but the kirk-session has received, in

in donations and legacies, during the last 10 years, above 100 l. which they distributed among the poor.

Day-labourers live comfortably upon 1 s. a day ; all of them in the country, and many in town, having small patches of potatoe ground, which is of great use to their families, and almost without exception, their children are taught to read and write. The parish schoolmaster is well qualified to teach these branches and arithmetic. His salary is about 12 l. a year ; school wages, 18 d. *per* quarter, and his whole income may be about 24 l. besides a good house and garden. The house and school-house were built within these 6 years.

Total population of the parish :

|                 |               |            |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| In the country, | 96 families,  | 490 souls. |
| In Wallacetown, | 250 families, | 960 souls. |

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346

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) 1450 ( 4

1384

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66

|                     |   |   |   |     |
|---------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Population in 1755, | - | - | - | 499 |
|---------------------|---|---|---|-----|

|           |   |   |   |     |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|
| Increase, | - | - | - | 951 |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|

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1450

NUM.

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF CABRACH.

(*County of Banff.—Presbytery of Alford.—Synod of Aberdeen.*)

By the Reverend Mr JAMES GORDON.

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*Name.*

THE name is derived from the Gaelic language, and signifies *the Timber Moss*: Accordingly, the parish is full of moss and fir. Every place within the bounds, except such as are new, has a name of Gaelic extract.

*Boundaries, Extent, &c.*—Cabrach is 30 miles distant from the county town, viz. Aberdeen, and surrounded by a range of hills, not very high, covered with heath. The length of this parish, at a medium, from south to north, is 5 miles; the breadth, from east to west, 3 miles, (all computed).

*Climate, Soil, Produce, &c.*—In summer the climate is pleasant enough; and, for the benefit of goats milk, is resorted to from the low country by many of weak constitutions, or labouring under consumption, for whose accommodation there are 4 goat whey quarters. In winter, the frosts are more intense, and snow lies deeper and longer here, than in some of the neighbouring parishes; but from this the natives feel no inconvenience: They have an inexhaustible moss at their

doors, and depend not more for subsistence on the produce of their fields, than on the profits of a traffic they carry on in sheep and black cattle. The soil is wet, and full of swamps, productive enough in provender for cattle; but owing to the frost, mists, and hoar frost in autumn, the annual produce of grain does not exceed the consumption of the inhabitants.

The farmers sow bear and birley oats only; and these in the upper parts of the parish are always more or less affected by the frosts, in so much that if the season has not been extremely favourable, they never depend on their own bear, and but seldom on their birley oats for feed.

Sometimes one half of a field is frosted, and the other safe; and what is still more extraordinary, the upper half of the ear has been found to be affected, while the lower was safe. Daily experience evinces, that the corns on the heights and eminences, run less risk than those on flat low grounds. For the most part they begin to sow in the end of March, and reap in September and October. Potatoes are the most uncertain of their crops. Turnips thrive; but for want of inclosures through the whole parish, experiments are not tried on a large scale. Clover and rye-grass have been sown in yards with success; cabbages are common.

*Agriculture and Employments.*—The mode of culture is perhaps the same at this day which it was a century ago. The plough in use is the old Scotch, drawn by 6, 8, or 10 oxen, or cows and oxen, or horses and oxen together. The dung is, in a great measure, carried out in creels, on the horses sides, a method by which there is a great waste of time that might be gained, 3 of these loads being only equal to one of a cart.

Men and women are employed, and as soon as the seed time is done, the plough and harrow are laid aside; the farmers

men mind little else but their cattle; the women, besides their ordinary domestic affairs, are employed in providing coarse cloths for the family, and spinning linen yarn to the manufactories.

Nevertheless, with all these peculiarities of climate and customs, the tenants, especially within the four hills of *Cabrach*, are in good circumstances enough for their rank, and are thriving. Nature seems to have intended the country more for pasturage than agriculture; aware of this, the inhabitants pay their attention chiefly to sheep and black cattle. Early in the spring, they stock their little farms with the former, and, about Whitsunday, with the latter. During the course of the summer, they are ever buying and selling at home and in markets. About the end of August, they clear their towns, if the sale is brisk, of all except as many as they have provender to support in the winter: If the market has been bad, they keep more than their usual number, and buy corn and straw for them in the neighbouring parishes.—By these means they seldom meet with much loss, nor indeed can it ever be great; their stocks are small, and the circle of their trade but narrow, of course, the little speculation that is here, depending merely upon the appearance of a good grass crop, or a demand from the south, is seldom attended with bad consequences, even if the crop should happen to be short. Accordingly, one year with another, they replace the capitals employed in this trade, with a small profit, deducting all charges.

*Estimate of Black Cattle, &c.*

|                                     |   |   |   |        |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| Black cattle bought and sold, about | - | - | - | L. 500 |
| Kept in winter on each farm,        | - | - | - | 30     |
| Sheep bought and sold,              | - | - | - | 2000   |
| Kept in winter,                     | - | - | - | 1000   |
|                                     |   |   |   | Horses |

|                                                              |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Horses in the parish, all small, - - -                       | 335 |
| Black cattle, taken to hill pasture annually, at 2 s. each,  | 350 |
| Black cattle, taken to infield grass, at 5 s. Sterling each, | 200 |

*Quarries.*—Those who reside in the northern parts, contiguous to Mortlach, burn and sell annually about 4000 bolls of lime, at 6 d. *per* boll; two firlots Aberdeen measure make a boll. Lime is little used here as a manure, on the supposition that it turns the crop late. It is presumed, however, that in some parts it would be attended with advantage.

Besides great numbers of lime-stone quarries, there is a slate quarry, of a light grey colour on the Hill of the Bank; there being little demand for the slates, the quarry is not in lease. They are not sold, but given *gratis*.

*Forrests.*—The banks of the river Dovert, about half a century ago, were covered with birch, although, since the sale of it, there is not a plant of wood to be seen there, or in any part of the parish, except in Glen-Feddich, where there are some old trees, and on the burn of Bank, where there are some young bushes. The Feddick, which runs into the Spey, between Aberlour and Boharn, rises between Cabrach and Glenlivet, and runs into Mortlach. On its banks the Duke of Gordon has a house for a hunting seat in a beautiful romantic spot, but within the parish of Mortlach. He has another farther up on the Black-water, in the same parish. The forests of Gleneddich and Black-water are stored with red deer and roes; the hills all around, with innumerable flocks of muir-fowl. Here there are partridges, hares, foxes, otters, wild ducks, and black cocks. The migratory birds are the swallow, the plover, and cuckow, who appear about the middle of April.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The minister's stipend is 45 l. Sterling, and the services; besides 2 l. 15 l. 6½ d. Sterling for communion element money; with a glebe of 19 acres arable, and 2 of pasture ground. The parochial school salary is 5 l. 11 s. 1½ d. Sterling. The charity school was taken away from *Dovernside* in 1779, a want which the people there feel much. To remedy this in some degree, they hire a country man to teach their children to read and write in winter; the only time they can dispense with them from herding their cattle.—The number of poor on the roll who receive occasional supply are 12. The weekly contributions amount annually to 2 l. Sterling, besides a fund of 50 l. Sterling at interest, under the management of the heritors and kirk-session.

*Religion, Sectaries, &c.*—Besides the established Church, there are two chapels; one for Papists, who are not half the number that they were 30 years ago, and one for Seceders, who are much on the decline. One great reason for the decline of both sects, is the moderation with which they are treated all over this country. Intermarriages with Protestant families have been frequently observed to bring over Papists, especially the female part, from their former persuasion.

*Character, Diseases, &c.*—The inhabitants, whose ordinary size is 5 feet 10 inches, though variable from 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet, are industrious, sober, and healthy; live much better, are neater and cleaner in their dresses and dwellings than their predecessors were some generations ago, when men and beasts lay under the same roof. They all read and write; are intelligent in the ordinary and even some of the less common affairs of life, beyond what could be expected from their opportunities, and of an obliging disposition. Notwithstanding





The services which used to be paid to the principal tackfman were happily done away when the present leases were given by the Duke of Gordon, by getting tacks immediately from himself; the best thing he could have done to this country.

*Population, &c.*—The number in 1755 was 960.

|                                                            |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Within the parish are, above 8 years of age, catechisable, | - | - | - | - | - | 550 |
| Children below 8 years of age,                             | - | - | - | - | - | 150 |
|                                                            |   |   |   |   |   | 700 |

Each marriage, at an average, produces 4 children.

*Remarks.*—The number of inhabitants has decreased about 200 since 1782 and 1783; at which period the householders or crofters were driven in quest of subsistence to other countries and towns, where manufactures are carried on.—The upper part of the parish in Aberdeenshire seldom produces sufficiency of grain for itself. The lower part of the parish in Banffshire produces sufficiency of grain for itself, and disposes of about 200 bolls, which would make up the deficiency in the upper part, was it not disposed of to the neighbouring distilleries. The defect is made up from other places. The state of the inhabitants then, (in 1782) when few places hereabout had enough for themselves, may be learned from this circumstance, that the *mill multures* of *Cabrach* amounted to a ninth part only of what they are in ordinary years; yet, by means of the indulgence of the Duke of Gordon, who allowed them to detain their rents for buying meal, and supporting their families, till they were able to pay without hurting them, and the spirited exertions of individuals, particularly John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, who imported grain of different kinds for a subsistence to the indigent poor, which he

he gave to this and some of the neighbouring parishes, no body suffered for want ; but their circumstances were much impaired ; there was no demand for cattle. Meal was sold at 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s. *per* peck, 9 lib. Servants suffered most ; for every body reduced their numbers ; and day-labourers got little if any employment.

So early as the 15th September 1782, there was a great fall of snow, which laid all the corns, then hardly begun to fill, in most places. The frosts were often intense, and vegetation was stopt here.

The corns which had milky juices in the ear were totally ruined ; those which had only watery juices wanted season ; there were none of them perfectly full or ripe. They were therefore given mostly unthreshed to the cattle. It was after Christmas before they were all cut. The meal made of what was threshed was bad. To some it may appear trivial, to others worthy to be remarked, that, in spring 1783, cows had calves much earlier, and in greater numbers, than was ever remembered ; a fortunate circumstance, in a year when the victual of home produce was excessively bad, and in a place where milk is a constituent part of ordinary fare. It was observed, too, very truly, as to this parish, that there was less sickness that year than usual ; a fact which the curious will, no doubt, trace up to several causes.

N U M B E R   X X X V I I .

PARISH OF BANCHORY TARNAN.

*(County of Kincardine.—Presbytery of Kincardine o' Niel.—Synod of Aberdeen.)*

*By the Reverend Mr FRANCIS DOUNEY.*

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*Name.*

**T**HE last part of the name is that of a faint; hence one of two annual fairs, held near by, is called St Tarnan's market, and a small fountain not far distant is called St Tarnan's well.

Banchor is said to signify fair or goodly choir; and, it is conjectured, that in some remote period, there has been a kind of seminary of the clergy established at this place, by one of the above name.

*Extent.*—It is of very unequal surface; few level fields of great extent; and the whole interspersed with much muir ground covered with heath, and many small, and some pretty large hills. It contains 15,040 Scots acres, being 19,125 English. The rent is about 1800 l. Sterling, besides 200 l. annually, arising from the sale of birch and fir wood. The valued rent is 3450 l. Scots.

*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1736 souls. In June 1791, there were of inhabitants, above seven years of age, 1150; below seven, 190.—In all, 1340. In the year 1761, there were in all 1580; decrease, 240, which is accounted for by the emigration of work people to the manufactories about Aberdeen; by some of the heritors taking large farms into their own management; by a few of the tenants not choosing to have any subtenants; and by a very uncommon mortality which prevailed in winter 1789 and 1790. For several years immediately subsequent to 1761, the number of people increased greatly, and it is only within the last 14 or 16 years, that the decrease has taken place. There are at present 260 inhabited houses, fewer by 60 than in 1761.

*Agriculture and Stock.*—In the year 1758, there were but two carts in the parish, now 120. Horses about 260; sheep, 3250; black cattle, 1300; but have not been exactly numbered. The sheep are of a small size; and have much decreased in number in the course of the last 50 years, partly owing to the inability of farmers to stock their possessions properly, and partly because the stocking manufactory, the only manufactory carried on here, has been supplied with English wool, by the hosiery of Aberdeen; which manufactory is of considerable extent, and has been the only means of raising the land rent, at least one-third of its present value.

The state of agriculture is, in general, much the same as it has been in the memory of man. More grain of the common kinds, oats and bear, is raised than is consumed in the parish; but the export not great, nor well ascertained. It is believed, that there is much less now raised than was 50 or 60 years ago, as the stocking of farms is much diminished, and particularly, the number of oxen employed in tillage, is

not

not the one half. Potatoes, of which every occupier of land raises some, would seem to be the only real improvement. Of turnips, sown grass, on inclosed fields, the specimens hitherto exhibited, are poor indeed. Of near 90 farmers, of one kind or other, 4 pay of rent 50 l. Sterling, and upwards; most of them less than 20 l. and many less than 10 l. there are not above six or seven who can be said to have attempted any improvement. It must be acknowledged, that some of the proprietors, particularly Mr Baxter of Glassel, and Sir Robert Burnett of Leys; also, Mr Ruffel in the near neighbourhood, have done, and are doing much in this respect; but examples set by gentlemen, of inclosing and dressing fields, appear not to be minded by ordinary farmers, who by inability, and the short duration of their leases, cannot be expected to imitate. If ever this part of the country is improved, it must be by the heritors themselves, or by their pitching on farmers of good character, who possess judgment, spirit, and means for it, and affording them such encouragements as prudence and good sense may direct, as may induce them to leave the old tract. In this way, and by examples set by such, much might be accomplished, at a small expence to the landholders, if accompanied with leases of at least two 19 years—the conversion of mill cultures, and almost all kind of services—enforcing winter herding—and fixing proper plans of inclosing and cropping. There is plenty of limestone on both sides the river Dee, near the middle of the parish, of an inferior quality indeed, but found very useful for building, as well as for manure. It is of late years much employed, and a great proportion of it burnt with English coals; which, considering the high price of that article; and unequal tax on it when brought near to this district, and 18 miles land carriage, is no bad proof of the spirit and industry of the people.

*Rivers.*—The river Dee is in general pretty rapid; its banks for most part are adorned with natural woods, and plantations of various species of trees, forming beautiful and picturesque scenery in many places. This is much heightened at Banchory Tarnan, by the junction with Dee of a small, but impetuous, and often impassible river called Freuch. It is a collection of many streams which come from the Grampian hills; and over this river, near a fine cataract and fall of its waters among rocks, and also near its conflux with Dee, almost opposite to Banchory, Mr Ruffel of Blackhall, has lately erected a substantial stone-bridge of four arches, and likewise made good roads leading to it, to the great benefit of the country, even to a considerable distance.

The air by the river side is very salubrious, the soil being dry and sandy; and throughout the parish, it is mostly of a light quality, though generally on a clay bottom; but a mile or two north of the river, the wholesomeness of the air must suffer abatement, from the low marshy fields and mosses, which are found from the one end to the other. There is a loch, called the Loch of Drum, between 2 and 3 miles in circuit, at the eastern extremity; and another of the same dimensions, near the middle of the parish, called the Loch of Leys, having an artificial island, on oak piles, with ruins of houses, and of an oven upon it; but there is no tradition concerning the use which may have been made of the antient structure. These lochs, and low wet lands, must be unfriendly to the health of the people. Accordingly, there are no instances of great longevity. At present, there are few above 80 years of age: Many of the young are subject to fore throats, consumptions, and especially to scrophulous disorders, and of late there have been four or five instances of *chorea sancti viti*.—Rheumatism prevails among those advanced in life, and epidemical

demical fevers are not unfrequent.—The small-pox is seldom mortal, even in the natural way.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—In the year 1775, there was an elegant new church built. The manse is very old; its age unknown. The glebe and toft want more than one-fourth of an acre of the legal extent. The stipend is about 42 l. Sterling, with 4 chalders of victual, one-third bear, beside the annualrent of 100 l. Sterling, mortified for behoof of the minister, by Dr Alexander Reid, whose father had been a minister here.

There is a school for teaching Latin, English, writing, and arithmetic; and what is singular, no part of the salary is paid by the heritors or tenants. It is 16 l. Sterling; which, with 1 l. Sterling set apart for upholding the school-house, is annualrent at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of a sum mortified by said Dr Reid, and of 50 l. Sterling by another gentleman. The whole was originally intended for the subsistence of a head master, and two assistants. There is also a woman's school, for the education of young girls; the fund for the maintenance of the mistress is 2000 merks, mortified also by Dr Reid.

The poor at present are 80 in number, which high proportion is very much occasioned, by the more than common provision made for them here, by which industry is abated, and strangers induced to obtain a settlement in the parish, while a degree of discontent and envy is unhappily excited in the minds of the poor. Hence it might be inferred, that it would be better they were relieved by charitable cotemporaries, to the advancement of sympathy in the one, and of gratitude in the other. The funds are 350 l. Sterling, mortified by one of the family of Leys, for the benefit of the poor on that estate in the parish; 100 l. Sterling by Dr Reid; 100 l. by Alexander Shank of Castlerig, a son of one of the ministers; and

50 l.



50 l. by a late Dr George Reid. The collections in the church are between 5 s. and 6 s. Sterling each Lord's day, and about 5 l. or 6 l. Sterling on communion occasions. The poor are supplied at several annual distributions, and as they are found to stand in need. The average of marriages, for the last 30 years, is 13; of baptisms, 29. No register for burials.

*Character.*—The people in general are industrious, sober, and peaceable. There has been no criminal prosecution of any inhabitant for a long time past. Whether, within the last 30 or 40 years, the people have improved in morals, and the ornaments of the mind, shall not be positively affirmed; perhaps there is no great difference; but in external attire, there is a striking alteration to the better, especially among the young men and women. None are of the Popish persuasion; 3 are of the English Episcopal church; and about 30 Seceders, of the Antiburgher persuasion. These last obtained liberty more than 20 years ago, from one of the heritors, to build a meeting-house. They have another in the parish of Echt, but no settled clergyman in either parish.—The spirit of secession has been, and is declining in this district.

N U M B E R XXXVIII.

PARISH OF OLD OR WEST MONKLAND.

(*County of Lanark.—Presbytery of Hamilton.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.*)

*By the Reverend Mr JOHN BOWER.*

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*Situation and Name.*

**L**YING in the heart of a populous and manufacturing county, and on the great road betwixt the two chief cities of the kingdom, this parish furnishes ample room for statistical observations.

The origin of the name is obvious. The monks, who usually fixed on a pleasant situation, had a residence here; and there exists a tradition, that a certain pilgrim, in order to do penance for some sin, was obliged to carry a particular stone in this direction from Glasgow; and, when he could bear it no farther, to build a church at his own expence. The stone is still to be seen.

*Ecclesiastical State, and Education.*—The tythes of this parish, amounting to 349 bolls, together with graffuns at giving leases, belong to the University of Glasgow, being part of the subdeanry which was purchased by the College from the family of Hamilton about the year 1652. Out of this the minister receives only 8 chalders of grain, and 50 merks for communion elements. The church, being rebuilt in 1790,  
is

is a large and commodious house. The manse was completely repaired in 1791. The situation has often been remarked for its beauty. The parish is 10 miles long, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth.—Beside the legal schoolmaster, there are 4 public teachers in the parish, two of whom have very good houses built by subscription. Though the abilities of the masters are unquestionable, some of the schools are but thinly attended. The boys and girls get wages for tambouring, sewing muslin, &c. at so early a period, that there is great danger of their education being neglected. It is also worthy of observation, that, though this parish is in the vicinity of Glasgow, very few young men belonging to it attend the University, or prosecute any of the learned professions. So soon as they can write, and understand any thing of arithmetic, they obtain good encouragement in the mercantile line, which they naturally prefer to the more gradual and uncertain emoluments of law, divinity, or physic.—Sunday schools seem not to be unexceptionable institutions; for, how pious soever may be the intention of their promoters, they undoubtedly weaken the authority of parents, and tend to make them negligent in their duty.—The poor are tolerably provided for. None beg; nor is there here any assessment. The weekly collections, which may be about 35 l. *per annum*; the third part of what is obtained at Shettleton Chapel, (which was built partly to accommodate the west end of this parish), and the interest of some stock, enable the session to give decent relief to the distressed. The various societies instituted among the trades people, also afford assistance; and one cannot help remarking, that it is inexcusable in heritors who do not reside, or do not attend the church, not to contribute to this important purpose. By this means an assessment might be avoided, the consequences of which are always to be dreaded.

*Population and Manners.*—There are, at present, 4000 souls in the parish. The number in 1755 was only 1813. This rapid increase of population is owing to the establishment of manufactures. With a few exceptions, the whole people adhere to the church, and are regular in attending on religious ordinances. About 800 communicants are usually at the Lord's Supper. In the present manner of dispensing that holy ordinance, there is great need of a reform. Owing to the crowds which assemble, much irregularity takes place. It would be more decent in itself, and productive of higher comfort to serious persons, were every congregation to communicate quietly by themselves. The people are very fond of controversial Divinity. Indeed, knowledge of every kind is universally diffused; and there is scarcely a family that does not regularly read the newspapers. The heritors and elders choose the minister, according to act 1690; and it is not impertinent to notice, that, though popular elections are frequently attended with strife and discord, yet here, and in the New Monkland, which is in the same predicament, the greatest peace and harmony have always prevailed on these occasions. There are 44 heritors, more than the half of whom reside in the parish.

*Face of the Country, Cultivation, &c.*—The old valuation is 6000 l. Scotch. The real rental may be near 5000 l. Sterling. A great part of the parish is inclosed, the advantages of which are universally allowed. Beside a vast quantity of natural wood, there are more than 1000 acres planted. This beautifies the country, and improves the climate. We have many extensive orchards, which some years turn out to great advantage. A stranger is struck with the view of this parish: It has the appearance of an immense garden. The soil is of 3 kinds; along the banks of Clyde and Calder, which with

this parish for 9 or 10 miles, there is a strong clay. Here are produced luxuriant crops of every grain, especially of wheat; sometimes from 12 to 16 bolls are taken off an acre. The middle of the parish is a light sand, affording excellent crops of oats and potatoes. A farmer sells an acre undigged at from 13 l. to 17 l. Sterling. Towards the north are considerable tracks of moss. The rivers above named abound with salmon in the proper season, and trout of every species. There is also plenty of pike and perch in the Monkland Canal, and in the great lochs on the north side of the parish; the taking of which, from small boats made for the purpose, is a pleasant amusement.—The improvements of agriculture are carried on to a vast extent. Several plowing-matches have been instituted: These create a spirit of emulation, and a desire to excel. The farmers are uncommonly intelligent. They have formed themselves into a society, which meets on the first Thursday of every month. Their object is to communicate their knowledge, and purchase the most proper books relating to their business. In the parish are several threshing-mills, which have been found of great use. The plough commonly used is an improvement of the old Scotch one. Small's would not close the stiff lee of this parish. The beam is 6 feet; the stilt 6 feet 3 inches. It turns the steepest ground; and, being very light, 3 horses will perform as much work with it as 4 with the old one.—A considerable disadvantage under which the farmers labour, is the distance from lime; but this will, it is hoped, soon be removed, at least in some degree; as, after the junction of the two canals, lime may be brought from the north by water carriage, and as there is a bridge to be erected over the Clyde, on the south. The ordinary rotation of crops is this: From lee sometimes oats, sometimes peas; then summer fallow and wheat; then pease and beans; and then oats and

grafs

grafs seed. Proprietors of land have begun to pasture the greatest part of their estates. This method, they find, brings as good a rent, and tends to improve their property. Some of this ground sets at 1 l. 17 s. *per acre*. It is to be observed, that the rise of their rents always makes farmers thrive: It calls forth their industry, and compels them to be active. Though the value of land be vastly increased, the people live and dress much better than formerly. Property here is often transferred from one owner to another, as is the case in the neighbourhood of every great commercial town. Indeed, the reason why this parish is in such a high degree of cultivation, is, that when a merchant has been successful, he purchases a piece of land, builds an elegant villa, and improves his property at the dearest rate. This accounts for the vast number of gentlemen's houses with which the parish is adorned, many of them finished in the greatest taste.—There are kept in the parish 1 coach, 5 chaises, and 5 phaetons. Owing to the numerous inclosures, there are few sheep. The large kind, which feed with the cows, are very prolific. One ewe, for instance, in 9 years, produced 30 lambs.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Wherever manufactures and commerce seat themselves, their influence on landed property is felt in an inconceivable degree; and how much is it the interest of landholders to cherish and protect them! consequently, the rise of the value of land in this parish is astonishing. One farm, which, about the year 1730, cost 300 l. was lately sold for 2100 l.—As the gentlemen pay particular attention to that business, the roads are kept in excellent repair. The statute work is commuted. The great road from Glasgow to Edinburgh, by Whiteburn, runs through this parish, on which there is a toll-bar, worth a vast sum yearly. There is also a toll at Langloan; on the road from Glasgow

to Airdrie. This road passes near the church, and traverses the parish 7 miles. By an act of Parliament just obtained, it is to be extended to Edinburgh by Bathgate; and, when executed, will be the most eligible way between these cities, not only as being shortest, but most level, and free from pulls.

*Age, Diseases, &c.*—Though there is no instance of remarkable longevity, it may be concluded, that the situation is healthy, since there are alive several persons above 90, and many above 80. Prejudices against inoculation, though not entirely eradicated, are gradually wearing out. Local diseases are unknown. Fevers and consumptions are most frequent. The former prevail after harvest, if the weather has been hot. Two families who reside at Lóchend, (betwixt two large lochs), are regularly attacked with this disease at a certain time, when it does not visit any of the neighbours. This must be owing to the exhalations from the water, which stagnates and grows putrid. Several young women of this parish have fallen into consumptions by sitting too long on the damp ground at tent preachings.

*Alehouses.*—There are no less than 30 inns or public-houses in the parish. These, it must be confessed, are attended with the most pernicious effects to the health and morals of the people. It is no uncommon thing for a labouring man to spend all his wages in these houses, and suffer his unhappy wife and children to continue in want and wretchedness. Government could not adopt a wiser measure than to raise the price of licenses. If a reformation of manners is not happily effected, what must be the consequence of such execrable practices, it is not difficult to say. There is a certain gradation in the political, as well as in the human body. Trade produces affluence: Affluence is the parent of luxury  
and

and dissipation, which infallibly undermine and dissolve the fabric. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is the reproach of any people."

*Flax.*—A considerable quantity of flax is raised in this parish, which is generally sown on ground well manured with dung or lime, after one crop is taken from it. Such ground sets at from 4 l. to 7 l. *per acre*. The Riga seed is preferred. The time of sowing flax is the month of April, and it is ready for pulling about the 1st of August. Nine women, at 10 d. will pull an acre in a day. There are two lint mills, at which flax is sketched and dressed, at 2 s. 6 d. *per stone*. The produce is 16 stone *per acre*, and will sell at 12 s. or 13 s. *per stone*. Within these 10 years, the raising of flax is greatly increased; one man has generally 30 acres, which circulates 240 l. yearly. He has got several premiums from the trustees.

*Weavers.*—Of these there are no less than 400 in this parish, who all work to the manufacturers of Glasgow. They generally marry young, to which their high wages are an inducement: We may suppose that they produce a circulation of 14,400 l. annually. This valuable body of men have formed themselves into a society, which is governed by a deacon and 4 masters. Their object is to assist members in distress; and they have now a considerable capital. Institutions of this sort, when properly conducted, are extremely useful. It may be added, under this article, that about 200 girls are employed in dotting, tambouring, &c.; some of them begin at 8 or 9 years of age, and, at that early period, gain 6 d. or 8 d. *per day*. Though this may be profitable to one class, it is attended with material inconvenience to another. Farmers loudly complain of the high wages of servants, and sometimes find  
difficulty



difficulty in procuring them at all. Is there no remedy for this growing evil ?

*Pottery.*—Near the bank of the Monkland Canal, was erected, in 1785, a large brick and tyle work, where are manufactured blue, pan, and slate tyles, the first of the kind in Scotland. These tyles are preferable to red ones, in point of durableness ; and so similar are they, in shape and colour, to slate itself, that it requires a nice eye to discover the difference, when put on the roof. The motive for settling here was the abundance of coal, and the vast variety of common and fire clay that is found in the lands. At the same place, in 1788, Mr Creelman commenced a pot-work for making salt ware ; this manufacture is glazed with salt, which is the reason of its obtaining that name. It is also called brown stone, or grey-beard ware. It is excellent for holding spiritous liquors, and is mostly exported to America and the West Indies. This branch was borrowed from the Dutch by the English, and is the first manufacture of the kind in Scotland. On the same grounds is a free-stone quarry, of a superior quality, and beautiful white colour. The stones are carried to Glasgow by the Canal, where they are used for hearths, stair-cases, and pavement ; they are also sent to Ireland, America, and the West Indies. It is so portable, that you may have it from 1 to 6 inches thick, and in boards of a yard square, and so smooth, as to require very little polishing : A high value is set on this stone. About 70 people are employed at these works.

*Monkland Canal.*—In the year 1770, an act of Parliament was obtained for making a navigable cut or canal, from the Monkland collieries to the city of Glasgow and the river Clyde. The design of the undertakers was to open an easy  
com-

communication with the interior parts of the country, and by reducing the price of coal, to be of advantage to the manufacturers of Glasgow.—The original subscription, however, being found deficient, and the trade of this country brought to a stagnation by the American war, the scheme was interrupted until 1782, when the stock was sold by public auction. Messrs. Stirling, who purchased the largest share, and who ultimately became the sole proprietors, began to finish the plan; and, with great spirit and perseverance, have extended the navigation to the river Calder, 13 miles east of Glasgow, and formed a junction with the great canal at Port Dundas. The canal is 15 feet wide at the bottom, and 30 at the surface, capable of admitting vessels which draw  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet water, equal to about 60 tons burden.—The height of the canal, above the level of the sea, is

|                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1st, Height of Forth and Clyde navigation, | 156 feet. |
| 2d, Raised at Blackhill, by 8 locks,       | - 96      |
| 3d, Raised at Sheepford, by 2 locks,       | - 21      |
|                                            | 273       |

The whole of these works are completed, except the locks at Blackhill, which are in great forwardness. A waggon road is also finished between the basin and Glasgow, which renders carriage cheap and easy. The total expence will be 30,000 l. The Canal trade is at present as follows:

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st, Coals navigated by Mr Stirling, | 50,000 carts. |
| 2d, Ditto by Captain Christie,       | - 30,000      |
|                                      | 80,000        |

Owing to its not being finished, the advantages arising from this

this navigation have hitherto been greatly circumscribed; but there is reason to believe that they will now be felt more sensibly, on account of the certain increase of the coal trade, and the probability of other commercial operations. The present tonnage is only 6 d. *per* cart of 12 cwt. although the proprietors have a right to levy 2 d. *per* tun each mile. Coals are delivered at Glasgow, by this conveyance, 3 d. lower *per* cart, than at any coal work around the city.

This immense undertaking begins to enhance the value of the adjacent land, as lime and dung can be brought by the vessels which convey the coal. Mr Stirling brings about 3000 carts yearly to his own estate. There are also various other productions, as iron-stone, which may be turned out to advantage, and several favourable situations for cotton-machinery. Next summer Mr Stirling means to establish a track-boat, which will be a pleasant mode of conveyance to Glasgow. Besides its own proper advantages, the Monkland Canal affords a convenient aqueduct to the Forth and Clyde navigation, by conveying water from the reservoirs in the higher parts of the country.

The chief supply of water is from the Calder, which is conducted into it by a dam at Woodhall mill; it never fails in the driest season. This plentiful resource, which can be increased to double the quantity, at the very highest part of the country, with many other favourable circumstances, open an inviting track for the extension of the canal to Edinburgh, a plan at present in agitation, and which, when executed, will be productive of innumerable benefits to the country. The track that has been surveyed, south of the Shotts hill, rises 522 feet above the height of the present canal, and betwixt Edinburgh and Glasgow is 50 miles. But a preferable track can be found north of the Shotts hills, which rises not so high by 140 feet, and is 10 miles shorter. A particular

cular state of the trade, profits, &c. of this projected canal, was published in the Glasgow newspapers, April 1791 \*.

*Bleachfields.*—There are two in this parish, though that at Wellhouse is now partly removed into the Barony parish, the original field is in Old Monkland. Messrs. Gray laid out their ground with great judgment and expence. They were the first in this country who bleached after the Dutch method; and for their diligence and ingenuity obtained a considerable premium from government. Business is still carried on to a large extent.

*Carmylefield*—Was erected in 1741, by Mr M'Kenzie, an enterprising merchant of Glasgow. Nothing can exceed the beauty of its situation, having a fine southern exposure, washed by the Clyde. About 50 people are employed; men get 7 s. women 5 s per week. Many thousand pieces of light muslin are done here annually. This field, which contains upwards of 10 acres, has some peculiar advantages: There is a well 6 feet deep, which fills in 12 hours. The water is carried 510 feet, and runs 3 gallons in a minute. Much praise is due to the proprietors for their attention to the morals of their servants.

Clyde

\* ESTIMATE

*Of the Revenue arising from a SMALL CANAL from Leith into Edinburgh, and from thence to Glasgow, by joining the Monkland Canal.*

To 100,000 tons of coal from the west country to the city of Edinburgh, Leith, and the intermediate country, at 1 s. 6 d. per ton. (The total consumption is about 160,000 tons),

L. 7500 0 0

To 8000 tons of pig-iron from Muirkirk, Clyde, Cleland, and Cleugh works, at 3 s. per ton,

1200 0 0

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To

*Clyde Iron-works*—Are situated in the west end of this parish, 3 miles east of Glasgow, on ground feued from James Dunlop

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |           |   |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---|---|
| To 6000 tons of grain and meal, at 8 s. <i>per</i> ton, which is half the price now given along the Shotts road for cartage of a ton, -                                                                                                                     | 2400      | 0 | 0 |
| Lime from West Lothian to the middle ward of Lanarkshire, for agriculture, and for Cleland and Clyde iron-works, at least 20,000 tons <i>per</i> annum, at 1 s. <i>per</i> ton, . -                                                                         | 1000      | 0 | 0 |
| Coal to Glasgow, and for exportation from Clyde, 20,000 ton, at 1 s. <i>per</i> ton. The coal sold at Glasgow is 140,000 tons a-year, and the exportation increasing, as vessels are now detained there wanting to be loaded with coal,                     | 1000      | 0 | 0 |
| 4000 tons of Lancashire iron-ore yearly, for the Cleland and Cleugh iron-works, at 1 s. <i>per</i> ton from Glasgow, - - -                                                                                                                                  | 200       | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 tons of iron-stone to the iron-works in the west, from the adjacent mines, at 6 d. <i>per</i> ton,                                                                                                                                                     | 50        | 0 | 0 |
| 9000 passengers may be supposed to go along the Canal from Edinburgh to Glasgow, and from Glasgow to Edinburgh, and to the intermediate country, as 3000 went last year along the Great Canal; therefore stating their toll to the Canal at 1 s. each, is - | 450       | 0 | 0 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <hr/>     |   |   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | L. 13,800 | 0 | 0 |

The number of tons of goods, wines, &c. from Leith to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to Leith, for want of time cannot yet be ascertained; but is immense, and supposed to be yearly considerably above 50,000 tons, which might be brought up into the city by a Canal for 8 d. *per* ton, which now pays on an average 2 s. 6 d. *per* ton land carriage, and 4 s. for wines.

Stone for building, and lime from Lord Morton's, at 1 s. *per* ton, the quantity cannot be ascertained till the builders make calculations, but would be very considerable.

Iron-stone from Mr Houston of Calderhall's to Carron, at 1 s. *per* ton; but as the iron-stone is of a superior quality, and will be wrought and carried at a cheaper rate than the Carron Company is now supplied, the consumption, in all probability, would turn out very great.

Foreign

Dunlop of Garnkirk, Esq. The Clyde company began to erect these works in 1786. There is abundance of coal within

Foreign wood for building, flax, yarn, bar-iron, pitch, tallow, soap, seeds, Scots manufactures from the east to the west, spirits from the distilleries from the east to the west, wines and other articles to Hamilton, and the intermediate country. The number of tons of the above articles must be very considerable, exclusive of what will pass along the Great Canal; and many of the articles can afford to pay high toll, as the revenue of a Canal ought to be rated according as each article can afford to pay, to draw the greatest toll from it.

Articles of commerce from the Clyde to the Frith of Forth. Naval stores, sugars, rice, and tobacco, from America and the West Indies; linen, gauze, and cotton manufactures, herrings, and other fish, kelp, slate, skins, and lead, from the west country; hay, veal from Strathaven and the west, which the Edinburgh market is supplied with, and various other articles not thought of: Trade increasing, and the country consequently flourishing, and every gentleman's estate made more capable of improvement, by the Canal passing through it; and manufactures would be established from Edinburgh to Glasgow along it to a vast extent, as they ever will go where coal is cheap, and their goods readily brought to market by an easy communication. Dung, by return of coal boats, would also pay very considerable toll, as the quantity carried west would be great.

Should the proposed Canal take place, coals of exceeding good quality can be sold at Edinburgh for 7 s. 9 d. the 24 cwt. the common quantity of two carts, which would be a saving to the inhabitants of 3 s. 3 d. on every two carts, and on 100,000 tons, at 6 s. 6 d. *per* ton, a saving of 13,333 l. *per annum*; and the advantage on other articles of consumption, where the price is at present enhanced by land carriage, would be in proportion reduced.

Exclusive of the consumption of Edinburgh and Leith, which is 160,000 tons a year, the merchants of Leith have offered to export 40,000 tons, provided it is put on board ship in Leith at 8 s. *per* ton; and if the Canal takes place, it will be put on board at Leith much cheaper from the west country.

Mr Whitworth, the engineer, will determine the expence of the Canal; but it is supposed, by calculations already made by an engineer versant in canal-making, that the expence of a  
small

in 200 yards, and plenty of iron-stone in the neighbourhood. About 20,000 tons of coals are consumed yearly, which quantity will no doubt be greatly increased, when forges are completed for converting pig-iron into bar-iron. Two blast furnaces are working, and there is prepared a boring-mill for cannon, cylinders, &c. About 300 manufacturers and labourers are employed: They begin to mould small goods so early as 10 years of age. Men's wages, according to their department, are from 7 s. to 21 s. *per* week. After being smelted in the furnaces, the iron is made into a variety of cast-iron goods, as pots, pans, boilers, &c. From the enterprising spirit and abilities of the proprietors, there is reason to expect, that these works will be soon extended to a very large scale. Contrary to what one would imagine, the people are healthy, and live long. This warm business seems to be friendly to population—most of the workmen have numerous families. The site of Clyde iron-works appears to have been a burying-ground of ancient date. When digging the foundation of the buildings, a great quantity of human bones were found, deposited betwixt two flag-stones. These stones were so placed, as to form a cavity of considerable extent, and this cavity covered with a stone of the same kind. In the earthen urns were contained ashes, mixed with small bones, on some of which were evident marks of fire. In a  
 pit

small Canal will not exceed 75,000 l. and the revenue of the Canal will amount to considerably above 15,000 l. a-year, when the trade from Leith, and other articles, such as lime, stones for building, &c. are included.

The Derbyshire Canal, 40 miles in length, which goes into the Trent, is tunneled through two mountains, one of which is above half in length through hard rock, and only cost 100,000 l. and the country was also very rocky through which it was conducted; but through the clay grounds in Lanarkshire and in the Lothians, the cutting four feet deep will not be expensive.

pit now sinking are discovered, at the depth of 60 feet, the shells of different sea animals, wholly petrified.

*Coal.*—This parish abounds with coal; and what a benefit is it for Glasgow and its environs, to be so amply provided with this necessary article? There are computed to be a greater number of colliers here, than in any other parish in Scotland.

1. Fullarton coal-work, belonging to Mr Dunlop, is in the western extremity of the parish. The coal is opened to 128 yards depth, in which are 6 seams 23 feet thick, producing all the different kinds of coal that are found in Scotland, and of excellent quality; the splint is reckoned inferior to no coal in Britain for a blast furnace. A large steam engine drains a field of 800 acres. The coals are carried out of the pit by a machine, in place of a horse-gin.—75 colliers are employed, besides an equal number of artificers, labourers, &c. Wages are from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. *per* day. The price at the pit is from 3 s. to 4 s. *per* ton. From its nearness to Glasgow and Clyde, this work must greatly increase.

2. About a mile north of Fullarton, and 4 miles east of Glasgow, lie Barrachnie and Sandyhills coal-works. Though these works are connected, it is to be observed, that near one half of the works and men are in the Barony parish. The seams of coals, wages, &c. are the same as at Fullarton.—90 colliers are engaged, besides about 60 bearers, boys, &c. Here, last spring, Mr Hamilton erected a machine for drawing up the coal, to go entirely by steam.—It is on an improved plan, and the first of the kind in Scotland. It is found to be the cheapest, and most expeditious way of doing that business; for could colliers be placed in the pit to keep her constantly employed, she would turn out about 200 ton *per* day. The present out-put is 35,000 tons *per* year.

3. At



3. At Fashine, Mr Stirling has about 80 colliers employed, besides workmen, &c. The greatest part of the coal is conveyed to Glasgow by the canal, as stated already.

4. Captain Christie also carries on considerable trade in coal. He has made a collateral cut from his land to join the canal. He has about 50 men engaged. These coals too are mostly sent by the canal.

Total number of colliers, bearers, and others connected with that business in this parish :

|                            |   |   |       |
|----------------------------|---|---|-------|
| 1. At Fullarton,           | - | - | 150   |
| 2. Half of Barrachnie, &c. | - | - | 75    |
| 3. Mr Stirling's,          | - | - | 160   |
| 4. Captain Christie's,     | - | - | 50    |
|                            |   |   | <hr/> |
|                            |   |   | 435   |

It has been observed by coal-masters, that no instance is known in Scotland of a collier being executed for a capital crime, though they are generally esteemed a rough and obstreperous class of men. It is also to be remarked, in honour of the cause of liberty, that since the æra of their emancipation, the colliers are become a more respectable body than before. Instead of being considered as inferior beings, which was formerly the case, they now behave and dress like their fellow citizens.

On a review of the various manufactures of this parish, how much, may we say, does the country stand indebted to the gentlemen connected with it. Let other nations adore their warriors and butchers of mankind, we will pay a just tribute of praise to those nobler minds, who cultivate the happy arts of industry and wealth.

N U M B E R   X X X I X .

PARISH OF DUNROSSNESS IN ZETLAND.

(*County of Orkney.—Presbytery of Zetland.*)

*By the Reverend Mr JOHN MILL.*



*Name and Situation.*

**D**UNROSSNESS means the hill of the promontory of Rofs. This parish is on the southern extremity of Zetland. It is a peninsula washed by the sea on three sides, and is comparatively the most fertile district in the Zetland Isles. Two other parishes are united with Dunrofsness, under the charge of the same minister. These are Sandwick, which means the Sandy-bay; and Cunningsburgh, the same name with Koningberg, which, in the Norse or Scandinavian language, means Kingsburgh.

*Soil, Air, and Produce.*—The soil in the arable parts of the parish is various. In some places sandy; in others loam and clay.—Considerable tracks are of moss, and consequently of little value. The air is moist in a great degree, but by no means unhealthy. Many of the people live to a great age—some to 100 years and upwards. The hills in this parish are green, and the land for the most part firm. By these circumstances it is rendered more valuable, as well as a more agreeable residence, than the black mountains and morasses

to the north. The arable grounds are chiefly by the sea-shore, and on the margins of the creeks, which on all sides run up into the country. On these grounds barley and oats are raised; large fields of potatoes are also planted, which are of great benefit to this country. Cabbages, turnips, carrots, and other kitchen stuffs, are to be found in the gardens of the Zetlanders, in the same abundance as on the continent of Scotland. No grass seeds are sown in this parish; but it is remarkable, that on the sandy grounds, when properly protected from cattle, natural crops of clover and rye-grass spring as richly as on the sown fields in other parts of the kingdom.—No trees are to be seen in this region, excepting a few shrubby, roan trees, and willows in the more sheltered valleys. The spray of the sea, which is blown over the whole country by the westerly winds, forms a natural obstacle to the success of plantations. The force and duration of the tempests from the west, are among the most striking features of a Zetland winter; and if to these are added, the thunder and lightening which often occur in that season, it will appear, that the Zetlanders have their share of the inclemency of the heavens, although they have less of frost and snow than the inhabitants of wider countries.

*Minerals.*—There are many mineral springs in this parish, as in other districts of Zetland, which bear the appearance of iron-ore. Near the island of Whalsay, which lies to the eastward, mariners have observed, that the compass reels, and cannot fix as usual to a point, which is believed to be owing to the attraction of iron-mines in that place. In the years 1789 and 1790, Zetland was visited by some gentlemen from London, who found on the estate of Quendal a rich iron-mine; and, in various parts of the islands, the ores of copper,  
lead,

lead, and iron, samples of which were carried to London, particularly of copper, in considerable quantity.

*Agriculture, Cattle, and Sheep.*—The lands are reckoned by a peculiar measurement, by what are called merks-land.—Each merk-land ought to contain 1600 square fathoms. To each one cow is allotted; and the parish contains 2000 of these merk-lands, and consequently as many cows. In Sandwick and Cunningburgh, the farmers plough chiefly with oxen, and at Ness with horses; 4 oxen or 4 horses in a plough, which go all abreast; but the ground is chiefly laboured with spades of a light kind; with these, 5 or 6 men and women, will turn over as much land in a day, as a Scotch plough with 8 or 10 oxen. The oxen, with the young cattle, are about 1000. The parish of Dunroffness, having more arable and less pasture ground than the neighbouring parishes, the number of sheep is, of course, smaller than in the other districts. It was, however, considerable, till within these few years; a large English scabbed ram was imported into this district, which infected the flock to which he was brought, and the infection has spread among the sheep through the whole parish, notwithstanding every precaution and effort of the farmers to prevent it. In consequence of this unhappy circumstance, the whole number of sheep in the united parishes of Dunroffness, Sandwick, and Cunningburgh, does not now exceed 5000.

*Birds.*—Eagles, hawks, ravens, &c. are so numerous, as to make havock of the lambs and poultry, insomuch that the commissioners of supply give a crown for every eagle that is destroyed. Swans in great numbers resort to this parish in October and November, and remain about the lochs of Skelberry and Scoufburgh during the winter.—In the end of A-

pril, or beginning of May, they migrate to Norway, where their young are hatched. The ember goose, as it is here called, is a bird larger than the tame goose; has a long bill, and doleful cry; it seldom leaves the sea—its legs are so short, that it can hardly walk. Of ducks there are various species, which resort to the lochs above mentioned. Besides the wild duck, are scale-drakes, equal to the wild duck in size; the points of their bills turn up a little; they are of a beautiful brown colour, and hatch their young in rabbit-holes. There is a large species called the stock-duck, and smaller species called teales and attiles. Sea birds of various kinds abound, several species of which become white in winter. There are also here in their season, the lapwing, the grey and yellow plover, and the night-rail.

*Fishes.*—The lakes already mentioned produce considerable quantities of trouts of a large size, which resemble grilles or young salmon, and abundance of large eels. At sea, the fishes most usually caught are ling, cod, tusk, and seth; these last are taken in the tide-ways, and chiefly at the southern extremity of the parish; few of these are sold in Zetland, either fresh or dry salted; they are sent to Hamburgh or Leith, or where the best markets can be found. For the use of the inhabitants, the fishers take abundance of turbot, skate, small cod, haddocks, whittings, herrings, mackarels, flounders, &c. particularly in the spring season. The fish, butter, and oil, sent to the Hamburgh market, yield a return to Zetland of wines, spirits, tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco, linen, books, lines, &c. The rocks on the coast produce abundance of lobsters, crabs, oysters, &c.

*Population.*—In the three united parishes, in 1755, the number of families was 451; of souls, according to Dr Webster's

ster's list, 2295, besides the Fair Isle, which had about 200. In 1770, the families, including Fair Isle, were 561; the inhabitants, 2942. In 1790, the families, including Fair Isle, were 570; and the inhabitants 3327. The number of females greatly exceeds the males, as the young men leave the country in numbers every year; being commonly inclined to a seafaring life, they resort to England and Holland, but chiefly to London, where they serve on board the navy, merchant ships, or Greenlanders. The annual number of marriages depends much on the seasons: In good years they may amount to 30 or upwards; but when the crops fail, will hardly come up to the half of that number.

*Church and Poor.*—A handsome church, with a pavilion roof, covered with Easdale slate, was built a few years ago at Dunroffness. There is another church for the districts of Sandwick and Cunningburgh, whether the minister goes to officiate every third Sunday. That church has a kirk-session of its own, and ought to form a separate parochial charge, if there were funds sufficient for the support of a minister. The united parishes altogether form what is termed a *ministry*; and this ministry is 12 miles in length, and, in some places, 6 miles broad. The stipend is 1000 merks Scotch (55 l. 11 s. 3 d. Sterling), and 50 merks (2 l. 15 s. 7½ d.) for communion elements. The whole people are members of the established Church. The presbytery of Zetland is not subject to the jurisdiction of any provincial synod, but depends immediately on the General Assembly.

The poor are supported by weekly collections, and the fines levied from delinquents; the distribution is made by the kirk-sessions. The number of poor was small, and some little stock was happily accumulated previous to the year 1782, when a scene of misfortunes opened upon Zetland, which  
made

made it necessary to give away both stock and income. For 5 years successively, beginning with 1782, the crops almost wholly failed, and above 100 poor persons came upon the sessions of this ministry. No country in the world can bear a failure of crop better than Zetland, if the sea continues to render its supplies, particularly when the small fry of feth or cole fish fill the bays in their usual abundance; but from 1781 to 1787, the sea, as well as the land, withheld its usual products. These circumstances were attended with a great murrain and mortality among the sheep and cattle. In this situation, the people owed their relief to the bounty of government. Vessels, loaded with provisions, arrived seasonably from England; and it was understood in this country, that the supplies were hastened by the anxious sympathy of our gracious Queen. In the event, no person died of want.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Sponges are found upon the shore in great plenty, shaped like a man's hand, and called by the people *Trowie Gloves*. There are no beacons or light-houses on the coast. The principal creeks are Quendal Bay, Grutness, and West Voes, which lie on each side of Sumburgh Head, separated by a neck of land. In Lerwick Sound, ships anchor and ride securely, as they do also in Aithfvoe of Cunningburgh. On the Fair Isle in this ministry, the flag ship of the Spanish Armada was wrecked in 1588; and the Duke of Medina Celi resided for some time in the house of Quendal.

There are no manufactures here, unless for domestic use, viz. blankets and coarse cloth, excepting, perhaps, some stockings, gloves, and garters, sold to the Dutch fishers. A linen manufacture was attempted here some years ago by the gentlemen of the country, and a considerable sum of money was expended, but the adventure came to nothing: For its  
failure,

failure two reasons may be assigned. The want of a professional owner, to combine his interest and skill in the management; and the choice of the spot, which was inconvenient. The fittest place for works belonging to this manufacture, would be the Loch of Sound near Lerwick, where there is a regular resort from all parts.—The prices of provisions are greatly raised within these 30 or 40 years. A fat ox or cow was then 30 s. now it is 3 l. 10 s. and other provisions in proportion. Butter, from 4 s. is now 7 s. or 8 s. *per* 30 lb. weight. The proprietors, in letting their lands, proportion the extent of farms to the number of persons in a family. Thus two merks-land is usually let to a man and wife at first; but, as the family increases, they may have 3 or 4 merks-land. The great object is to set out as many boats as possible to the fishing, as, through this medium, the rents are paid. Hence the price of land on sale in this country is higher in proportion to the rent than almost any where else. The estate of Sumburgh, to the surprise of the gentlemen of Edinburgh, was bought at 52 years purchase: It was a good bargain, not because the rents were low, but from the mode in which they are paid. The rents of this country are chiefly paid out of the sea. The tenants have from their landlords threepence allowed for a ling, a penny for a cod or tusk, and a halfpenny for a seth, (cole fish); and these, when salted and dried, will, in the Hamburgh market, yield four or five times as much, besides debentures from Government. Add to this, double or triple the prime cost for goods brought back and sold to the people, viz. linen, tobacco, spirits, hooks, lines, &c.—There are three sorts of boats used in the fishing trade, a larger and a smaller size of 6 oared boats, and 4 oared boats. In all, there are about 200 boats through this ministry. Some brigs have formerly belonged to owners in this district, the last of which was captured by the French. Of late, a small sloop that goes  
upon



upon the fishing, and to different parts of the country, was built by one Robert Thompson, a native of Fair Isle, and who was for several years a schoolmaster there, under the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. He is now a farmer and mariner, an excellent cooper, a wright, and mason, by the force of a mechanical genius, without having ever been an apprentice to any of these professions. His sloop was built from the keel, and completely rigged and equipped by himself.—One of the principal means of improvement to this country would be good roads, as, at present, no cart or carriage whatever can be used for the transport of goods on the soft surface of the country, particularly to the northward. Two roads are especially needed, viz. from Lerwick to Scalloway, the two principal towns of Zetland, the distance is only 4 miles; and from Lerwick through Tingwall parish to the parish of Delton, and thence to Yell sound, through the very heart of the country, which is not above 12 miles; but, in some places, the peat moss is so deep as to be impassable on horseback.—Another great improvement on the state of this country would be a better division of the small farms, which are parcelled out in discontinuous plots and run-rigg, termed here *rigg* and *rendal*. Even the most inconsiderable merk-lands, lying scattered in several patches, intermixed with patches possessed by other people. This unaccountable arrangement produces endless quarrels and vexations among neighbours, on account of trespasses which must unavoidably occur almost daily while the fields remain thus interwoven.

## NUMBER XL.

## PARISH OF GLASS.

(Counties of Aberdeen and Banff.—Presbytery of Strath-  
bogie.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN COOPER.

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

**T**HE ancient and modern name of the parish is *Glasf.* It is said to be called so from the greenness of its hills, on which there is very little heath; and that the word *Glasf.* in Irish, signifies *green*.—The river *Dovern* runs through the parish; and the church is situated on the north side of said river, the course of which is from south-west to north-east. The extent of the parish, from north-east to south-west, is full five computed miles; and, from north-west to south-east, upwards of four computed miles. The country is variegated by a number of green hills, which afford pasture for black cattle and sheep, of each of which, numbers are produced and bred in the parish. The soil, in general, is a pretty deep loam. What lies along the river side is tolerably early; but those parts which lie at any distance are rather cold and late, and the harvest very precarious. The roads, in general, are very bad; for, though the statute labour is exacted, yet it is very superficially performed; and, by the swampiness of the ground, the communication from place to place is little mended. Besides this, *Dovern* is frequently impassable, as  
there

there is no boat or stone-bridge over it : Hence many accidents happen. Not fewer than 7 persons have lost their lives in the river within these 30 years past.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report in 1755, the number of souls was 1000. For these 34 years past, the amount of examinable persons, at an average, was about 900. Last year, the number of souls was 942. This present year, (April 1791), the number is 970, which is considerably less than for years before 1782. There are about 12 or 14 Seceders, some of whom have families, and these are not reckoned. When the present incumbent entered, there were about 45 Papists, and 4 Nonjurors; but, at present, there are none. During 36 years, from 1756 to 1791 inclusive, the baptisms in this parish were,—males, 345,—females, 350.

*Effects of 1782.*—The King's bounty in 1782, transmitted by the Barons of Exchequer, of 50 bolls meal, with what the funds of the parish afforded, preserved the lives of the poor. The people, at that period, were meagre and ghastly; but the diseases that were apprehended did not follow, owing, as was supposed, to their seldom getting a full meal of such corrupted victual as the season produced. So little productive was the oats or barley, that many were known not to have a peck of meal from a boll of dried corn; and the colour so black, that it resembled more the ordinary dust in the mills, than meal for the use of man. The tenants were greatly reduced; and many of their cottars were obliged to retire to the manufacturing towns for employment, by which the numbers are fewer than before.

*Rent, Prices, Wages, and Crops.*—The valued rent is 2250*l.*  
Scotch;

Scotch; the real rent about 1000 l. Sterling, converting the victual at 10 s. *per* boll. Rent of acres is from 6 s. 8 d. to 20 s. Sterling. Most of the farms have pasture grafs, on which they feed cattle. The young store, the butter and cheefe they make from their cows, and the linen yarn spun by the women to the manufacturers in Huntly, are the principal funds for paying their rents. Butter sells from 5 d. to 7½ d. *per* pound; cheefe at 4 s. and 5 s. *per* stone; and beef and mutton at from 3 d. to 4½ d. *per* pound. Men's servants wages run from 4 l. to 5 l. and some 6 l. *per* year; and women's wages, at an average, may be computed at 2 l. 5 s.—Oats, barley, and a few pease, are the ordinary crops the country produces; only, of late, some few have sown turnip, and planted potatoes in the fields after the plough; and have, with next crop, laid down clover and rye-grafs, which have succeeded very well.

*Church, Poor, and School.*—The Duke of Gordon is patron. The stipend is 36 bolls oat-meal, 16 bolls bear, and 46 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling of money, with a glebe of about 15 acres of arable and grafs ground. The manse and office-houfes were built in 1772. The church, which was quite ruinous, is this year very sufficiently rebuilt. There are only two heritors, neither of whom reside.—There are few begging poor in the parish, but several householders that are in indigent circumstances; and these, to the amount of between 30 and 40, get such assistance as the funds will admit. The collections in the church do not exceed 7 l. or 8 l. at most in the year; but mortifications, to the extent of 150 l. Sterling, help in part.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks. There were, this winter, 32 scholars at the school.

## NUMBER XLI.

## PARISH OF OLDHAMSTOCKS.

(Counties of Haddington and Berwick.—Presbytery of Dunbar.—Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN COCHRAN.

*Situation and Soil.*

THE parish of Oldhamstocks lies 6 miles east of Dunbar, and 20 miles west of Berwick. It extends from the sea up into Lammermuir, being in length from N. E. to S. W. about 6 English miles, and from 2 to 3 miles in breadth, from N. W. to S. E. The face of the country is composed of little hills, gradually rising above each other, as the distance from the shore increases.

The soil is generally sharp and dry; very fertile towards the sea, but more barren and heathy as you advance from the shore;—the higher part of the parish being used chiefly for sheep pasture. The air is dry and healthful.

*Minerals.*—In the lower part of the parish we find limestone, free-stone, iron-stone, and coal. The coal has formerly been wrought; but it was only the upper stratum, or crop coal, the level from which, as appears from the drain, was nearly equal with the sea at low water. There may possibly

be

be several strata of coal below this, reserved for some future period, when fuel may not be so easily procured as at present.

*Improvements.*—Improvements in husbandry have, within these last 30 years, made rapid progress in this and the adjacent parishes, especially in fallowing their lands, clearing it of stones, regular rotations of crops, with turnip and grass. The farmers on the higher grounds have likewise begun to pay attention to their breed of sheep; and by the crops of turnip and hay which they now raise, have, in a great measure, secured their flocks from the fatal effects of an hard winter. Within the same period, the mode of living is also much changed to the better, not only among the farmers, but even among the lower class of people; to which change, the feeding of swine, and the habit of eating pork, have contributed not a little. One farmer has erected a threshing machine, constructed by Mr Meikle.—Several of these machines have been erected in this neighbourhood, and are found to answer the purpose intended. One capital improvement, especially upon the higher lands, is still wanted—that of inclosures. This gives the country a bleak appearance, and deprives it of that shelter, which might hasten and increase vegetation. There is almost no wood in this parish, except about the house of Dunglas. The natural wood, with which it once abounded is, for want of care, almost entirely destroyed.

*Population.*—Table I. Average of births and marriages in every 10 years, beginning at January 1. 1671, and ending at December 31. 1790 inclusive, from the parish register.

|                               | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Births.</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| From 1671, to 1680 inclusive, | 10.4              | 25.2           |
| To 1690,                      | 8                 | 25.8           |

To

*Statistical Account*

|          | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Births.</i> |
|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| To 1700, | - 8               | 18             |
| To 1710, | - 9.8             | 24.1           |
| To 1720, | - 5.8             | 22.3           |
| To 1730, | - 4               | 18             |
| To 1740, | - 3.5             | 16             |
| To 1750, | - 4.6             | 12             |
| To 1760, | - 5.1             | 15.2           |
| To 1770, | - 5.6             | 15             |
| To 1780, | - 5.4             | 19.4           |
| To 1790, | - 6.8             | 11.5           |

Table II. Annual births and marriages for the last 10 years, viz. from January 1. 1781, to December 31. 1790 inclusive.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Deaths.</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1781,         | - 12           | 2                 | 0              |
| 1782,         | - 15           | 8                 | 0              |
| 1783,         | - 11           | 7                 | 0              |
| 1784,         | - 10           | 9                 | 0              |
| 1785,         | - 15           | 0                 | 0              |
| 1786,         | - 8            | 13                | 0              |
| 1787,         | - 13           | 9                 | 0              |
| 1788,         | - 6            | 4                 | 8              |
| 1789,         | - 12           | 8                 | 7              |
| 1790,         | - 13           | 8                 | 6              |

Table III. Numbers and employments of the inhabitants from a survey in June 1791.

|                                     |              |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| 1 Residing heritor with his family, | amounting to | 5   |
| 13 Farmers with their families,     | - -          | 59  |
| 42 Hinds with their families,       | - -          | 161 |

*of Oldhamstocks.*

495

|                                            |                                                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 36                                         |                                                                                  | 225   |
|                                            | Household servants in the parish,                                                | 57    |
| 10                                         | Fishers with their families,                                                     | 39    |
| 3                                          | Wrights with their families,                                                     | 15    |
| 3                                          | Smiths with their families,                                                      | 16    |
| 7                                          | Weavers with their families,                                                     | 28    |
| 5                                          | Millers with their families,                                                     | 27    |
| 2                                          | Shoemakers with their families,                                                  | 6     |
| 1                                          | Taylor with his family,                                                          | 3     |
| 1                                          | Sadler with his family,                                                          | 4     |
| 1                                          | Tide-waiter with his family,                                                     | 2     |
| 1                                          | Toll-keeper with his family,                                                     | 8     |
| 8                                          | Day-labourers with their families,                                               | 37    |
| 12                                         | Householders, being single women or widows,<br>with their families, amounting to | 23    |
| 1                                          | Schoolmaster with his family,                                                    | 5     |
| 1                                          | Clergyman with his family,                                                       | 3     |
| <hr/>                                      |                                                                                  | <hr/> |
| 112                                        | Total souls,                                                                     | 498   |
| <hr/>                                      |                                                                                  | <hr/> |
|                                            | Total males,                                                                     | 238   |
|                                            | Total females,                                                                   | 260   |
|                                            | Total families,                                                                  | 112   |
| Of this number 13 families are Dissenters. |                                                                                  |       |
|                                            | Population in 1755,                                                              | 622   |
|                                            | 1791,                                                                            | 498   |
| <hr/>                                      |                                                                                  | <hr/> |
|                                            | Decrease,                                                                        | 124   |

From Table I. the parish appears to have been more populous about 70 years ago than at present. This decrease is owing in some measure, to the country being thrown into larger farms than formerly. These require fewer hands for the labour than the small farms; and the farmers wish to support



port no more houses upon the ground than are sufficient for the hands employed on the farm. About the beginning of this century, there were also coal and salt-works in this parish, both which have been long ago given up, and the hands therein employed, removing with their families, would contribute something to the decrease of population.

*Price of Labour.*—The average of wages of household servants is, for men servants, 6 l. Sterling *per annum*; for a good woman servant, 3 l. Sterling; common day-labourers, without victuals, men, 1 s. women, 6 d. *per day*; common labourers, with victuals, *per day*, men 8 d. or 10 d. women, 4 d.; during harvest, reapers wages vary from 8 d. to 1 s. 4 d. The greater part of the farm-work is performed by hynds, or servants who live in their own houses, whose wives and children are also occasionally employed on the farm. The yearly expence of this kind of servants, to the farmer, may be calculated in the following manner:

|                                                               |   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| To 8 bolls oats, at 14 s. <i>per</i> boll,                    | - | L. 5 12 0 |
| To 3 bolls barley, at 17 s.                                   | - | 2 11 0    |
| To 2 bolls pease, at 13 s.                                    | - | 1 6 0     |
| To 1½ bolls coals, at 6 s.                                    | - | 0 9 0     |
| To carriage on ditto from Dunbar,                             | - | 0 2 6     |
| To product of a firloft potatoes,                             | - | 0 18 0    |
| To ditto of a half peck of lintseed,                          | - | 0 10 0    |
| To maintenance of a cow, valued at                            | - | 3 0 0     |
| To maintenance of a calf or follower,                         | - | 0 15 0    |
| To 2 cart loads of whins for fuel,                            | - | 0 5 0     |
| To victuals during the harvest, and other incidental charges, | - | 1 0 0     |
|                                                               |   | <hr/>     |
| Total,                                                        |   | L. 16 8 6 |

In the above account the house rent is not included, because,  
for

for this, the hynd is obliged to furnish a reaper during the harvest, besides his own work. Upon the above yearly income, with the industry of their wives and children, their families are supported in a comfortable and decent manner.

*Fishing.*—The fish caught on this coast are turbot, cod, skate, herring, haddocks, whittings, flounders, lobsters, and crabs. The usual time of the herring fishing is betwixt the 20th of July and the 12th of September. Great numbers are bought up by the country people, for present use; and when they can be sold so low as 1 s. or 15 d. *per* hundred, they then become an object for the merchants, by whom they are cured into white or red herrings. The lobster fishing begins about the end of October, and continues till the end of April. The fishers are bound by a contract, for a certain number of years, to send them to Dunbar, for the London market, at 5 s. Sterling for sizable lobsters, and half that sum for the undersized ones, *per* score.—The fishers on this coast use two kinds of boats; the largest, called *cobles*, are different from the fishing boats generally used, being remarkably flat in the bottom, and of a great length, measuring about 30 feet in keel, and 33 or 34 feet aloft from stem to stern; extreme breadth,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and depth, from floor to the top of the gunwale, 4 feet. These are used only in the herring fishing, each carrying 4 men and a skipper, with 8 nets, each net being 60 yards long, and 13 yards in depth.

Prime cost of a coble, with anchors, masts, and sails,

L. 28 0 0

Prime cost of 480 yards of nets, about

50 0 0

Total cost of a coble, fully furnished,

L. 78 0 0

The other boat is much smaller, measuring commonly, in length at the keel, 15 feet, from stem to stern aloft 20 feet, and the

the extreme breadth,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet. These are used for fishing cod, haddocks, lobsters, &c. They carry 4 men each, and must be furnished with 1440 fathoms of long lines, 1200 fathoms of small lines, and 80 lobster creels to each boat.

|                                                  |      |    |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|----|-------|
| Prime cost of a small boat, with mast and sail,  | L. 4 | 10 | 0     |
| 1440 fathoms long lines, mounted with 240        |      |    |       |
| hooks, &c.                                       | -    | -  | 6 0 0 |
| 1200 ditto small lines, mounted with 2400 hooks, | 4    | 4  | 0     |
| 80 lobster creels, at 2 s. <i>per</i> creel,     | -    | -  | 8 0 0 |

---

Total expence of a small boat and fishing tackle, L. 22 14 0

The fishers in this parish and in the neighbourhood are commonly decent industrious men; they generally marry early in life, raise numerous families, whom they educate and provide for in a comfortable manner, in their own line.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The present church was built *anno* 1701, and is in good repair. The manse was built *anno* 1677; but since that time has undergone several repairs, and some additions, and is now a good house. The minister's stipend, including communion elements, is, *per annum*, 80l. 11s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling paid in money. The glebe is 4 Scotch acres, of no great value. The present patron is Hunter of Thurston, Esq;—There is only one public school in the parish, which is attended by about 40 children yearly. The schoolmaster's salary is 6l. 13s. 6d. *per annum*, with a house and small garden. School wages are very low; teaching to read English, 1s. 6d. *per* quarter; writing, 2s.; arithmetic and Latin, 2s. 6d. Mathematics, geometry, book-keeping, navigation, &c. are taught each by the course, at a guinea *per* course.—There are very few poor upon the parish roll. These are supported by the church offerings, the money raised from the pail, and the interest of a small sum belonging

to the parish, amounting in all, *communibus annis*, to 12 l. Sterling.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The number of heritors is 8. Sir James Hall of Dunlafs, Bart. is the only residing heritor. The whole valued rent is 3675 l. 1 s. 10 d. Scotch; real rent, about 2000 l. Sterling. The house of Dunlafs stands on the west side of the small river, which divides East Lothian from the county of Berwick. The banks of the river are steep, and covered with remarkably fine wood, through which a variety of agreeable walks are cut, and kept in good repair. The Castle of Dunlafs is frequently mentioned in the Scottish histories. It belonged, for many years, to the Earl of Home's ancestors, and from this he has the title of *Lord Dunlafs*. It was here that James VI. lodged with his retinue, the first night after he left Edinburgh, on his journey to London, 1603. This fort was, by accident or treachery, blown up, *anno 1640*, when Lord Haddington, and a number of the neighbouring gentlemen, perished in its ruins. The present house, a modern building, is raised on the very spot where that fort stood. Near it stands an old chapel, which, though not now used for the purpose it was originally intended, is still kept in good repair. It was built about the middle of the fourteenth century by Sir Thomas Hume, who married Nicolas Pipdie, heiress of Dunlafs.

## NUMBER XLII.

## PARISH OF FODDERTY.

(Counties of Cromarty and Ross.—Presbytery of Dingwall.—Synod of Ross.)

By the Reverend Mr DONALD MACKENZIE

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*Name and Situation.*

THE name of this parish is of Gaelic etymology. In that language, it consists of two words that are nearly descriptive of its situation: *Foigh-ritudh*, or a meadow along the side of a hill.—The principal part of the parish lies in a valley, surrounded with hills, to the north, west, and south, with an extensive opening to the east. There the valley has a commanding view of the town and parish of Dingwall, which lies to the north-east of it. The name of this valley is Strathpeffer. About three-fourths of the inhabitants of the parish reside in the valley. Besides it, there are several small glens, which extend to some distance along the openings of the hills. All these are, however, completely insulated from the bulk of the parish, being surrounded with the neighbouring ones, and lie much nearer the churches of Dingwall and Contin than to Fodderty. The extent of the valley is nearly two miles long, by half a mile broad.

*Climate.*—The air throughout the parish is pure and healthy; and there are many instances of longevity in it.  
Several

Several men and women are now residing in the parish who call themselves near 90 years of age.

*Distempers.*—There are no distempers peculiar to this parish, except such as are common to the neighbouring places. The small-pox often rages here, and frequently proves mortal, as inoculation has never been attempted except by a very few families, who recently introduced it with success. The prejudice of the people is, however, very strong against it.

*Minerals.*—There are appearances of coal mines in the parish. A person was, some time ago, employed to work a part of the coal, when it was found to be of a remarkably inflammable quality; of a clear black colour, so that it appeared to approach nearer to a bituminous substance than to coal.—There are several mineral springs here, all of which are of the same quality, and seem to be impregnated with sulphur. One of these has, for about 20 years back, been of some note. Great numbers of the lower class of people from the counties of Inverness, Sutherland, and the western districts of Ross-shire, have resorted hither, and use the water of this mineral for all kinds of disorders without exception. Most benefit has been derived from this mineral by those troubled with scorbutic complaints, and all kinds of external sores on the body. It has been used with success in the gravel and stomach complaints.

*Hills.*—The most remarkable hills are, 1st, Beuivas, which is one of the highest hills in Scotland, and lies immediately to the north of this valley; 2dly, Knockfallaric. This hill is situated on the south side of the valley: Its form is conical; and the vulgar tradition is, that Fingal had one of his castles upon the top of it. What probably gave rise to this  
opinion,

opinion, was the ruins on the summit of it, which are yet to be seen. They surround a plain of nearly an acre in extent, and are composed of stones cemented by a vitrified substance. What the origin or the use of this building was, cannot easily be determined; but certain it is, that the work must have been effected at a great expence of labour, and with prodigious force of fire.

*Woods.*—There are great numbers of plots of ash, hazel, and alder wood, interspersed with the corn fields along this valley: When these, and the fields around them, are in verdure, it forms a beautiful scene. There are about 200 acres of firs lately planted upon the summit of the hill, to the south of the valley.

|                                                                    |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <i>Value of Stock.</i> —There are 663 horses, valued at 3 l. each, |         |
| —value of the whole, - - - - -                                     | L. 1989 |
| 1500 Black cattle, valued at 3 l. each,—value of the               |         |
| whole, - - - - -                                                   | 4500    |
| 1000 Best sheep, valued at 5 s. each,—value of the                 |         |
| whole, - - - - -                                                   | 250     |
| 2000 Inferior ditto, valued at 3 s. each,—value of                 |         |
| the whole, - - - - -                                               | 300     |

Total value of stock, L. 7039

It is to be observed here, that the number of black cattle has decreased within these two years, by the introduction of sheep farms, which has increased the number, and improved the breed of sheep in the parish.

|                                                        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <i>Population.</i> —In 1755, the numbers were rated at | 1483  |
| At present, the number of souls is, -                  | 1730  |
| Number of males, - - - - -                             | 881   |
|                                                        | Ditto |

|                                       |   |   |   |     |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Ditto females,                        | - | - | - | 849 |
| Male servants,                        | - | - | - | 488 |
| Female servants,                      | - | - | - | 358 |
| Male children under 7 years of age,   |   |   |   | 122 |
| Female children under 7 years of age, |   |   |   | 120 |
| Number of families,                   | - | - | - | 330 |

*Rent and Farms.*—The valued rent of this parish is 3543 l. 3 s. 4 d. Scotch money. The real rent is chiefly paid in bolls, so that its value is annually altering; converting these, however, at a moderate price, the rent is supposed to be nearly 1400 Sterling *per annum*. There are 8 proprietors in the parish, none of whom have ever resided in it. There are 10 principal farmers here, who pay rent to the value of 40 l. Sterling each *per annum*; 150 smaller tenants, who pay from 16 l. Sterling *per annum* each, to 2 l. Sterling *per annum* each; and 100 cottars, who pay from 2 l. Sterling *per annum* each, to 2 s. Sterling each *per annum*.

*Crops, and Method of Culture.*—The only crops raised here are barley, oats, pease, and potatoes. The old method of constantly *cropping*, is generally followed by all the classes of farmers. Some attempts have of late been made by a few towards altering the system of farming, by the introduction of sown grafs, fallow, and turnips; but these essays have always been checked by the want of encouragement shown to those who tried them, none of the proprietors here having ever allowed any of their tenants to derive any advantage from their improvements, or offered them any assistance to enable them to carry them on.

*Manners and Employments of the People.*—There is for some seasons of the year, a very great want of industry among the inhabitants



inhabitants here. During the weeks of seed-time and harvest they exert themselves to a great degree; but during the remainder of the year, having no field for similar exertions of industry, they indulge themselves to a great degree in indolence and inactivity. The want of employment here, forces those who are industriously inclined, to go and find labour in the southern districts of Scotland; so that great numbers of both sexes, leave their homes in the months of May and June, and return again in November, with from 10 s. to 42 s. which is the fruit of their industry. Sloth seems to be the greatest enemy to the morality of the people here, as those who will not procure their own subsistence by labour, are forced to use dishonest means for procuring it. They are much addicted to the use of spirits, and will go every length to procure it.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—All the inhabitants of this parish, except two, are of the established Church, and these are of the Church of England. The living consists of 6 chalders and a half of barley—25 l. Sterling money—a glebe, and the minister has a right to the small tithes. The patron is Kenneth Mackenzie of Cromarty, Esq. The salary of the schoolmaster is 11 l. 2 s. Sterling. The school-house was built *anno* 1779, and is now in a good state of repair. There are now on the poors roll 50 persons, who receive a part of their subsistence from the funds allotted to them. There are 1<sup>st</sup>, A mortification by George Earl of Cromarty to them of 12 bolls of barley *per annum*.—2<sup>d</sup>, The interest of a legacy of 80 l. Sterling, left to them by Mrs Morrison of the island of Jamaica.—3<sup>d</sup>, The weekly collections on Sunday at church, which at an average is nearly 8 l. *per annum*.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The wages of a labouring man seldom exceeds 6 d. *per* day—of a woman 5 d. Servants are generally hired here by the year; then the terms are to a man servant 3 l. *per annum*, and 6 bolls meal—to a woman from 1 l. to 1 l. 15 s. *per annum*, and 5 bolls meal, when they do not receive their board. Beef and mutton sell at an average for 3 d. *per* pound.—Pork for 2½ d. *per* pound.—Fowls at 4 d. each.

*Language.*—The language generally spoken here is Gaelic, there being but two in the parish who do not understand that language well.

## NUMBER XLIII.

## PARISH OF STRICHEN.

(County of Aberdeen.—District of Buchan.—Presbytery of Deer.—Synod of Aberdeen.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM ANDERSON.

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*Name and Dimensions.*

**S**TRICHEN, (from *Strathion, John's Strath*), was erected into a parish in 1627; and consists of 38 ploughs, 32 of which were taken off from the parish of Rathon, and the other 6 (called the 6 ploughs of Saithley), from the parish of Frazerburgh.—It consists of about 8000 acres, and is of an oblong form, sloping gradually towards the banks of the river Eugie, which pretty nearly divides the parish, and falls into the sea 13 miles below, at Inverugie, near Peterhead. There are plenty of trout and eels in the river, and formerly there were a great many otters, but few of them are now to be seen, the breed being almost worn out in this part of the country.

*Population*.—In Dr Webster's list, in 1755, the population was 1158. The number of inhabitants is 1400. In 1776, a list was taken, and they amounted to 1100, classed as follows: Under 7 years of age, 178; from 7 to 80, 878; above 80, 44. The increase is owing to a village which has been lately built, and to dividing the farms, few of which exceed

30 l. and the greatest number being not above 10 l. or 12 l. Sterling of yearly rent, which is punctually paid.

*Improvements.*—The increase of population has tended not a little to the improvement of the land in this parish. Potatoes, turnip, flax, and artificial grasses, were introduced about 50 years ago by the late Lord Strichen. He also introduced the use of lime for the ground, and began the improvement of the roads, which are in this parish kept in excellent order. The culture of flax is reckoned a considerable object here, which has been very much promoted by the encouragement of the Honourable the Board of Trustees for manufactures, &c. in giving a premium for erecting a lint-mill, and distributing lintseed gratis; but most effectually, by the establishment of a yarn-market, which holds in the beginning of March and middle of May, at which the capital manufacturers and dealers attend; and the country people are not only sure of a sale, and ready money, but of the highest price their yarn is worth. The trustees gave premiums of 10 l. *per annum*, for 5 years, to the person who purchased the greatest quantity of yarn, made from flax of the growth of the country. This occasioned a competition among the buyers, in which the sellers found their advantage; so that at these markets, where there used not to be a single spindle disposed of, upwards of 4000 spindles have been sold for some years past by the country people; and the markets, which promise to improve, are of great service to all concerned, and will be of permanent use to the country.

*Price of Labour.*—The price of labour is considerably increased of late, and is daily rising. The yearly wages of a man servant is 5 l.; a maid servant, 2 l. 10 s. with their maintenance;

tainance; a house-carpenter, 1 s. *per* day; a mason, 1 s. 4 d.; ordinary labourers, 8 d. and 9 d.; a hay-cutter, 1 s. 6 d. and a reaper, 1 s.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church was built in 1627, but has been repaired and enlarged since. The stipend (including 1 l. 17 s. 6 d. for providing communion elements), is 30 l. in money, 3 chalders of meal, and 15 acres of land given the late incumbent, by a private agreement, instead of an augmentation in money. This deed was executed by the late Lord Strichen, with the unanimous approbation of the presbytery about 40 years ago. The patron is Mr Frazer of Strichen.—The school, including salary, scholars fees, and other perquisites, may be worth about 30 l. a year. The schoolmaster has a very neat house of two stories high, and a glebe of 8 acres, given him by the late Lord Strichen.—There are 30 poor on the list: About 30 l. Sterling is divided among them, according to their necessities, arising from the collections in the church, mort-cloth dues, and the interest of about 140 l. which belongs to the session. In 1783, they sunk upwards of 60 l. out of their funds, in purchasing and lowering the price of grain for the use of the parish.

*Village.*—There is a village in the parish, which was founded in 1764, containing 200 inhabitants. There are a good many weavers, and other tradesmen in it; and the lint-mill, bleachfield, and other improvements, which are going on in the neighbourhood, afford constant employment to labourers, so that it is in a thriving state, and increasing. It has a charter for a weekly market. There is a post-office in it, and good roads to it in every direction.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The whole parish, unless a ve-  
ry

ry inconsiderable part, belongs to Alexander Frazer, Esq. There are several plantations of fir and forest trees in the parish, made and planted by the late Lord Strichen, which, from the beauty of contrast, make a great addition to the appearance of the place, in a country where there is little wood. Among these plantations, there are a good many old trees, (supposed to have been planted about the beginning of the last century, 150 circles being counted on some of them, which were cut down 35 years ago). They drew a compliment from the late Dr Johnston, who says, in his Tour through Scotland, that "he had travelled 200 miles, and had only seen one tree not younger than himself; but at Strichen, he saw trees of full growth, worthy of his notice."—The animals and bird tribe are the same that are common in the rest of the country. There have been, for 40 years past, great numbers of the regulus, or golden crested wren, goldfinches, thrushes, and lapwings, all of which have been in the custom of building and hatching here. Of late the goldfinches have quite disappeared, and the lapwings are much fewer. Black-birds, ring ouzel, and dobochick, which used to come only in winter, with great flocks of snow birds, and fieldfares, remain now, and build their nests; the snow-birds and fieldfares leave the country in May. Of late years, in the month of November, balfinches, Carolina chatters, and different kinds of woodpeckers, make their appearance, and continue through the winter.—The parish has the advantage of an excellent lime quarry in the center of it, and of great plenty of peat for firing. There are 5 well frequented yearly markets held in it. The people are, in general, sober and industrious, go neat and clean, and are of an extremely obliging benevolent disposition.—The stones on the side of an high hill in this parish are of a whitish colour, and of the nature of the white flint, of which porcelain is made.

## NUMBER XLIV.

## PARISH OF LESMAHAGOE.

(County of Lanark.—Presbytery of Lanark.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

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*Name, Situation, Boundaries, Surface, &c.*

THE name of this parish is very antient ; it is of Celtic origin, and is said to be derived from *Les* or *Lis*, a green or garden, and *Macute*, the name of the tutelar saint of the place, who is reported to have been a bishop and confessor of the 6th century, thus signifying St. Macute's Green, which, in latter times, has been changed into Abbeygreen, the present name of the village built round the church, formerly belonging to a monastery now demolished, which stood hard by it, and was a priory, dependent on the Abbey of Kelso. All that remains of this antient building is a square tower, with battlements upon the tops of the walls. It is now covered with a pavilion roof, having a belfrey on the top, and serves for the steeple of the present church, which stands adjoining to it.

This monastery was founded by King David I. in the year 1140. The church belonging to it was dedicated to St. Mary. This church, which appears by the marks of the beams in the wall of the tower, to have been much loftier than the present one, has been twice destroyed by fire ; first by John  
Planta-

Plantagenet, brother to Edward III. King of England; and a second time at the Reformation, when all the ancient monuments and relics were destroyed by the reformers. And indeed the marks of conflagration seem still visible on the wall of the tower, on the side adjoining to the church.

The parish is situated in the upper ward of the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of that name, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is of a broad oval figure, the longest diameter being about 14 miles, and the shortest about 12. It lies upon the south-west side of the river Clyde, which runs along the border of it for about 9 or 10 miles; and in this course are the stupendous falls of the river at Bonnitown, Corhouse, and Stonbyres, so well known, and repeatedly described.

The banks of the Clyde in this parish are very bold, rising, in many places, abruptly into hills of a considerable height, every where divided by deep gullies, formed by the numerous brooks and torrents which fall into the river. The intermixture of coppice woods, plantations of forest trees, and sloping open glades, of swelling eminences, deep ravines, and towering hills, on both sides of the river, added to the windings of its copious stream, and the magnificent falls above mentioned, exhibit to the eye of the passenger, at every change of situation, new landscapes strikingly sublime and beautiful.

The soil is various. Part of the northern corner of the parish is of a clayey nature, but light friable moulds are more frequent; in some places it is sandy, in others stoney and gravelly. The face of the country is every where uneven; and towards the south and west becomes very mountainous, and the soil mossy and muirish. The tops of the mountains are covered with bent, grass, and heath; towards the bottoms, where moss does not prevail, there are green pastures and arable lands.



lands. Upon the whole, the soil of the parish is far from being of the most fertile quality, and is better adapted to pasturage than tillage. Here it deserves to be remarked, that tillage has been pursued to a much greater extent, at some former period, than at present; for there are every where to be found, even almost to the summits of the highest mountains, large tracts of land, which have been regularly formed into ridges, and smoothed by repeated culture, now overgrown with bent, heath, and mosses. How it comes to pass, that land on which corn would not now ripen, should have been attentively cultivated some centuries ago, is left to the curious to enquire; for there is no tradition to be traced here, which would serve to throw any light upon the subject\*.

The most remarkable mountains are the great range which separates this parish from those of Douglas and Muirkirk, called the Cumberheadhills, the Knotberrylaw, the Warlaw, the Todlaw, the Birkenhead, and the Graystonehill, on the west side; the Blackhill, the Dullars, and the Boreland, towards the Clyde, on the east side.

*Rivers.*—The Logan rises in the range of mountains which divides this parish from Muirkirk; and running eastward for 6 miles joins the Nethan, which has its source in the same mountains, a few miles to the east. The joint stream, which then takes the name of Nethan, runs north and east through the parish, dividing it nearly into two equal halves, and falls into the Clyde a little above where the parishes of Dalserf  
and

\* It also appears, that this part of the country is less fertile than formerly, by an old charter belonging to the monastery, which mentions a considerable quantity of wheat, payable from the neighbouring lands. Few people now attempt to cultivate wheat on these lands; and such as have tried it have abandoned it from ill success.

and Lesmahagoe meet. This is a beautiful pastoral stream; the banks of which are finely diversified with hanging woods, sloping pastures, and cornfields. The Ponicle runs along the south border of the parish, till it falls into the Douglas river; and afterwards the united river, the banks of which are highly picturesque, forms the boundary on that side. The little river Kype divides this from the parish of Avondale. The Calner, which runs northward, and separating the parishes of Stonehouse and Dalserf, falls into the Avon, takes its rise in the western part of this parish, in the estate of Blackwood, by the proprietors of which its banks have been adorned with stately groves of forest trees. Besides these, numberless brooks, and fountains of the purest water, flow from the sides of every hill.

In the Nethan and Logan, as well as the rivers by which the parish is bounded, are found plenty of trout and silver eel. Salmon, also, from the Clyde, go up the Nethan, and even to the Logan, in the month of August, and spawn there; but a cruive now put across the mouth of the first, obstructs them greatly, and is likewise thought to have diminished the number of trouts.

*Air.*—The situation of the parish being elevated, the air is somewhat moist, and so cold and sharp as greatly to retard the progress of vegetation in the spring, consequently the harvest is not early. In autumn, too, the frosty vapours settle in the narrow plains in the neighbourhood of the mountains, and frequently injure the crops. The air, however, seems not to be unfavourable to animal life. The inhabitants are healthy and robust, little subject to diseases. There are several instances of vigorous longevity among them; from which the following is selected as being known to the writer. J—Porteous, about 20 years ago, after having completed the hundredth year of his age, walked from his  
house

house near the village of Abbeygreen to Hamilton, 12 miles distant, and after having done his little business, returned the same day also on foot. He lived 5 or 6 years after; and enjoyed some degree of health and vigour almost to the last.

*Fossils.*—There is a great variety of minerals in this parish, which might furnish ample field for the investigations of the mineralogist and the philosopher. The rocks and stones in the bed of the river Clyde, opposite to Stonebyres, and indeed almost all the stones which appear in that neighbourhood, are of the colour of burnt bricks, and look as if they had suffered the action of fire. The strata of rock in the bed of the Nethan, which mostly lie in a situation very much inclined, have a different appearance, and seem to be of a different quality, at every few paces as one passes along. Among these, a gentleman of some skill in mineralogy, who was, some years ago, on a visit in the parish, asserted that he discovered the real porcelain earth in a petrified form. In this river are found large masses formed of small stones of different kinds, united by a substance which seems to have been in fusion; and also various petrifications, particularly pieces of wood of different sizes. The Cumberhead mountains are known to contain veins of lead, which are said to be very rich. Attempts were made to work them in the year 1720, and again in the year 1758; but, from some mismanagement, misgave. Coal is found in different parts of the parish. Pit coal has been wrought at Stockbridge, Coalburn, Gunsgreen, and Westown; and is sold at the pit from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. per ton. There is also wrought at Woodhouse, belonging to the Duke of Hamilton; at Auchenheath, belonging to Mr Weir of Blackwood; and at Blair, belonging to Lord Douglas, beds of an inflammable substance, having some resemblance of jet, here called candle-coal, or light coal, much valued for the strong bright flame which it emits in burning.

This is sold for about 5 s. *per* ton, and some of it is carried to places 40 or 50 miles distant. Peats, which when dried are almost as hard as coal, and burn with a strong flame, are dug in several mosses in this parish. Beds of iron-stone are seen in different parts of the parish. Beds of lime, of a great thickness and excellent quality, are found very near the surface in many places. Some of these beds are not less than 30 feet thick; and the quality of the lime so good, that upon an analysis 29 parts of 30 have been found to be pure calcareous earth. Various petrifications, such as shells of different figures, parts of the skulls and horns of sheep, and bits of sticks, are found in the lime quarries. In the upper part of the parish marl has been lately discovered. In one place there is a vein of grey marble, blocks of which some old people mention to have been carried to Hamilton house and Douglas house, but it is not known how it proved. There is also some appearance of a slate quarry in a moor called Dunside moor; but as it has not yet been fully explored, the quality is not ascertained. Huge masses of granite or whin rock, form the basis of the mountains on the west side of the parish. Amidst this great variety of fossils, free stone of a good quality for building, is obtained only in a few places; some of the quarries, however, are of a remarkable good quality, particularly on the banks of the Nethan, where large blocks of stone are cut, which are so beautifully veined, and take so fine a polish, that it gets the name of Craignethan marble, and is much valued for columns and steps of large stairs.

*Cattle, Cultivation, and Produce.*—It has been already observed, that the greatest part of this district, from the inequality of the surface, the nature of the soil, and the great elevation of the country, is better adapted for pasture than cul-

tivation. The high moorish parts of the parish are chiefly applied to rearing and pasturing sheep, and some are kept through the whole. The number is about 7000. Those of the moors are generally black faced and black legged—have very rough coarse wool, and are always lined with tar. They are of a little size, but hardy and well boned, and feed to a considerable weight when put upon rich pasture. Some of mixed breeds, of larger body, and finer wool, are kept on the lower grounds. The number of cows kept are about 1600, besides young ones which the farmers are always rearing; of which there cannot be less than 400 bred annually. The district contains 130 ploughgates; and no great refinement in agriculture being yet introduced, 4 horses are for the most part yoked to each plough, so that the number of horses are about 520, besides young ones annually reared, probably about 100. The horses in this part of the country were formerly of a small size, and ill shaped; but of late the breed is much improved, and horses of a considerable value are now reared here. There are also 12 horses kept by carriers in and round the village, who carry goods to and from different places. The people of this part of Scotland had formerly a superstitious prejudice against swine; but now there are a number reared and fed in this parish. It does not appear, however, to be a very advantageous kind of economy to feed hogs in a barren country, where every thing the land produces can generally be otherways consumed to greater advantage. It can only be beneficial for farmers who keep no more hogs than they can support, on such of the offals of their dairy as they can turn to no other purpose, and feed them up in the autumn with potatoes. Of those animals there may be about 70 or 80 killed in this parish annually.

As the greatest part of this parish, from the nature of its soil, exposure, and climate, is not the most inviting subject for cultivation, so neither have improvements in agriculture made great progress in it. Fallowing is not practised, except in a few farms in the lower ground; nor is paring and burning the thick turf on the old pasture, which would tend much to forward vegetation in a cold country, thought of. The ancient distinctions of croft and outfield are still kept up; and the greatest part of the manure made about the farm laid upon the former. The latter, after lying a few years in pasture, and sometimes a little compost laid upon it, is cropped with oats for two or three years, and again left to rest. Upon the crofts the seeds of clover and rye-grass are now frequently sown, and a crop or two of hay taken; and after the land has been two or three years pastured, it is cropped, first with pease, then with barley, with two plowings and dung, next oats, &c. Lime, except by a few people, is but sparingly applied. The Scotch plough, nearly in the same state as it has been for this century past, is almost universally used, it being only near the Clyde where any modern improvement is begun to be introduced.

There is no wheat raised in this district, except in the low parts in the north corner of this parish. Oats are the principal grain; and, from the report of the tenants of the mills in which they are ground, the quantity produced seems to have greatly diminished in the course of the last 20 years. Whether this deficiency be owing to the land having been formerly exhausted—to less favourable seasons—to a less skilful or less attentive culture—or whether it be not from deficiency of produce, but from the corn being consumed otherways than by grinding it into meal, it is not pretended here to determine. It is certainly in some part owing to the last; for in the first place, farmers, whether purely from the pride of seeing

seeing their horses make a better appearance, or whether they find that they enhance the value of the animal, in the full proportion of the additional food given it, allow their horses more oats than formerly; and secondly, the number of horses, and the demand for oats to feed them, having greatly increased in the country of late years, husbandmen frequently find it more advantageous to sell their oats unmanufactured, than to make them into meal, especially in backward seasons, when the oats are less productive. The barley of this parish has been esteemed of a good quality, not indeed large bodied, but plump and thin husked. Upon the sale of this grain the farmers formerly chiefly depended for payment of their rents; but it is a fact, not less remarkable, nor less difficult to be accounted for, that the quantity of it produced is also diminished. The concurring testimony of every husbandman advanced in life confirms this fact. Undoubtedly, therefore, either the seasons of late must have been unfavourable to cultivation, or a less accurate and diligent culture must now prevail. Probably both must be taken into the account. While the cold backward springs have discouraged the delicate growth of the new sprung crop, the roots of the various kinds of hardy weeds, which have been allowed to accumulate in the soil from defective culture, have sprung up to choke it. Pease seldom prove a valuable crop in this parish. They are frequently either overrun by the numerous weeds which thrive greatly in the light soil, or pushed too much to straw by the latter rains, and yield little grain. Such has been so much the case of late years, that the husbandmen have been greatly discouraged in cultivating them, and many sow fewer than formerly. There is but a small part of this parish on which it has been thought prudent to attempt the culture of beans. Flax is only cultivated in small quantities for domestic use; but from the valuable  
returns

returns which have frequently been obtained from these, it is reasonable to think that much of the land is well adapted to the growth of that plant. The culture of turnip, for which much of the soil is also well adapted, has not yet been attempted to any considerable extent, nor with that assiduity necessary to make it advantageous. Every husbandman plants potatoes, to the extent, perhaps, of half an acre to a ploughgate, at an average; and this root succeeds extremely well in most places, when sufficient pains is bestowed on the culture. There are no considerable orchards in this parish; but towards the foot of the Nethan, and all along the Clyde below the falls, apple, pear, and plum trees are planted in every little garden; and in those narrow warm vallies, sheltered by the high land on all sides, these trees, particularly the plum trees, generally produce a considerable quantity of good fruit.

Besides annual productions a considerable quantity of wood grows in the parish, much of the hanging ground by the sides of the different rivers being clothed with coppices. Some of these are very extensive, particularly Stonebyres woods, which are arranged into such a number of lots, that one of them is always ready to cut annually, for the sale of such small timber as is commonly used in the country. Only the banks of the Logan and the Kype are naked, they having their courses through high moorish ground, the bottom of which is whin rock, for the most part adverse to the growth of timber. The juniper tree, a plant not to be found in the neighbouring country, abounds on the sides of the hills in the eastern part of this parish.

*State of Property.*—The valued rent of the parish is 9841 l. Scotch. The Duke of Hamilton is the greatest proprietor. There is only besides part of the estates of Blackwood, Stonebyres,



byres, and some farms formerly belonging to the Hamiltons of Raplock, which are held immediately of the Crown; all the rest is either the property of the said Duke, or held of him in feu.

There are several undivided commons of considerable extent, on which the adjoining proprietors have a right of pasturage, according to some established proportion; but these are all moorish grounds, which do not seem capable of very important improvements.

*Population.*—In 1755, the numbers were 2996. By an exact enumeration of the inhabitants taken by the ministers this year, it appears there are, of houses or families in vil-

|                                         |              |       |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| lages,                                  | - - - - -    | 108   |
| Ditto in the country,                   | - - - - -    | 424   |
|                                         |              | <hr/> |
|                                         |              | 532   |
| Containing males, 10 years and upwards, | -            | 1069  |
| under 10,                               | - -          | 271   |
|                                         |              | <hr/> |
|                                         |              | 1340  |
| ———— females, 10 years and upwards,     | -            | 1173  |
| under 10,                               | - -          | 297   |
|                                         |              | <hr/> |
|                                         |              | 1470  |
|                                         |              | <hr/> |
|                                         | Souls in all | 2810  |

|                                                           |     |     |                            |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|----|
| Of these there are,                                       |     |     | Carpenters, of all sorts,  | 21 |
| Gentlemen and husband-                                    |     |     | Taylors,                   | 26 |
| men,                                                      | - - | 181 | Miners,                    | 23 |
| Blacksmiths,                                              | -   | 17  | Butchers,                  | 3  |
| Weavers,                                                  | - - | 62  | Day-labourers,             | 54 |
| Shoemakers,                                               | -   | 16  | Practitioners of medicine, | 2  |
| Masons,                                                   | - - | 40  | Dyer and fuller,           | 1  |
| There are 7 corn mills, 2 lint mills, and 1 fulling mill. |     |     |                            |    |

The

The population of this parish seems to have been considerably upon the increase during the first part of the present century. There is still extant an examination list of the one half of the parish, made out by the Reverend Mr Robert Black in the 1705, containing the names of 840 examinable persons; and, supposing both halves to have been then, as they are at present, nearly equally populous, the total inhabitants, who were deemed examinable, were 1680. But the late Reverend Mr Thomas Wharry, who was a native of the parish, had filled first the one cure, and then the other, and was minister for 50 years, has left an accurate examination list of the whole parish, enumerated with his own hand, which contains 2448 names, of 10 years old and upwards, taken in the year 1730; and, supposing those under 10 years to be, as at present, a little more than a fourth more, the number of souls was then above 3000. The same gentleman has also left a copy of answers to queries, from a committee of the General Assembly, in which he says, the number of persons above 10 years was between 2900 and 3000. This paper has no date; but it is probably the answer to the inquiry set on foot by Dr Webster about the year 1755, as Mr Wharry was often heard say, in the latter part of his life, that the number of examinable persons was about 3000. He died in the year 1761. Since that period, the number of the people has been upon the decrease, as well as the fertility of the soil.

|       | <i>Baptisms.</i> |               | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> |
|-------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|       | <i>Boys.</i>     | <i>Girls.</i> |                   |                 |
| 1788, | 40               | 39            | 23                | 33              |
| 1789, | 38               | 33            | 19                | 30              |
| 1790, | 34               | 35            | 14                | 39              |

*Manufactures.*—Manufacture here has not advanced far beyond

beyond its rude domestic state. Many of the house-wives not only manufacture the greatest part of the wearing apparel for their respective families, but have their wool and flax wrought up into yarn or cloth for sale in the neighbouring markets. Some of the weavers are employed in this way; others by the manufacturers in great towns, in weaving fine linen and cotton cloths. The women belonging to the villages and cottages are mostly employed in spinning linen-yarn for the manufacturers in other places, there being people who go about to distribute the flax, and receive the yarn.

Though this parish has not yet made great advances, it is not improbable it may one day make a considerable figure among the neighbouring districts, should the various materials which may be collected from its surface, or drawn from its bowels, attract the attention of the opulent and enterprising. If it shall be found, by means of the patriotic experiments now making by the Society for the improvement of British wool, that the bleak mountains here, on which sheep only of the coarsest fleece now stray, are equally capable of rearing those which will yield plenty of fine soft wool; if flax were cultivated with all the attention which the soil seems to invite; these, with the various treasures which lie buried under ground, would furnish an ample fund of employment and wealth to a numerous people; while the abundance of fuel, and the many springs and water falls, would be ready instruments to facilitate every undertaking. At the same time, a more improved and populous society would tend to enlighten the minds, and stimulate the industry of the peasantry; to improve the land, and spread a pleasant verdure over fields, new clothed in *sombre* heath.

*Character.*—Among the people here, more of the features of the ancient British character may be traced, than in more cultivated

cultivated districts. Open and frank in their manners; keen in their attachments; chearful to return favours, and no less ardent to resent affronts; equally ignorant of the cautious reserve of people hackneyed in the ways of men, and averse to the plodding perseverance acquired in the more busy walks of society. The general tenor of their moral deportment is decent and regular; and few among them have been accused of enormities. Their bodies are, for the most part, stout, brawny, and active. The language spoken is the broad Scotch dialect, with this peculiarity, very observable to strangers, that the voice is raised, and the sound lengthened upon the last syllable of the sentence.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The Duke of Hamilton is patron of the parish. The church is old, dark, and inconvenient, scarcely large enough to contain the ordinary auditory. The cure is supplied by two clergymen. The stipend of the second charge is 16 bolls of victual, and 63 l. 17 l. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$  d. Sterling in money, with a house and garden. The stipend of the first charge is 95 bolls of meal, and 41 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling, in money, with a manse, and glebe of 8 acres. The people are mostly attached to the established Church, and very regular in attending religious worship. There are a few Seceders of different sects; but none of the bitterness of religious party prevails, the greatest harmony and good neighbourhood subsisting between the different sects.—The schoolmaster's salary is 12 l. Sterling, besides school wages, and his emoluments as session-clerk and treasurer of the poor's funds. There is a dwelling-house for the schoolmaster, and a house for teaching. English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, geometry, &c. are taught at this school; and many of the youth of the parish who have pursued the study of divinity, and other branches of literature, have received the first elements of

their education here. Among these, the late Dr William Smellie, who was afterwards so much celebrated for his knowledge and success in the obstetric art, must not be omitted. There are, besides, always 8 or 10 private schools, principally for teaching English and writing, in the parish.—The funds for the support of the poor are as follows :

|                                                                                                                                                                |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Amount of former savings and small sums bequeathed by different persons, 125 l. 19 s. 2 d. ;                                                                   |           |
| the interest of which, at 5 l. <i>per cent.</i>                                                                                                                | L. 6 5 11 |
| Andrew Leiper mortified a piece of land rented at                                                                                                              | 2 10 0    |
| In the year 1774, the parish was first assessed for the maintenance of the poor. The annual amount of the rates was then 80 l. which has been since reduced to | 60 0 0    |
| Annual average arising from collections at the church-doors, proclamation of banns, and pall lent at burials,                                                  | 46 14 3   |

Total annual amount of poor's funds, L. 115 10 2

From which 45 poor persons regularly receive a monthly assistance, according to their wants, besides some indigent people occasionally relieved. The poor were formerly more numerous.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Besides the bridge over the Clyde lately mentioned, there are 3 bridges over the Nethan, on different roads; one of which is upon the post road, which runs through this parish, from Glasgow to Carlisle. On the same road is a bridge over the Ponicle, by which this is joined to Douglas parish. There are several other arches over the other rivers and brooks, where most necessary. Many of the roads through this parish are steep and inconvenient, partly owing to the great inequality of the surface,

and

and partly to a want of proper attention to the nature of the country, at the first laying of them out; whence more easy and convenient tracks, which might have been got by making small deviations, have been disregarded. A bill is now proposed to be brought into Parliament for making a road from Lanark to Hamilton, to pass through this parish, along the banks of the Clyde, to wind along in a level course, shunning all sudden risings and declivities, which, when executed, will not only greatly promote the internal intercourse through this part of the country, but entertain the passenger with a view of the most majestic natural scenery.

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## NUMBER XLV.

## PARISH OF CRAIGNISH.

(County of Argyle.—Presbytery of Inveraray.—Synod of Argyle.)

By the Reverend Mr LACHLAN M'LACHLAN.

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*Soil and Climate.*

**T**HIS parish is situated on the shore of the Atlantic. The country is low and level. The soil in general is fertile. It is a mould in which the clay predominates.—It is not deep, but it is true; and will not disappoint the husbandman who will bestow any labour or expence in the cultivation of it. But the climate, which is extremely moist and variable, often blasts the most flattering appearance, and disappoints the farmer's hope. The air, owing to the vicinity of the western ocean, and the clouds thence rolled in by the S. W. wind, is continually, for nine months in the year at least, charged with vapour; and in the months of July and August, which determine the fate of the barley and oats, there is generally such moist rainy weather, that the crop either lodges, or never fills; and, upon the whole, the average return from oats is not above three feeds, nor from barley above four feeds.—Sometimes a furious gale from the N. W. blackens and breaks the potatoe stalks, and deprives the poor people

ple of the only staff which they have to lean to for subsistence. This was remarkably the case in the 1790.

But the climate, though unfriendly to agriculture, is quite salutary to the human species, and every other animal. The people enjoy good health.—Though no remarkable instances of longevity have, for some time past, occurred among them, they in general arrive at the ordinary period prescribed to the human race; and some of them who are verging towards 80, possess an uncommon degree of bodily strength and mental vigour. Far removed from that intercourse which, while it polishes the manners, corrupts the heart, and undermines the constitution of man, it was their happiness to have led a simple frugal life; and as they were strangers to those excesses to which luxury leads, they are now unacquainted with those distempers which it generates. The fever, indeed, is the greatest enemy they have to dread. Some instances of a dropsy in the belly occurs; and, it is affirmed by the aged, upon whole experience and observation in this case we must rest, that this complaint is much more prevalent through the whole country, than it was 50 or 60 years ago, and that it is becoming more general. Supposing this to be a fact it is not easy to account for it. The cause, however, which is commonly assigned, and which seems most obvious and plausible, is the immoderate use of the potatoe root.—What quantity of wholesome nourishment this plant is naturally qualified to impart to the human frame cannot be determined; but it is well known, from experience, to need the assistance of animal food, or some other nourishing substance, in order to support the frame in any kind of vigour; and, if without this, it can be supposed to have any tendency to contaminate the animal juices, the above reason will appear more probable, because the poor people live almost wholly on this root.—Beef they cannot afford to eat, and they are almost equally  
strangers



strangers to mutton.—Nay, for a considerable part of the year, while the potatoes abound, many of them do not taste bread.

*Tides and Fish.*—In the channel between this parish and the islands to the west, the tide is very rapid, and the sea generally very boisterous. The tide of flood sets in from the Irish Channel, between the main-land and the island of Jura. A branch strikes off to the west, between Jura and Scorba, through the narrow gullet called in Gaelic *Corryvracken*, or the Gulf of Brachan. The tide of ebb sets down this channel from the north, and a branch pushes in from the west through the above gulf with uncommon violence. The rage of the tide in this narrow pass, especially when irritated by the winds, is inconceivable. The people, at the turn of the tide, fish about it in moderate weather; but in the calmest day they must make for the shore, before the tide shall acquire any degree of strength. Another branch of the channel tide passes to and repasses from Lochcrinan to the south, by the point of Craignish. At the point, and between two islands which lie a little to the west, it is remarkably violent; and strangers in open boats have often been fatally deceived by keeping close to the land for security. Some years ago in particular, two small boats were lost in this current. They were part of a frail fleet from the North Isles, loaded with fish, and pressing under every disadvantage round the Mull of Kintyre to a market.

The only fish that is caught in any quantity on the coast is a kind of grey fish called Seathe. When the weather admits of it, this fish may be had in great abundance. In an evening and morning, the only time of the day when it will take the fly, a man may, to his own share, catch 9 or 10 score. The fish, indeed, is not very delicate, but it is wholesome;

some; and it yields a considerable quantity of oil, which is often sold at 16 d. *per* Scotch pint. Perhaps cod and ling might be found; but no attempt has been made to discover the banks which they haunt. Indeed, while the country shall remain in its present depressed condition, without trade and without manufactures to collect its inhabitants, to increase consumption, and circulate money, it is morally impossible that the exertions of industry should, in this, or any other respect, aim at more than bare subsistence. The herring sometimes find their way to the small creeks upon the coast; but the great tide is so near, that they are soon swept away; and, as this kind of fishing is precarious, the people are seldom properly prepared for it. If, however, they continue for any time upon the coast, a man with a few nets will more than supply his own family. The price depends on the quantity of salt in the country at the time. If this commodity, as often happens, is scarce, it is vain to fish more than they can eat, until a supply shall come from Ireland; but if there is plenty of salt, the herrings will sell at 1 s. and sometimes 1 s. 6 d. *per* hundred. When a supply from Ireland is mentioned, it is proper to observe, that salt, under the present system of management, is an article with which the people in the Highlands can never be properly supplied. The want of stores judiciously disposed through the country—the bonds and provisos that stand in the way, render it impossible to make a general provision for a herring fishing which, on many parts of the coast, is transitory and precarious. Thus smuggling is encouraged, nay, made necessary; and thus the fishing in general is discouraged—and thus many opportunities of contributing less or more to the wealth and prosperity of the nation, are for ever lost.



jected to servitudes, which must be performed at whatever time they are exacted. Their fields are neither regularly formed, nor properly inclosed; and there is no lime, marl, or shell sand which they can conveniently get to improve their land. These circumstances concurring with the natural indolence of the people, lead to an easy conjecture of the consequence,—*Squalent arva, squalentque coloni*. But, though their mode of cultivation is injudicious, and their efforts in the prosecution of it are feeble, they derive much advantage from implements of husbandry, lighter and better constructed than those formerly used, particularly the plough. They all now have neat light ploughs, which, with two horses, perform more work than the old machines could do with four. Carts have been lately introduced; and more would be used, were the roads made passable for such carriages. But these are quite neglected. The statute labour is not employed on them; and it is probable the commutation for it will not for some time produce any material alteration. The planting of potatoes in drills is another change which has lately taken place in their mode of cultivation. By this change the labour is diminished, and the produce increased. But they alledge, that the ground is sooner exhausted by this than by the other method of planting. The only crops raised in the parish are oats, barley, and potatoes. The quality of their oats is, of late, greatly improved. The black oats, the only feed formerly used, they have banished; and they are at much pains in getting good clean feed from the low country. As Mr Campbell of Craginsh is the only man in the parish who has his farm subdivided, and in proper order for improvement, he is the only man who sows grass feeds. Last year he had a good number of acres under clover and rye-grass, and had 200 stone *per* acre of return. Were the farms put in proper condition, and the people en-

couraged to follow his example, much advantage would result to the inhabitants; for, in such a moist and changeable climate, they might depend upon green crops with greater security than on any other. They sow their oats in the latter end of March, and their barley in the beginning of May. The latter they reap in August, and the former in October, and later, if the season is cold; but all that they reap from their labour is not sufficient for the whole year. Every summer they buy some meal.

*Language.*—The Gaelic or Celtic is the only language of the inhabitants, though they, in general, can speak a little English. The names of places are derived from the Gaelic, and are expressive either of the situation, appearance, or possession. Thus *Grianaig*, from *Grian*, sun, signifies a spot exposed to the sun, or a sunny spot; *Lergachony*, the mossy country side; *Barrackan*, the eminence of Brackan. But there are two farms in the parish, *Soraba* and *Gemmil*, whose names are evidently Danish. What these words signify, it is impossible to trace; but they are left behind to prove, along with the rude forts on the hills, that the brave and adventurous Danes once occupied the low as well as the high grounds of the country.

*Manners.*—The people are simple and frugal in their mode of dress and living. They are attentive and prudent in the management of their business; discreet and judicious in their conversation; hospitable, as far as their circumstances will admit; and addicted to no vice in a remarkable degree. No capital crimes; no banishments; seldom a quarrel, which last circumstance may be much owing to the want of public houses. There is but one; but that one is unluckily too near the church. It is, however, a general grievance in  
country

country parishes, that these tabernacles of iniquity should be placed too close to the house of God.

*Church and School.*—The church has lately been repaired; but the manse, which, at first, was built very superficially, and without offices, never was repaired, and is now in a ruinous state. The stipend is 92 bolls meal, 8 stone weight, and about 23 l. money, including 5 l. for communion elements. The whole, at the common conversion, not exceeding 66 l. exclusive of the allowance for the elements. To this the glebe makes little addition, as it will hardly graze two cows, if the four acres of arable, and these of the worst quality, are cultivated. The incumbent must dispense with the convenience of having a horse, or find grass for him; rather a hard alternative for a poor country parson.—The school salary is only 100 merks, and 50 s. arising from a mortification, which, along with perquisites, may amount to about 20 l. *per annum*; a miserable allowance to a man of genius for employing his time and talents in qualifying the rising generation to fill up the vacant stations in society with honour. What a reproach to the people of Scotland, that this most useful class of citizens, in their late attempt for a small augmentation of salary, could not find, among all those who received the early benefit of their instruction, one to support their honest cause! At this rate, the ages of darkness will again commence; and Scotland will, ere long, be as remarkable for wealth and ignorance, as it was formerly for poverty and learning.

*Wages.*—A day-labourer has 1 s.; a taylor has 8 d. *per* day, and his meat; a shoemaker 6 d. for each pair of shoes, and his maintenance. Servant men have from 4 l. 10 s. to 6 l. *per annum*, and servant maids from 2 l. 10 s. to 3 l. It is

is not easy to calculate the earnings of a common labourer, or the expence of his family, for the year. As there are no works of any importance or extent carrying on, they cannot have regular employment. Though, therefore, a labourer has 1 s. *per* day, the amount of his earnings at the year's end may not exceed 9 l. or 10 l. Out of this he must pay a smart rent for the miserable hut which helps to shelter him. He must serve his superior for 12 days. His children, until they are fit for herding, are a dead weight upon him; and his wife can contribute little to the common stock; for she must, in some places, spin so much to the landlady without food or payment; and she must draw money from the poor husband's pocket to purchase half a dozen of hens and eggs, to be given also to the landlady as a present, or rather as a further token of vassalage. Yet, under all these disadvantages, they make shift to bring up a family, or to keep them alive.

*Antiquities.*—In this parish are many fortified eminences, supposed to be Danish forts. These strong holds of the early but uncivilized inhabitants of the country are rude in construction, and narrow in extent. They were reared without lime or mortar of any kind. Stones of enormous weight were dragged from a distance, and up hill; and these stones were all placed lengthways, towards the center of the wall. The dimensions of one of these towers was taken. It is of a circular form, a figure which the situation of the ground compelled them in general to adopt. The diameter is 27 feet, the breadth of the wall 7, and the height 12 feet, as far as can be conjectured from the ruins that lie scattered at the foot of it. Upon the whole, those wretched retreats of barbarity and violence afford a striking proof of the strength and perseverance of the inhabitants at that early  
. period,

period, but none of their taste or genius ; and, when viewed with a philosophic eye, they must excite, by contrast, the most pleasing sensations in the breast of the beholder : For, whether they were built by Danes or Celts, or both, they impress strongly on the mind the violence and wretchedness of the times in which they were constructed ; and must endear to the present race that security and happiness which they enjoy in a period more enlightened, and under a government better regulated.

In the strath of the parish many monuments of death appear, which, in an artless, but striking manner, record the battles of former times. There many grey stones rear their heads in the heath, to mark the graves of fallen heroes. A cluster of these rude obelisks is to be seen quite close to General Campbell's house of Cragnish. This curious collection, the General, with a laudable respect for antiquity, has allowed to stand unmolested. Farther up the valley, towards the mountains, one of more than ordinary size was erected, to distinguish the grave of a warrior, who, as is said, fell there in the pursuit. Some remains of cairns, or heaps of stones, that covered the graves where the ashes of the dead were deposited, are also to be seen. This place is reported by tradition, to have been the scene of a bloody engagement between the Danes and the natives. In this action, Olaus, said to have been a son of the King of Denmark, was slain. Near the field of battle, there is a little mount or tumulus, which is dignified by the name of this hero ; it is called, to this day, *Dunan Aulæ*, or *the Little Mount of Olaus*. There, it seems, he was interred ; and not many years ago, as some workmen were employed in inclosing this spot, they discovered, after removing some loose stones, a grave composed of four flags. Upon inspecting this repository, they found an urn. Imagining they had got a treasure, they broke it ; but



to their great disappointment, they found nothing there but the ashes of Olaus.—General Campbell converted this mount into a family burying place. It is inclosed and planted. On the top of it a neat monument is built; and there the General lately deposited the remains of his only son, a promising youth of 3 or 4 years of age, whose death must have deeply wounded the paternal feelings, as he was given to his parents at an advanced period, and cut off in the blossom of life. Though it is impossible to fix the date of the above battle, it must certainly be very remote, previous, at least, to the conversion of these northern nations to the Christian faith; for the practice of burning the dead, if it was common in these countries, was discontinued upon the establishment of Christianity among them.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—This parish has no peculiar local advantage, but it has one in common with others on the west coast, its convenient situation for the fishing. To overbalance this, it labours under some disadvantages. The fuel, which is peats, is scarce, and of a bad quality. Lime-stone is not easily procured; and though it were, they could not, for the above reason, avail themselves of the advantage to any extent. Besides, by the intervention of the point Kintyre, a commercial intercourse with the low country is rendered very difficult and expensive. To meliorate their condition in all these respects; to promote, at the same time, the prosperity and happiness of the Highlands in general, and to raise its inhabitants to that degree of political importance, which their local advantages might enable them to attain, two things are necessary, an exemption from the coal duty, and a canal at Crinan, to open an expeditious and safe communication with the more improved and opulent parts of the kingdom. To accomplish either of these objects, is no doubt,

a matter of considerable difficulty; but from the liberal policy of this enlightened age, and from that spirit of patriotism which is already so forward to devise and execute plans of public utility, it is reasonable to hope, that neither of them may prove impracticable, if the public attention is once engaged by their importance. To extend the coal tax, to a country circumstanced as the Highlands is, may be considered as a measure, at once grievous and injudicious. In many places there are few or no peats; in others they are at a very inconvenient distance from their habitations; and in all it requires so tedious a process to secure any quantity, that the people, idle as they in general are, seldom provide enough for the season; and the leakiness of the climate often destroys all. This was in a remarkable manner the case in the 1788, when the poor people were obliged, in the middle of winter, to come from many of the islands to the mainland, and carry heather from the tops of the mountains. Thus circumstanced many are compelled, though at a vast expence, to get coal from the low country; and more would provide in the same way, were they able to bear the accumulated expence of freight, duty, and custom-house fees. Indeed the heavy freight would render coal a dear article in the Highlands, independent of duty and custom-house dues; but when these are superadded to the extraordinary expence they must incur from their particular situation, it is a great grievance, especially when an insignificant duty, laid on at the pit, would be more productive, and less felt, and when many methods of commutation might be devised.—But it appears not less injudicious than grievous.—Since the separation of the American colonies, the attention of the nation has been very wisely directed towards the improvement of the natural resources of the country. The unimproved state of the Highlands has, in this view, excited a degree of public spirit that does honour

to

to the heart and understanding of many noble and respectable individuals. Liberal subscriptions have been made; and villages are now a building, for the purpose of introducing arts, manufactures, and industry, into that depressed and neglected corner of the kingdom. But this very patriotic design will, in a great measure, be frustrated, by the scarcity of fuel, or the labour that must be bestowed upon it. The progress of improvement will be checked, for want of proper materials to burn lime; and manufactures, under this particular disadvantage, can never flourish; for it is well known, that meal, at a moderate price, and fuel easily procured, are two things necessary for their encouragement in this country. — A canal across the neck of land, between Crinan and Lochgilphead, would greatly improve the above advantage, by rendering the provision of fuel more certain, and less expensive. And without remarking the benefit that would result from it to the trade of the nation in general, in peace or war, it must appear necessary, in a particular manner, for the encouragement of the fisheries on the western coast; for though this coast is so extensive, and the fishing stations are so numerous, nothing will call forth the exertions of the people, with any degree of vigour or success, but a convenient market. This, in their present situation, they cannot have; they will, therefore, become the prey of a few greedy monopolizers. A few stores supplied with necessaries, and these necessaries charged at double value, will draw into a few hands the profits of the whole business, and the poor people will be compelled to part with the fruit of their labour for half value; besides, that many lives that are lost upon the boisterous Mull of Kintyre might be saved. But the necessity of opening this communication, and the encouragement it would give to trade in the Highlands and Isles, will appear in a strong light, by just remarking the labour and perseverance

rance with which the inhabitants have endeavoured, in time past, to force trade with the low country, in their open Birlins.—Through the sounds, between the islands and main land, they proceed with tolerable security to the coast of Kintyre; but there they are faced by the Irish Channel, and the raging tides on the point of Kintyre: Justly terrified by this prospect, they push into West Loch Tarbert—there they unload their cargo, drag the boat and cargo across the narrow neck, reship their goods on the eastern shore, and proceed to Clyde.

Upon the whole, it is to be hoped, that the generous society, who have already made such exertions to raise the Highlands from its present state of obscurity and insignificance, will make some attempt to accomplish the above important objects. It is also to be hoped, that every enlightened and liberal spirit in the nation, will co-operate in the laudable design. And it would be injurious to suppose, that government, who are appointed for the security and happiness of the people, and whose ends are ultimately served by the encouragement of arts, and improvement in every quarter of the kingdom, would refuse to mitigate the salt and coal grievances, or even deny, in the present flourishing state of affairs, a small contribution towards opening the above communication.

## N U M B E R XLVI. &amp; XLVII.

UNITED PARISHES OF CROSS AND BURNES,  
NESS, in the Isle of Sanday, and of NORTH  
RONALDSHAY.

*(County of Orkney.—Presbytery of North Isles.—Synod  
of Orkney.)*

Including also the PARISH of LADYKIRK, in the  
Isle of Sanday, presently vacant.

*By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM CLOUSTON, Minister of  
Cross, Burness, and North Ronaldshay.*

*Sanday and North Ronaldshay.*

**T**HE extent of the isle of Sanday is 12 miles long, and varies in breadth from one mile, or less in some places, to two or three miles in others. Its form is very irregular; and, by reason of its several extended points and indented bays, resembles a lobster, as Mr Murdoch M'Kenzie says, who is a native of this country, and surveyed these islands 50 years ago. The isle of North Ronaldshay is about two miles long, and one mile broad. Its ancient name is the same with the modern one, as appears from Torfeus, who calls it Rinarfeya.—The island of Sanday is bounded by the sea; separated from the isle of Stronsay, on the south, by a channel of a league broad; from the isle of Eday, on the west, by a channel of half a league; and, on the north, from North Ronaldshay,

Ronaldshay, by a channel from 1 to 2½ leagues.—The isles of Sanday and North Ronaldshay are both of them low and flat, particularly on the east coast; so that they cannot be seen from the sea but at a short distance, which occasions their being so dangerous to shipping. When the spring-tides are high, the sea sometimes meets at one place, and covers the plain, where sheep and cattle formerly pastured; but this happens but rarely. In many places the sea gains upon the land; and, in a few places, the land gains on the sea, by throwing up banks of stones and sand, which serve as ramparts or dykes against its future attacks.

*Traditions.*—Traditions respecting the incroachments of the sea are, 1<sup>st</sup>, That a shoal, 2 miles from the shore, on the north side of the isle of Sanday, called *Rinnabreck*, was formerly land, and a field where they used to play at the football; 2<sup>dly</sup>, That the Bay of Otterwick, (by some thought a corruption of Odens Wick, the Scandinavian deity), on the north side of the isle of Sanday, now of extent a league long, was formerly land, and that it was covered with trees. In support of this tradition, are shown what looks like the decayed roots of trees, along the shore, only to be seen at the lowest ebbs. How far this tradition is to be credited, is uncertain, since Torfeus says of the Orkney islands, *sylvis carent*; but, when he relates the stratagem by which an expelled Count of Orkney, who fled for assistance to Norway, recovered the country from the usurper, he says, large piles of wood were laid in every island, to be set on fire upon the sight of the ships that should return with the expelled Count, thereby to communicate the intelligence more readily to him who was in possession of the Orkneys, and who resided in the largest island, formerly called *Pomona*, now main land. From whence, then, it may be asked, did they get so much wood,

wood, if none grew in the islands, since their intercourse then with woody countries must have been very limited, as these Counts disputed the possession of these islands about the 10th century? If we go as far back as the days of Ossian, we find he says there were woods in these islands; for in his poem of *Carric-thura*, in which he relates Fingal's expedition to assist Cathulla King of Inistore, or Orkneys, he says, a rock bends along the coast, with all its echoing wood. This is perhaps only a poetical licence; but, as he is the Homer of Scotland, if we pay the same regard to the truth of his geographical descriptions, as the Greeks did to those of Homer, his testimony is of some weight. Be this as it may, it is certain there are no trees in any of the Orkney islands at present.

*Soil.*—The soil is almost every where mixed with sand, and, in many places, is entirely sand; and, where this last is the case, it is not cultivated, unless there be plenty of sea-ware to manure it with. 80 Horse loads of sea-ware have been sometimes carried half a mile, to be laid on a piece of sandy ground, which produced but one boll of bear in return. The black earth mixed with sand, and clay mixed with sand, are the best soils. As a great quantity of corn must be paid in-kind to the superior, or Lord Paramount of these islands, the farmers cannot afford to meliorate the soil, by fallowing or by green crops; and therefore it may be thought, that the soil is, in some degree, exhausted; for it is agreed, that this sea-ware does not better the soil beyond the present crop; and, by the accounts of former crops, it appears they were better; at the same time, it is indisputable that farming is now better understood. The soil cannot be called bad, since it has produced bear and oats, in constant succession, past the memory of man, which an English or Lothian farmer would think

think incredible. The foil in the ifle of North Ronaldfhay is alfo fandy, but has a greater mixture of red clay.

*Air.*—The air is rather moift and raw, which, by obftructing the perfpiration, often occasions colds.—The moft prevailing diftempers are colds, colics, cutaneous eruptions, fcorbutic complaints, and rheumatifms, which laft the people generally call the gout: All which probably proceed from cold and wet clothes. There are fome instances of the fcrophula, or King's evil, and 2 or 3 perfons afflicted with the white fwelling. Fevers fometimes prevail; and, when they feize one perfon in a houfe, they often affect the whole family. Relapses are frequent, as they are not at pains to wafh the bed-clothes when they have recovered.—The fea coasts of the ifle of Sanday may be about 12 leagues or more; that of North Ronaldfhay 2 or 3 leagues. The fhore is generally flat and fandy in both iflands, efpecially on the eaft coasts.

*Fifh.*—The fifh caught are cod, ling, skate, holybut;—but the fifh moft generally caught, and the moft ufeful, is a grey fifh here called cuths, of the fize of fmall haddocks, and is the fame with what on the fouth coaft is called podley, only the cuth is of a larger fize. The inhabitants eat them; and they produce oil for houfehold ufe. No fifh of any kind, or oil are exported to any foreign market; the people being employed in making kelp during the fummer feafon, have not time for fifhing. Lobfters are caught, and brought to the London market by fmacks; but none of the people of thefe two iflands are employed in catching them, for the reafon already mentioned. The forefaid grey fifh are caught from the middle of fummer, to the beginning of fpring. The feal frequents thefe fhores, but not in great number. The otter



is sometimes, but rarely caught. A variety of sea plants are thrown ashore by storms. Sponges are found.—Not many shells or corals. Cockles are found in two places only, and in still water.—No oysters. In the isle of North Ronaldshay they catch seals in nets; but they alledge the light-house lately erected there frightens them from their coasts. The people there have been in use to eat the young and tender ones.

*Manure.*—The general manure in these islands is the sea-weed or ware, which is driven ashore in storms, so that the farmer anxiously waits for a gale of wind from that quarter of the compass that will supply him with it, and as these islands receive it from every quarter, if the gale is strong enough to break it away from the deeps of the ocean where it grows, it always supplies some place: but the tides often carry it away from the shore, so that when it comes, every other work is suspended, until it be carried from the reach of the sea, which necessarily occasions the farmers keeping a greater number of servants and horses than they would otherwise do, for if the sandy grounds are not well manured with this they give no crop. In the West India islands where they use this sea-weed, or varech, (as it is there called), they suppose that the sugars therewith produced, are of inferior quality to those produced from other manures, so likewise, the corns raised by it here, are of inferior quality to those raised by compost manures, at least the boll weighs less, although the quantity produced from an acre is more than the produce of an acre done with compost manure.

*Kelp.*—It is about 70 years since kelp was first made here. The quantity at first was inconsiderable, and the price low. For 30 years past it has been the staple commodity of these islands,

iflands, and by the fuperior fkill in making it, the quantity is doubled. Forty years ago the price it gave at market was 40 or 50 s. *per* ton; but for 20 years paff, it has given from 5 l. to 7 l. or even 8 l. a ton, which has greatly ftimulated the induftry of the people to make it. It was thought formerly that only the tang which grows on the rocks could be made into kelp; but within thefe 20 years it is found, that fea plants of whatever kind can be made into kelp, and of equal quality, as well as more abundant quantity, than the other, provided the falts are not wafhed away by rain, for great rains render it ufelefs, or, if burnt, produces but little, and bad kelp.

There is no ifland in the Orkneys of the fame extent of fea coaft, that produces equal quantity with the ifle of Sanday. It generally produces one-fourth or one-fifth of the whole kelp made in all the Orkney iflands; fo that when 2500 tons are made in all the Orkneys, 500 or 600 tons of that is made in Sanday. Highland kelp is preferred at Liverpool; but at Newcastle, and on the eaft coaft of England, the Orkney kelp is preferred, efpecially by the manufacturers of crown glafs. The alkaline falts are what conftitute the value of this commodity; and chemifts fay, thofe contained in kelp are of the moft impure kind, and not equal to the barilla from Spain, produced from the herb *cali*, and therefore kelp fells for one-fifth of the price of barilla—620 tons have been made in Sanday one feafon; but the ufual or average quantity may be from 500 to 550 tons.—120 tons has been made in the ifle of North Ronaldfhay; but from 90 to 100 tons may be about the average quantity. The value of eftates has been fo raifed by this commodity, that an eftate which 70 years ago was not worth 40 l. Sterling a-year, is now worth 300 l. yearly.

*Tides and Shoals.*—The tide of flood sets eastward, and that of ebb westward, with some variation occasioned by the resistance it meets with either from shoals or head-lands. Its velocity on the west end of Sanday is 6 miles in the hour. There is a tide sets on the north side of Sanday, 14 days in one direction. The shoal of Rinnabreck on the north side of Sanday is two miles from the shore; and tradition says it was formerly united to the island, and that the people used to play at the foot ball on it. It has been long an opinion, that a light-house might be of service on the east coast of these islands; and the trustees, by order from government, have at last erected one, two years ago, on the north-east point of the isle of North Ronaldshay, of the height of 70 feet. By the report of some captains, they have already been benefited by it. Some are of opinion, it might have been of more service on the Start, or east point of Sanday. Time will show if it diminishes the number of wrecks; for in time past, these islands have been as fatal to shipping, as the isle of Providence, and others of the Bahama islands in the West Indian Archipelago\*.

*Harbours.*

\* That a light house was necessary will best appear from the following list of shipping wrecked for the last 18 years, with the supposed value of ship and cargo. Some of the names are not recollected, but that is not material if we can ascertain the value nearly.

Year

*Harbours.*—The two principal harbours in the isle of Sanday are, Kettletofit on the fouth side, and Otterfwick on the north side, both pretty safe, and of sufficient depth of water, and

| Year when wreck'd. | Captain's name. | Cargo.       | Place from whence the cargo came. | Place to which bound. | Nation to which belonging. | Tonnage | Supposed value of ship & cargo. Sterling. |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1773               | Burns           | Linen yarn   | Bremen                            | Liverpool             | Britain                    | 200     | L. 25,000                                 |
| 1773               | Smith           | Ditto        | Ditto                             | Ditto                 | Britain                    | 250     | 25,000                                    |
| 1774               |                 |              | Hull                              | Greenland             | Britain                    | 350     | 5000                                      |
| 1774               | Spirling        |              |                                   | Glasgow               | Britain                    | 70      | 500                                       |
| 1778               | De Lewes        |              | Holland                           | Greenland             | Holland.                   | 350     | 5000                                      |
| 1778               | Potts           | Hemp         | Petersburgh                       | Maryport              | Britain                    | 200     | 4000                                      |
| 1778               | Tromp           |              | Amsterdam                         | Greenland             | Holland                    | 350     | 5000                                      |
| 1779               | Curwin          | Hemp         | Petersburgh                       | Whitehaven            | Britain                    | 120     | 1500                                      |
| 1779               | Caffon          | Ditto        | Ditto                             | Ditto                 | Britain                    | 120     | 1500                                      |
| 1782               | Braft           | Sundries     | Copenhagen                        | Santa Cruz            | Denmark                    | 450     | 12,000                                    |
| 1784               | Huntly          | Logs & deals | Baltic                            | Liverpool             | Britain                    | 800     | 4000                                      |
| 1786               | Gollie          | Deals        | Gottenburg.                       | Liverpool             | Britain                    | 120     | 1500                                      |
| 1787               | Dewes           | Sundries     | Copenhagen                        | Santa Cruz            | Denmark                    | 500     | 8000                                      |
| 1787               | Wetheral        | Deals        | Christiana                        | Liverpool             | Britain                    | 200     | 1500                                      |
| 1788               | Paterfon        |              | London                            | Greenland             | Britain                    | 400     | 6000                                      |
| 1788               | Clingenberg     | Logs, slaves | Dantzick                          | Liverpool             | Dantzick                   | 400     | 4000                                      |
|                    |                 |              |                                   |                       |                            | 4880    | L. 109,500                                |

and good anchoring ground. There are several neffes or points, as may be seen by Mr Murdoch M'Kenzie's map. The most remarkable are Spurnefs, on the south-west; Elfnefs, Beanefs, and Trefsnefs, on the south; the Start and Toftnefs on the east, and the Holmes of Eyre on the north fide. The two anchoring places in the ifle of North Ronaldshay

|                              | <i>Tons.</i> | <i>Sterling.</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Of the above Britain loft, - | 2830         | L. 75,500        |
| Holland loft, -              | 700          | 10,000           |
| Denmark loft, -              | 950          | 20,000           |
| Dantzick loft, -             | 400          | 4000             |
|                              | 4880         | L. 109,500       |

Thus it appears, that from 1773, to the present 1790, both inclusive, that is 18 years, there have been wrecked on these iflands 2830 tons British, value 75,500 l.—700 tons Dutch, value 10,000 l.—950 tons Danish, value 20,000 l.—and 400 tons Dantzick property, value 4000 l.—In all nearly 5000 tons, and above 100,000 l. value. It is true, that many of these veffels were got off and repaired, and the cargoes partly faved; but when the expence attending this is confidered, and the check it gives to the fpirit of commerce, and the low prices the damaged goods bring, it is affirmed by fome, that it would be for the intereft of the concerns if the whole was totally wrecked. If account had been kept of the wrecks in former years, it would, it is believed, have equalled the above in the number, and furpaffed it in the value loft. In 1740, the *Suzæcia* East Indiaman of Sweden, was totally loft on the fhool of Reep-dyke, on the east fide of North Ronaldshay. Her cargo was fuppofed to be the moft valuable ever fhipped for Sweden, and, it is faid, coft at Bengal 150,000 l. Sterling; in confequence of which lofs, the affairs of the Swedish East India Company were greatly embarraffed. I think it was about the year 1760, the *Crown Prince* of Denmark, East Indiaman, outward bound, was wrecked on North Ronaldshay, with 60 chefts of filver aboard. The money was faved. If the cargo of the *Suzæcia* East Indiaman was eftimated at its value in Europe, it would appear, that there has been wrecked on these two iflands, even within half a century, property to the amount of at leaft half a million Sterling. The interefts of commerce therefore required, that the government fhould, as they have now done, erect a light-houfe on one of these iflands.

fhay are, Linklets Bay on the east, and Stromnefs Bay on the fouth, neither of them perfectly safe. Its neffes or points are, Stromnefs and Twignefs on the fouth; Bridefnefs on the east, and Dennifnefs on the north-east. The Seal Skerry, (fo called from its being the refort of feals), lies on the north fide.

*Rocks.*—The highest grounds may be 500 feet above the fea. The uncultivated grounds are covered with a fhort heath. At the extremity of the ifle of Sanday, to the westward, on the fhore, for about 200 feet, is a ridge of rocks fhelving to the fea, which appears as if it had been once in a liquid ftate, or calcined by fire. There is no tradition concerning it; but it is worthy of remark, that it bears the name of Heclabir, which name it probably has retained fince the Danes poffeffed thefe iflands three centuries ago. Whether it has got this name from them, on account of its appearance being fimilar to any thing produced by the eruptions of Hecla in Iceland, the learned can beft determine, from the etymology of the word *bir*. There are no appearances around it which indicate a volcano, unlefs the ocean has covered its effects.

There is no marble or moor-ftone. There is free-ftone at the west end of Sanday, where the coaft bears a refemblance to the ifle of Eday, from which it is difjoined by a narrow channel, and which is entirely founded on free-ftone. The furface alfo is fimilar, and the extended point of the one ifland, in fome meafure corresponds to the indented bay on the other. The foil of the north-east end of Sanday, alfo bears a refemblance to that of North Ronaldfhay, from which it is feparated. There are fome flates of inferior quality. For the beft houfes, Eafdale flates are ufed.—There are no mines of any kind.

*Encroach*

*Encroachments.*—It sometimes happens, that in the high spring tides in the month of March and April, when there is a storm, the sea forces itself through a sandy bay on the south side, and spreads over a low plain, which is not above 3 feet above the level of the sea, and is as smooth as the famous plain of Runnamede, near Staines, and much resembles it, except that it has not the same rising grounds around it. If the sea disjoins this island, it must be here. The report already mentioned, of the largest bay in the island having been once a wood, and that the shoal of Rennabreck, was once a part of the isle of Sanday, is all that tradition hands down, and assigns no period when it happened. If the sea gains so much on St. Mark at Venice; if the Goodwin Sands were once land; if the Roman fleet used to anchor on the coast of Italy, where cultivated lands now are, we may readily believe, that the land and sea encroach on each other, in an island like Sanday, so low on the east coast; as it is observed that bays are more frequently formed on the east coast, by reason of the earth's motion eastward, in consequence of which the waters are protruded with more violence.

*Phenomena.*—There are seldom any remarkable phenomena in the air. When the last fire happened at Bergen<sup>y</sup> in Norway, there was an unusual redness discovered in the horizon, approaching to flame, about east by north from this island; and afterwards it was found to have been precisely at the time the fire was there. Bergen lies east, or east by north from this island. In 1766, when there were great eruptions from Hecla in Iceland, there appeared sometimes a small dust or ashes floating in the air, which some imagined might have been from it.

*Animals.*

*Animals.*—The quadrupeds are fuch as are common; horfes, bulls, cows, fheep, fwine, and rabbits.—The domeftic birds are geefe, hens, and ducks.—The wild fea fowl, foland geefe, fea gulls, auks, and a great variety of ducks. Swans refort here in winter, and go northward in fpring.—Wild land fowl are, eagles, ravens, crows, hawks, pigeons, and other common birds. A fmall bird, rather lefs than a fparrow, reforts here in winter, fupposed to be the fame with what is by fome called the Emprefs's bird in Ruffia, and is called by the people here oat-fowls, becaufe they prey on the oats. Some who have eat both kinds fay, this bird is equally delicate eating as the ortolan. Grey plovers are here in great numbers in winter. The lapwing comes in February; and hatches here in fummer. Thefe iflands are not remarkable for breeding cattle of any fingular qualities or value.

*Population.*—The population, either in the charge of Crofskirk, or in that of Ladykirk, cannot be precifely afcertained preceding 1787. Subjoined is the population then and at prefent, as follows :

In 1755, the numbers in Crofskirk charge were rated at 1250.

|                                                     |   |   |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| In April 1787, in Crofskirk parifh,                 | - | - | 581   |
| _____ in Burnefs parifh,                            | - | - | 388   |
| _____ in the ifle of North Ronaldfhay,              | - |   | 384   |
|                                                     |   |   | _____ |
| Total in the 3 united parifhes of Crofskirk charge, |   |   | 1353  |
| In April 1791, in Crofskirk parifh,                 | - | - | 579   |
| _____ in Burnefs parifh,                            | - | - | 390   |
| _____ in the ifle of North Ronaldfhay,              | - |   | 420   |
|                                                     |   |   | _____ |
| Total in the 3 united parifhes of Crofskirk charge, |   |   | 1389  |

By



By the above statement of the population, in the 3 united parishes of Crofskirk charge, it appears, that the population in the two parishes of this charge, which lie in the isle of Sanday, were precisely equal, at the two above mentioned periods, the one parish having increased two, and the other decreased two. In the isle of North Ronaldshay, the increase is 36; but from this we ought to deduct for a family of 9 persons, brought there to the light-house, and then there remains 27 increase from the inhabitants. This increase is probably owing to a greater number of marriages there of late years, than is usually at an average, and consequently a greater number of births.

*Population in Ladykirk Parish, now vacant.*

|                                                                                                                           |             |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| In 1755, the numbers were                                                                                                 | " - - - - - | 750 |
| In August 1787, by an exact enumeration, taken by the late incumbent's assistant, the number of souls in this parish were | - - - - -   | 803 |

If it is wished to have the population of these islands separately, it only remains to state them from the above thus:

April 26. 1791. The number of souls in Crofskirk parish were - - - - - 579

April 28. 1791. The number of souls in Burnefs parish, 390

August 1787. The number of souls in Ladykirk parish, which is now vacant, were 803; and as the above two parishes are precisely the same as they were in 1787, we may suppose they are nearly the same in this parish; say then in Ladykirk parish, which is vacant, - - - - - 803

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Total number of souls in the isle of Sanday, 1772  
Brought

*of Crofs, Burnefs, &c.* 463

Brought over, 1772

April 1792. In the ifle of North Ronaldfhay, the number of fouls were - - - - 420

Total number of fouls in both iflands, 2192

By Mr M'Kenzie's map, the ifle of Sanday contains 19 fquare miles, and, as there are 1772 perfons in it, this is  $93\frac{2}{7}$  perfons to a fquare mile. If the proportion of the feveral parifhes be wanted feperately, it is thus :

Crofskirk parifh, 7 fquare miles and 579 perfons, is  $82\frac{1}{7}$  to a fquare mile.

Burnefs parifh, 4 fquare miles and 390 perfons, is  $92\frac{3}{4}$  to a fquare mile.

Ladykirk parifh, 8 fquare miles and 803 perfons, is  $100\frac{3}{8}$  to a fquare mile.

Ifle of North Ronaldfhay, 4 fquare miles and 420 perfons, is 105 to a fquare mile.

By this it appears, that the ifle of North Ronaldfhay has the greateft number of perfons to a fquare mile, which confirms the fuppoftion ufually made here, that this ifland is well peopled for its extent.

Subjoined is the number of Males and Females in the charge of Crofskirk at two periods :

|                                    | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| April 1787, in Crofskirk parifh, - | 256           | 325         |
| _____ in Burnefs parifh, -         | 170           | 218         |
| _____ in ifle of North Ronaldfhay, | 185           | 199         |
|                                    | <hr/>         | <hr/>       |
| Total in the 3 united parifhes,    | 611           | 742         |

*Males.*

|                                    | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| April 1791, in Crofskirk parish, - | 264           | 315         |
| ———— in Burnefs parish, -          | 172           | 218         |
| ———— in ifle of North Ronaldfhay,  | 211           | 209         |
|                                    | <hr/>         | <hr/>       |
| Total in the 3 united parifhes,    | 647           | 742         |

*la c.*

Ladykirk parish, now vacant.

|                                                                                    | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| August 1787, there were in Ladykirk parish,                                        | 393           | 410         |
| As this charge is vacant, the precise population at present cannot be ascertained. |               |             |

By the above it appears, that the proportion of males to females, in the several parishes, is as follows :

In Crofskirk parish, April 1787, as  $5\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{5}$  males to  $7\frac{1}{4}\frac{0}{5}$  females.

In ditto, April 1791, as  $5\frac{1}{4}\frac{0}{5}$  males to 7 females.

In Burnefs parish, April 1787, as  $4\frac{1}{4}\frac{0}{5}$  males to  $5\frac{1}{4}\frac{8}{5}$  females.

In ditto, April 1791, as  $4\frac{1}{4}\frac{2}{5}$  males to  $5\frac{1}{4}\frac{8}{5}$  females.

In ifle of North Ronaldfhay, April 1787, as  $4\frac{2}{4}\frac{5}{5}$  males to  $4\frac{1}{4}\frac{0}{5}$  females.

In ditto, April 1791, as  $5\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{5}$  males to  $4\frac{0}{4}\frac{0}{5}$  females.

The whole population of the 3 united parishes of this charge when taken together, were, in April 1787, as  $15\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{5}$  males to  $18\frac{2}{4}\frac{2}{5}$  females.

Ditto, in April 1791, as  $16\frac{7}{4}\frac{0}{5}$  males to  $18\frac{2}{4}\frac{2}{5}$  females.

It must strike the attention of the reader, that the males in the ifle of North Ronaldfhay bear a much greater proportion to the females, than in the two other parishes of this charge; and, in April 1791, are nearly equal. The reason of this may be, that the young men of that ifland have not the same inclination for going abroad as those in the ifle of Sanday have, from a notion they entertain, that those that leave the  
ifland

ifland are feldom fortunate.—The following tables contain a farther view of the population of thefe iflands.

List of the Births in the parifh of Crofskirk for two periods of 19 years each.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> | <i>Males more than Fem.</i> | <i>Fem. more than Males.</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1748,         | 22            | 17          | 5                           | 0                            | 39           |
| 1749,         | 22            | 14          | 8                           | 0                            | 36           |
| 1750,         | 28            | 16          | 12                          | 0                            | 44           |
| 1751,         | 14            | 15          | 0                           | 1                            | 29           |
| 1752,         | 12            | 15          | 0                           | 3                            | 27           |
| 1753,         | 16            | 22          | 0                           | 6                            | 38           |
| 1754,         | 23            | 19          | 4                           | 0                            | 42           |
| 1755,         | 19            | 15          | 4                           | 0                            | 34           |
| 1756,         | 12            | 20          | 0                           | 8                            | 32           |
| 1757,         | 20            | 19          | 1                           | 0                            | 39           |
| 1758,         | 22            | 17          | 5                           | 0                            | 39           |
| 1759,         | 23            | 21          | 2                           | 0                            | 44           |
| 1760,         | 20            | 13          | 7                           | 0                            | 33           |
| 1761,         | 24            | 15          | 9                           | 0                            | 39           |
| 1762,         | 14            | 13          | 1                           | 0                            | 27           |
| 1763,         | 20            | 21          | 0                           | 1                            | 41           |
| 1764,         | 19            | 17          | 2                           | 0                            | 36           |
| 1765,         | 16            | 15          | 1                           | 0                            | 31           |
| 1766,         | 14            | 14          | 0                           | 0                            | 28           |
|               | 360           | 318         | 61                          | 19                           | 678          |

The above are the births for 19 years, from 1748 to 1766 inclusive. The yearly average of males is  $18\frac{8}{9}$ . The yearly average of females  $16\frac{4}{9}$ . The yearly average of both  $35\frac{1}{9}$ . The proportion of males to females as  $7\frac{6}{8}$  to 9, fay as 9 males to  $7\frac{6}{8}$  females.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> | <i>Males more<br/>than Fem.</i> | <i>Fem. more<br/>than Males.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1771,         | 14            | 17          | 0                               | 3                                | 31            |
| 1772,         | 13            | 13          | 0                               | 0                                | 26            |
| 1773,         | 21            | 13          | 8                               | 0                                | 34            |
| 1774,         | 19            | 20          | 0                               | 1                                | 39            |
| 1775,         | 8             | 18          | 0                               | 10                               | 26            |
| 1776,         | 16            | 15          | 1                               | 0                                | 31            |
| 1777,         | 27            | 15          | 12                              | 0                                | 42            |
| 1778,         | 14            | 14          | 0                               | 0                                | 28            |
| 1779,         | 15            | 18          | 0                               | 3                                | 33            |
| 1780,         | 21            | 19          | 2                               | 0                                | 40            |
| 1781,         | 21            | 18          | 3                               | 0                                | 39            |
| 1782,         | 25            | 21          | 4                               | 0                                | 46            |
| 1783,         | 23            | 19          | 4                               | 0                                | 42            |
| 1784,         | 10            | 16          | 0                               | 6                                | 26            |
| 1785,         | 25            | 18          | 7                               | 0                                | 43            |
| 1786,         | 17            | 16          | 1                               | 0                                | 33            |
| 1787,         | 20            | 26          | 0                               | 6                                | 46            |
| 1788,         | 22            | 15          | 7                               | 0                                | 37            |
| 1789,         | 19            | 23          | 0                               | 4                                | 42            |
|               | <hr/> 350     | <hr/> 334   | <hr/> 49                        | <hr/> 33                         | <hr/> 684     |

In this period of 19 years, from 1771 to 1789 inclusive, the yearly average of males is  $18\frac{8}{19}$ . The yearly average of females  $17\frac{11}{19}$ . The yearly average of both 36. The proportion of males to females as 23, say 23 males to 22 females. These are the births in the united parishes of Crofs, Burnefs, and North Ronaldfhay, the population of which is 1353; fo that the births are to the population as 1 to  $37\frac{2}{3}$ .

By the foregoing statement, it appears that the population can fcarcely be fupported, although there are few that emigrate;

grate; and there are no ravages from any uncommon disorders. If, in Pennsylvania, the population is doubled in 25, 20, or even 15 years, according to Dr Franklin; if, even in Martinico in 1766, according to Raynal, the births were as 1 to 30 whites, and as 1 to 25 negroes, we might wish to know what reasons can be assigned for the inferior proportion of births in a free and commercial empire; the learned and philosophical will say, that the south is more favourable to population, and the means of subsistence more easily procured. But may we not suppose, that great inequality of property, and accumulated taxes, are unfriendly to population. Perhaps the want of fuel in these islands is a particular reason; as Lord Kaimes supposes, that warm lodgings are necessary to promote population, which the poor of these islands have not.

The number of marriages for the first period of 19 years, that is, from 1748 to 1766 inclusive, is 179, which is, at an average,  $9\frac{2}{7}$  yearly.—The number of marriages for the second period of 19, that is, from 1771 to 1789, both inclusive, is 170, which is, at an average,  $8\frac{2}{7}$  yearly. It is to be remembered, that births and marriages are computed only for the charge of Crofs, Burnefs, and North Ronaldshay, the population of which is 1353.—The number of farmers in the isle of Sanday is 47. The number of farmers in the isle of North Ronaldshay is 44. It must strike the attention of the reader, that, in such a small isle as North Ronaldshay, there should be nearly an equal number of farms as in Sanday, although neither its extent or population is above a fourth part of the isle of Sanday. The largest farms in this country are in the island of Sanday; and all North Ronaldshay is parcelled out in small farms.

List of Baptisms and Marriages in Ladykirk parish, now vacant.

| Years. | Baptisms. |          |        | Marriages. |
|--------|-----------|----------|--------|------------|
|        | Males.    | Females. | Total. |            |
| 1779,  | 12        | 16       | 28     | 5          |
| 1780,  | 20        | 12       | 32     | 7          |
| 1781,  | 17        | 22       | 39     | 4          |
| 1782,  | 15        | 13       | 28     | 6          |
| 1783,  | 15        | 20       | 35     | 2          |
| 1784,  | 8         | 11       | 19     | 6          |
| 1785,  | 16        | 7        | 23     | 3          |
| 1786,  | 24        | 11       | 35     | 2          |
| 1787,  | 15        | 13       | 28     | 4          |
| 1788,  | 12        | 7        | 19     | 5          |
| 1789,  | 15        | 17       | 32     | 5          |
| 1790,  | 15        | 14       | 29     | 12         |
|        | <hr/>     | <hr/>    | <hr/>  | <hr/>      |
|        | 184       | 163      | 347    | 61         |

By this list it appears, that the average of baptisms in this parish, for the above 12 years, is nearly 29, or  $28\frac{1}{2}$  baptisms yearly; and, that the males baptised are, to the females baptised, nearly in the proportion of 9 to 8, or as  $9\frac{4}{8}$  males to  $8\frac{1}{8}$  females. The average of marriages nearly 5 each year, or  $5\frac{1}{2}$  yearly.

The number of Farmers in both these islands is as follows:

In Crofskirk charge.

|                                                                                                                                                    |   |   |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| In Crofskirk parish, in the isle of Sanday,                                                                                                        | - | - | 18    |
| In Burness parish, in the isle of Sanday,                                                                                                          | - | - | 15    |
| In the isle of North Ronaldshay there are only 43 farmers that keep a plough each; but there are 10 or 12 more that cultivate a little ground, say | . | . | 43    |
|                                                                                                                                                    |   |   | <hr/> |

Total number of farmers in the 3 parishes of Crofskirk charge - - - - - 76  
The

|                                                           |               |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----|
|                                                           | Brought over, | 76  |
| The number of farmers in Ladykirk parifh,                 | -             | 24  |
| <hr/>                                                     |               |     |
| Total number of farmers in both charges and both iflands, | - - - - -     | 100 |

|                                         | <i>Retailers.</i> | <i>Weavers.</i> | <i>Tailors.</i> | <i>Shoemakers.</i> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| In Crofskirk parifh,                    | 2                 | 6               | 3               | 1                  |
| In Burnefs parifh,                      | 0                 | 6               | 2               | 0                  |
| In ifle of North Ronaldfhay, - -        | 0                 | 5               | 4               | 0                  |
| <hr/>                                   |                   | <hr/>           | <hr/>           | <hr/>              |
| Total in Crofskirk charge, - -          | 2                 | 17              | 9               | 1                  |
| In Ladykirk parifh,                     | 1                 | 7               | 4               | 1                  |
| <hr/>                                   |                   | <hr/>           | <hr/>           | <hr/>              |
| Total in both charges and both iflands, | 3                 | 24              | 13              | 2                  |

There are a few uninhabited houfes; but others have been alfo built, fo that they are nearly the fame as they were 4 years ago, in the parifhes of Crofskirk and Burnefs. In the ifle of North Ronaldfhay, the houfes have increafed as well as the inhabitants.

Crofskirk charge.

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of houfes in April 1787 in Crofskirk parifh, | 118 |
| <hr/> in Burnefs parifh,                            | 77  |
| <hr/> in ifle of North Ronaldfhay, - - - - -        | 61  |
| <hr/>                                               |     |
| Total                                               | 256 |
| Number of houfes in April 1791 in Crofskirk parifh, | 115 |
| <hr/> in Burnefs parifh,                            | 79  |
| <hr/> in ifle of North Ronaldfhay, - - - - -        | 64  |
| <hr/>                                               |     |
| Total                                               | 258 |
|                                                     | By  |



By this it appears there has been an increase of 5 houses in Burness parish, and the isle of North Ronaldshay, from April 1787 to April 1791; and that there has been a decrease of 3 houses in Crofskirk parish, which makes the increase on the whole only 2.

The number of houses in Ladykirk parish, when last numbered by the last incumbent's assistant in August 1787, were 155. They have probably increased 4 or 5 since that time.

By this it appears, that the proportion of persons to a house is little more than 5 to each house, or family, in all the other parishes except North Ronaldshay, where the population has been increasing; and there they are rather more than 6 to a house or family. If it is wished to ascertain the exact proportion in each of the parishes, it is as follows:

|                                              | <i>Houses.</i> | <i>Souls.</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| April 1791, in Crofskirk parish, -           | 115            | 579           |
| This is $5\frac{4}{7}$ persons to a house.   |                |               |
| April 1791, in Burness parish, -             | 79             | 390           |
| This is $4\frac{7}{9}$ persons to a house.   |                |               |
| April 1791, in isle of North Ronaldshay,     | 64             | 420           |
| This is $6\frac{3}{8}$ persons to a house.   |                |               |
| Total in Crofskirk charge                    | 258            | 1389          |
| August 1787, in Ladykirk parish, -           | 155            | 803           |
| This is $5\frac{10}{17}$ persons to a house. |                |               |
| Total in both islands and both charges,      | 413            | 2192          |

*Vegetable Productions and Cattle.*—The two islands of Sunday and North Ronaldshay, in which these two ministers charges lie, produce bear, or bigg, and small black oats, potatoes, cabbages, turnips, but no wheat or rye; of garden stuffs, onions, carrots, parsnip, and fallad stuffs. There are no trees of any kind in these islands. Berry-bushes may grow, but do not succeed well.—The number of horses, horned

Horned cattle, great and small, ſheep, and ſwine, in theſe pariſhes, has been collected from the ſeveral tenants, and the moſt intelligent farmers, with as much preciſion and accuracy as poſſible. But, before proceeding to give the liſt of them, it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that, if any calculation ſhould be made of the value of them, as they are all of a ſmall ſize, it is to be obſerved, that to eſtimate the horſes at 3 l. each, horned cattle, great and ſmall, at 1 l. or 1 l. 5 s. ſheep at 2 s. 6 d. each, is a high computation. It will appear there are a great number of horſes, which muſt be kept for the purpoſe of carrying the ſea-ware, which they do by two wooden creels, which are ſquare and ribbed, and one placed on each ſide of the horſe, the bottom of which opens, ſo as to let the ware upon the ground it is intended to manure. Oxen are uſed only for carts, and few or none for ploughing.

|                                                      | <i>Horſes.</i> | <i>Horned Cattle.</i> | <i>Sheep.</i> | <i>Swine.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| In Crofskirk pariſh,                                 | 265            | 448                   | 852           | 81            |
| In Burnefs pariſh,                                   | 211            | 235                   | 1100          | 36            |
| In Ladykirk pariſh, now<br>vacant, - - -             | 380            | 631                   | 2259          | 18            |
| <b>Total in the iſle of Sanday,</b>                  | <b>856</b>     | <b>1314</b>           | <b>4211</b>   | <b>135</b>    |
| In the iſle of North Ro-<br>naldſhay, - - -          | 249            | 256                   | 1900          | 2             |
| <b>Total in both iſlands and<br/>both charges, -</b> | <b>1105</b>    | <b>1570</b>           | <b>6111</b>   | <b>137</b>    |

It is neceſſary to obſerve, that all the foregoing ſtocking is not the property of the tenants, at leaſt in the iſle of Sanday. On ſome of the farms, a great part of the ſtocking belongs to the proprietor of the farm, and is valued and delivered

livered to the successive tenants, who must deliver, on leaving it, the like value. In the isle of North Ronaldshay, the stocking entirely belongs to the tenants. The stocking in Sanday, belonging to the proprietor of the ground, is called *steelbow*.

*Measurement and Culture.*—The only map of these islands is that done by Mr Murdoch M'Kenzie, who surveyed them in 1746 or 1747. As his principal intention was to survey the sea-coasts, the area, or true extent of the surface of these islands cannot, perhaps, be exactly ascertained, by reason, too, of the very irregular figure of the isle of Sanday. But as Mr M'Kenzie makes the length of the isle of Sanday to be 12 miles, and its mean breadth nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, this is 18 square miles; and, by the most exact measurement of his map, made by the assistance of Mr John Trail of Burness parish, the island of Sanday contains 19 square miles; and the isle of North Ronaldshay 4 square miles. If then the isle of Sanday contains 19 square miles, and as 640 acres English measure make a square mile, then  $640 \times 19 = 12,160$  acres, in the isle of Sanday. If the isle of North Ronaldshay contains 4 square miles, then  $4 \times 640 = 2560$ .—The quantity of acres employed in raising corn, roots, &c. cannot be ascertained with any degree of precision, as there is no survey or measurement taken of the several farms, one or two excepted. The number of acres employed in raising cabbages, turnips, or potatoes, is very small, when compared with what is employed in raising bear or bigg, and oats, which two last are generally in equal quantities, and they alternately succeed each other. In the opinion of the most intelligent farmers here, the arable grounds may be computed at from 11 to 22 acres to each plough in the island of Sanday. As the farms are small, and many ploughs kept in the isle of North Ronaldshay, it is supposed there is not more than 8 or 9 acres to a plough.

plough. If then we compute upon this average of 12 acres in Sanday, and 8 acres in North Ronaldshay to a plough, it will be in the several parishes thus—

|                                                                      | <i>Ploughs.</i> | <i>Arable acres.</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| In Crofskirk parish in the ifle of Sanday, - - -                     | 41              | 492                  |
| In Burnefs parish in the ifle of Sanday, - - -                       | 24              | 288                  |
| In Ladykirk parish which is now vacant, - - -                        | 50              | 600                  |
|                                                                      | <hr/>           | <hr/>                |
| Total number of ploughs and acres fupposed in the ifle of Sanday,    | 115             | 1380                 |
| In the ifle of North Ronaldshay,                                     | 43              | 344                  |
|                                                                      | <hr/>           | <hr/>                |
| Total ploughs and arable acres fupposed to be in both iflands, - - - | 158             | 1724                 |

The ploughs univerfally ufed in thefe iflands is a fmall fingle-handed plough, perhaps not unlike the ancient Greek plough, and is very well futed to a light foil, and breaks the ground very well.

There are no waggons in thefe iflands.—The number of carts is as follows :

|                                                                                      | <i>Carts.</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| In Crofskirk parish in the ifle of Sanday, - - -                                     | 14            |
| In Burnefs parish in the ifle of Sanday, united to Crofskirk, - - -                  | 8             |
| In Ladykirk parish in the ifle of Sanday, which is vacant, - - -                     | 15            |
|                                                                                      | <hr/>         |
| Total number of carts in the ifle of Sanday, in both minifters charges, - - -        | 37            |
| In the ifland of North Ronaldshay, which is united to the charge of Crofskirk, - - - | 1             |
|                                                                                      | <hr/>         |
| Total number of carts in both iflands of Sanday and North Ronaldshay, - - -          | 38            |
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|                                                                                      | The           |

The arable grounds are sown with bear and oats alternately, and in equal quantities to each, in the isle of Sanday. In the isle of North Ronaldshay two-thirds of the arable grounds are sown with bear, and one-third with oats. Each house has a small cabbage garden, for rearing from 400 to 1500 or 2000 cabbages, but there are no cabbages in the fields. These islands usually raise more grain than is sufficient for the inhabitants, and also supply themselves with beef, pork, mutton, and poultry. There is usually some bear or bigg, and some oatmeal exported from these islands, except in years of famine or great scarcity. After paying to Sir Thomas Dundas, as superior, about 30 or 32 chalders bear, and a little oatmeal, as feu-duties, there is usually exported from the isle of Sanday one or two small cargoes of 50 or 60 tons each, or from 400 to 800 bolls bear, besides what is sold in lesser quantities by the small farmers, which cannot be ascertained, but is not considerable. This island also exports or sells usually from 300 to 500 bolls oatmeal annually. After paying  $4\frac{1}{2}$  or 5 chalders bear to Sir Thomas Dundas as superior, and also to the proprietor 13 chalders or more as rent, from the isle of North Ronaldshay, the farmers there sell some bear and meal in small quantities, which cannot be ascertained, but is not considerable.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages of these islands are, 1<sup>st</sup>, That as they are dry and level, the roads are never obstructed, even by the greatest rains. 2<sup>dly</sup>, The isle of Sanday has two pretty good harbours, that of Kettletoft on the south side, and that of Otterswick on the north side. 3<sup>dly</sup>, As the shores are flat, with several indented bays, the sea ware is lodged at different places, which is convenient to the farmers. 4<sup>thly</sup>. As the shores shelve by a gentle descent, they produce more kelp than in many other places, and from  
this

this circumstance, too, the shores are more easily wrought. *5thly*, As there are few high or craggy cliffs in these islands, the crop is not in such danger in harvest from the sea spray, which is often hurtful in other parts of this country.

The disadvantages of these islands are as follows, *1st*, Although there is a great proportion of these islands in common or waste grounds, they have, through the scarcity of fuel, been mostly cut up, and consequently produce but a very short heath, on which, indeed, the cattle are let out to pasture; but it yields but a scanty nourishment, and they must be fed with straw, until the grass comes up, which is not usually before June, as the fields are all open, and herding not in use till then. *2dly*, There are no mosses in these islands from which to cut peats, so that the inhabitants are obliged to go over to the island of Eday, and cut them there, which occasions them great trouble and expence. Those few who can afford it partly use coals from Newcastle, which, by reason of the duty are dear; and therefore they justly consider the duty as a great hardship, since it subjects the poor inhabitants of the extremity of the empire to the same expence in this, as the rich inhabitants of the south, and to pay to government, while those of the rich counties of Lothian and Fife are exempted. *3dly*, There are no ferrymen appointed, which is a great inconvenience in going to and from these, and many other islands in this county. *4thly*, There are no public or regular markets at which the farmers can sell the produce of their farms, or supply themselves with what they want to buy. *5thly*, As almost all the proprietors reside elsewhere, the rents are all carried away to be spent out of these islands, and none of it returned either to labourers, or to the poor in acts of charity and benevolence, (except 8 l. Sterling yearly from Mr Traill, sheriff-depute of Caithness) as would be the case if they were resident. *6thly*, The weights are different

different from what is used in other parts of the kingdom, and the standard of them not exactly ascertained, so that an equalization of weights and measures would be very acceptable to this country.

*Language.*—The only language spoke here is the English. The names of places, it is supposed, are mostly derived from the Norwegian or Tuetonic. This may be judged of from the names of places subjoined.—*Toursness*, or *Torsness*, supposed to be a corruption of *Thorsness*. *Otterfawick*, formerly called *Odinf-wick*, is a good harbour. *Odinf-skar*, the name of a house. *Hilly-how*, the name of a house, and town of land. *Roft*, or *Roast*, a tide, where the sea usually runs high with ebb. *Hecla-bir*, the name of a piece of craggy-shore, of a curious appearance. The names of the extended points of land are as follows—*Spurness*, *Elfness*, *Trefness*, *Lopness*, *Stromness*, *Lamieness*, *Strankquoy*. The oldest surnames of people here are *Torfes*, *Tulloch*, *Swanny*, *Muir*, *Fea*.

*Weights, Measures, &c.*—Before proceeding to give the rental of these islands, it is necessary to observe, that a great part of the rent is paid in kind; and that it is payable upon the pundlar and bismar, and that these are a standard of weights peculiar to this country, and have been used here ever since the Danes had possession of this country. To make these weights be understood by those who are only acquainted with the standard weights and measures in use in other parts of Scotland, it is necessary to state how these weights effeir, and what proportion they bear to the measures and weights of Scotland.—There are two pundlars: The one called the malt pundlar, so called because used only to weigh malt and meal. The other is the bear pundlar, so called because used to weigh bear only. The malt pundlar is as fol-

lows

lows—24 merks make 1 setting, equal nearly to 32 lib. Dutch.—6 settings make 1 meel, equal nearly to  $11\frac{1}{4}$  stone Dutch. The bear pundlar is to the malt pundlar nearly as 2 to 3, and has the same names to the different portions of its weight, that is—24 merks make 1 setting, nearly equal to 1 stone 5 lib. Dutch.—6 settings make 1 meel, nearly equal to  $7\frac{1}{4}$  or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  stone Dutch. The bismar is a smaller weight; and weighs from 1 to 24 merks, which last is denominated a setting or lispund. The malt pundlar is used in weighing oatmeal or malt. The bear pundlar is used in weighing bear or bigg only. The bismar is used for weighing butter, and other things. The accounts of the rents payable in oatmeal and malt are kept in meels, settings, and merks, all of the denomination of the malt pundlar, as above.—The accounts of rents payable in bear or bigg are kept in chalders, meels, settings, and merks, all of the denomination of the bear pundlar, as above.—The accounts of rents payable in butter are kept in barrels, lispunds, and merks, which two last are usually paid by the bismar. It is further necessary to observe, that a chalder of bear consists of 36 meels on the bear pundlar; and, as the bear is of inferior quality, and usually weighs only from  $11\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 stone Dutch the Linlithgow boll, therefore  $1\frac{4}{5}$  or  $1\frac{5}{6}$  of a meel of bear is usually equal to a boll of measure, and consequently the chalder will contain  $20\frac{1}{2}$  or 21 bolls of Linlithgow measure. But, as this may not be understood even after the above explanation, it may be proper, 1st, To state the rents of these two islands in the manner in which they are paid by these weights; and then to convert them into Scotch measure by the Linlithgow boll.

*State*



*State of Payments by Orkney Weighs.*

When

|                                                                                                                                  | Barrels of Oil. | Poultry.          | Bear Pundlar.<br>Bear. | Malt Pundlar<br>Oatmeal. | Bismar weighb.<br>Butter. | Money.<br>Sterling. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Crofskirk parish pays,                                                                                                           | 150             | Chald. meels. fet | 19 22 4                | Meels. fet. mks          | 11 6 20                   | L. s. d.            |
| Burnefs parish pays,                                                                                                             | 120             |                   | 16 3 0                 | 15 0 0                   | 5 5 12                    | 98 6 8              |
| Ladykirk parish, now vacant, pays,                                                                                               | 239             |                   | 23 18 2                | 65 3 0                   | 9 3 16                    | 26 15 0             |
| Total rent payable from the ille of Sanday,                                                                                      | 509             |                   | 59 8 0                 | 118 2 12                 | 27 2 0                    | 387 19 7½           |
| The ille of North Ronaldhay pays of grofs rent, including rent of what is here called Kirklands and Toumalls, say of grofs rent, | 360             |                   | 19 34 0                | 18 0 0                   | 9 0 0                     | 30 0 0              |
| Total grofs rent payable from both ilands,                                                                                       | 869             |                   | 79 6 0                 | 136 2 12                 | 36 2 0                    | 417 19 7½           |

*Statistical Account*

When these rents, or any part of them, are not paid in kind, they are usually converted to money at the following prices :

|                                                                                 | <i>Sterling money.</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 869 Poultry at 3 d. <i>per</i> piece is, - - -                                  | L. 10 17 3             |
| 79 Chalders 6 meels bear or bigg, at 6l. Sterling <i>per</i> chalder, is, - - - | 475 0 0                |
| 136 Meels 2 settings 12 merks oatmeal, at 10 s. <i>per</i> meel is, - - -       | 68 4 2                 |
| 36 Barrels 2 lifpunds butter greafe, at 2l. 10 s. <i>per</i> barrel, - - -      | 90 12 0                |
| 1 Barrel of oil at 1 l. 10 s. <i>per</i> barrel, - - -                          | 1 10 0                 |

|                                                                |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Total price of the above articles when not paid in kind, - - - | L. 646 3 5 |
| Add to this rent paid in money, as on the other page, - - -    | 417 19 7½  |

|                                                                  |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total gros rent of both these islands, converted to money, - - - | L. 1064 3 0½ |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|

It is to be observed, that the kelp shores are set in tack with four of the principal farms in the isle of Sanday, which four farms may make about 130 tons or more of kelp; and as the rock rent for a ton of kelp is usually about 1 l. 5 s. Sterling, we should discount this, in order to ascertain the rent paid for the land only. Deduct then for 130 tons kelp at 25 s. *per* ton, say - - -

|  |          |
|--|----------|
|  | 162 10 0 |
|--|----------|

|                                                                                                                       |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Gros rent supposed to be paid for the lands only, including feu-duties, proprietors rent, and parsonage teinds, - - - | L. 901 13 0 |
| Carried                                                                                                               |             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Brought over,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | - | L. 901 13 0  |
| If it is wished to be known what the yearly value of these islands is to the proprietors, it only remains to add the value of the kelp. As there are 500 tons usually made in the isle of Sanday, and only 130 tons let in lease with the lands, it remains to state, for 370 tons at 3 l. <i>per</i> ton neat supposed profit on each ton, after paying for making it, freight and charges. Say then for 370 tons made in the isle of Sanday for proprietors at 3 l. |   |              |
| <i>per</i> ton,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | - | 1110 0 0     |
| Say for 90 tons made in North Ronaldshay for proprietor at ditto,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | - | 270 0 0      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | <hr/>        |
| Neat value of kelp made for proprietors, and rent paid for the lands,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | - | L. 2281 13 0 |
| But to ascertain the yearly value of these islands, we ought to replace here the 162 l. 10 s. Sterling above discounted from the rent for 130 tons kelp shores, supposed to be let in lease with the lands to four farmers in Sanday. Say then 162 l. 10 s.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | - | 162 10 0     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |   | <hr/>        |
| Full yearly value of these islands, both for rent and kelp,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | - | L. 2444 3 0  |

This, indeed, is not all clear revenue to the proprietors. There are high feu-duties paid to Sir Thomas Dundas the superior; then the land-tax and ministers stipends are to be deducted, the amount of all which cannot be exactly ascertained; but, we may venture to say, that these two islands are not far short of 2000 l. yearly value to the proprietors, while  
kelp

kelp holds its price. It is proper to obferve, that the above cannot ftrictly fpeaking be called the rent for the land only, fince part of the above rent is paid on fome farms for the ftocking, part of which belongs to the proprietor, and is called fteelbow. This ftocking is appretiated to the tenant at his entry, and he muft pay, 10 *per cent.* or more for it yearly, and leave the fame value at leaving the farm;—but for milch cowsthus in fteelbow, the tenant pays yearly one lifpund, that is equal to 32 lib. Dutch of butter. The whole ftocking in the ifle of North Ronaldfhay belongs to the tenants, and the fteelbow is only on fome farms in the ifle of Sanday. The writer of this cannot afcertain how much ought to be deducted from the rent for the fteelbow rent, nor will he hazard a conjecture concerning it. The converfion of the forefaid rent in grain, as it corresponds to the meafures and weights ufed in Scotland, is as follows, viz. 79 chalders 6 meels bear or bigg of Orkney weight is at 21 bolls Linlithgow meafure, from the Orkney chalder, equal to  $1662\frac{1}{7}$  bolls, or 103 chalders 14 bolls  $2\frac{1}{7}$  firlots Scotch meafure; and 136 meels 2 fettings 12 merks oatmeal, of Orkney weight, at  $11\frac{1}{4}$  ftone Dutch to the meel, is at 8 ftone to the boll equal to  $191\frac{1}{4}$  bolls. It is unnecessary to convert the butter, as 7 lifpunds are allowed to the barrel, and the lifpund, as it ftands at prefent, is 32 lib. Dutch, that is, each barrel contains 14 ftone Dutch.

*Church and Stipend.*—In the year 1742, the incumbent in Ladykirk parifh reported to the prefbytery, that his ftipend was worth only 49 l. 6 d. Sterling.—It has been farmed out for a dozen of years at 66 l. exclusive of the glebe;—and lately, it was farmed at 70 l. exclusive of the glebe, which is valued at 2 l. yearly—fay for both 72 l. Sterling.

The ftipend of Crofskirk was reported to the prefbytery by the incumbent in 1742, to be worth, exclusive of the

glebes, 38 l. 12 s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. It has since received some augmentation; and in 1770, was farmed for 63 l. exclusive of the glebes, which are worth 7 l.—say for both 70 l. As the price of provisions, the price of labour, servants wages, and of fuel, are now double, or thrice as much as in 1742, when these livings were estimated as above; and, as the price of grain has not risen in proportion, and as the stile of living too is increased, this is not sufficient to support a family, suitably to the rank of a clergyman, especially where fuel is so very dear.

|                                                                                |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Poor.</i> —Ladykirk parish has of poor receiving alms,                      | 29       |
| Crofskirk parish has of poor receiving alms, -                                 | 14       |
| Burnefs parish united to ditto, has of poor receiving alms, - - -              | 13       |
|                                                                                | <hr/> 27 |
| Total receiving alms in the isle of Sanday, -                                  | 56       |
| In the isle of North Ronaldshay, which is united to Crofskirk there are, - - - | 3        |
|                                                                                | <hr/> 59 |
| Total receiving alms in both islands, - -                                      | 59       |

Besides these there are others that need the assistance of well disposed persons.

The contributions for the relief of the poor are as follows:

*Sterling money.*

|                                                                                                                                                         |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Crofskirk.—Sundays collections at this and Burnefs kirk, with dues of a pall or mortcloth, are from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. 10 s. yearly. The average, - - - | L. 4 0 0        |
| Ladykirk.—Sundays collections, with dues of a pall or mortcloth, are supposed to be yearly from 5 l. to 6 l. Say the mean average,                      | 5 10 0          |
|                                                                                                                                                         | <hr/> L. 9 10 0 |
| Carried over,                                                                                                                                           |                 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Brought over,                                                                                                                                                                                        | L. 9 10 0  |
| James Traill, Esq; sheriff-depute of Caithness is the only non-resident proprietor who gives any thing to the poor. He gives 3 l. to the poor of Crofskirk, and 5 l. yearly to the poor of Ladykirk, | 8 0 0      |
| <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>                                                                                                                                        |            |
| Total funds in money for poor in the isle of Sanday,                                                                                                                                                 | 17 10 0    |
| North Ronaldshay.—The collections in this island are so trifling, that the minister must pay the precentor out of his own pocket. Say then that the collections here in this island are yearly,      | 0 5 0      |
| <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>                                                                                                                                        |            |
| Total contributions yearly in money for poor of both islands,                                                                                                                                        | L. 17 15 0 |

The charge of burying some poor, and of taking care of orphans occasionally, must take off some of this from the poor; but even the whole of this would be a mere trifle among the above 59 poor, if the farmers were not to give them some assistance.

*Prices about the year 1720, &c.*—As there never were any public markets for provisions in either of these islands, the exact price of the pound of butcher's meat cannot be ascertained. I am assured, that, about the year 1720, the highest price given for a cow was 10 s. Sterling. As a good cow here weighs usually about 2 cwt. if we deduct 4 s. for the hide and tallow, at the then prices, there remains 6 s. as the price of 2 cwt. beef, that is, 3 s. *per* cwt. or 6 d. *per* stone of 16 lib. Veal was never fed for sale. Mutton was never sold by the pound. At the above period, 1 s. 6 d. was the price of the best

best sheep. As they usually weigh from 20 to 25 pound each, if we deduct 6 d. for the skin and wool, the mutton would not be above a halfpenny *per* pound.—Pork. The best swine then sold for half a crown or 3 s.; and, as they usually weigh 60 or 70 pound, this was about a halfpenny *per* pound. Pigs not used to be sold. Geese seldom sold; but, when sold, were 5 d. or 6 d. each. Lambs were then sold from 4 d. to 6 d. each. Rabbits never sold. Butter was then sold from 4 s. to 5 s. *per* listpund, of 32 pound Dutch, that is, from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 2 d. *per* pound. Cheese was never usually made for sale. Bear or bigg then sold from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. *per* meel, on the bear pundlar; and, as  $1\frac{1}{8}$  or  $1\frac{1}{6}$  of a meel usually measures a boll, according to the quality of the grain, bear at 2 s. 6 d. *per* meel, is equal to 4 s. 2 d. or 4 s. 7 d. *per* boll. Bear at 3 s. *per* meel is equal to 5 s.  $6\frac{2}{7}$  d. or 6 s.  $1\frac{1}{7}$  d. Sterling *per* boll. Oats was never usually sold until reduced to meal. Oat-meal then sold from 7 s. 6 d. to 10 s. *per* meel, on the malt pundlar, which is at present equal to  $11\frac{1}{4}$  stone Dutch; that is, the meel oat-meal at 7 s. 6 d. *per* meel, is equal to 4 s. 8 d. *per* boll, of 8 stone; the meel oat-meal at 10 s. *per* meel, is equal to 7 s.  $1\frac{1}{7}$  d. *per* boll.

*Present Prices.*—Beef. A good cow that weighs 2 cwt. sells for 2 guineas. If we deduct 10 s. as value of hide and tallow, there remains 32 s. as the price of 2 cwt. beef, that is 16 s. *per* cwt. or from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  d. *per* pound. Veal is not usually sold for sale.—Mutton. A sheep, that weighs from 20 to 25 pound, sells from 4 s. to 5 s. If we deduct 1 s. or 1 s. 6 d. for skin and fleece, this is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  d. *per* pound. Lambs sell from 1 s. to 2 s. each.—Pork. The best swine sell from 6 s. to 9 s. each, and may weigh from 50 to 70 pound, that is, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  d. *per* pound. Pigs are not usually sold. Geese seldom sold; but usually valued at 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. each. Rabbits never usually  
fold,

fold. Butter, from 3 d. to 5 d. *per* pound, according to the quality. Cheefe not ufually made for fale. Bear or bigg, according to the plenty or fcarcity that prevails, ufually fells from 3 s. 4 d. to 7 s. *per* meel, on the bear pundlar. Then, according to the above conversion of  $1\frac{4}{5}$  or  $1\frac{5}{8}$  of a meel to the boll of Linlithgow measure; that is, a meel bear, at 4 s. *per* meel, is equal to 6 s. 8 d. or 7 s. 4 d. *per* boll; a meel bear, at 7 s. *per* meel, is equal to 11 s. 8 d. or 12 s. 10 d. *per* boll, according to the quality. Thefe prices will appear low, if it is not attended to, that the quality of the grain is inferior, as it weighs only from 11 to  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , or, at moft, 14 ftone *per* boll. Oat-meal fells from 12 s. to 20 s. *per* meel, on the malt pundlar, which is  $11\frac{1}{4}$  ftone Dutch; fo that a meel oat-meal, at 12 s. *per* meel, is equal to 8 s.  $6\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* boll; a meel oat-meal, at 20 s. *per* meel, is equal to 14 s.  $2\frac{2}{3}$  d. *per* boll.

*Wages.*—Labourers are feldom employed in husbandry by the day. When employed, their wages are from 4 d. to 6 d. a day, with maintenance. During the kelp feafon, a labourer will earn, in that bufinefs, nearly 1 s. a day, without maintenance; but they are not hired by the day, but paid according to the quantity they make. Carpenters will earn from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. *per* day. Mafons will earn from 9 d. to 1 s. 3 d. *per* day, but not maintained. Taylors are paid by the piece, but may earn from 6 d. to 1 s. *per* day, and maintained. Weavers are paid by the yard of cloth, but may earn from 6 d. to 1 s. or 1 s. 3 d. *per* day. As there are no coals, peat, wood, furze, or whins in thefe iflands, the poor people have recourfe to the following fubftitutes as fuel: 1<sup>ft</sup>, They cut from the common a kind of divot from a dead clay foil; 2<sup>dly</sup>, They cut the fea weed, and dry it in the fun, until it will burn; 3<sup>dly</sup>, They make the cow dung into balls, and expofe it to dry until it will burn; 4<sup>thly</sup>, Thofe who can afford



afford the time and expence, go over to the isle of Eday, which lies half a league south-west of Sanday, and there cut and dry some peats, for which privilege they pay to the proprietor 1 s. *per* ton of dry peats. All other expences added, they will cost 5 s. a ton when brought over. Cottagers seldom have above one or two tons. The greater farmers have from 30 to 80 or 100 tons. It is thought that coals from Newcastle, freight and duty included, would be as cheap, or cheaper.—It would be impossible to state the weekly earnings of a cottager or labourer, or their weekly expences. The annual earnings of a cottager may be stated as under. There is some little difference in the manner of paying them, which will not be above 20 s. more or less, than the following.

*Earnings of a Cottager's Family, comprehending himself, his wife, and three or four, or sometimes five children.*

*Sterling money.*

He receives what is here called his boll, that is, for his maintenance, a meel bear *per* month, which is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  stone Dutch, from the 11th November to the 11th June, that is, 7 months, at 4 s. *per* meel, is - - - L. 1 8 0

He and his wife may make 2 tons kelp, which is paid for at 1 l. or 1 l. 4 s. *per* ton, say, at a medium, 1 l. 2 s. *per* ton, is - - - 2 4 0

He has as his fee for the above 7 months, from the 11th November to the 11th June, about 2 acres arable ground, free of rent, and the farmer whom he serves tills it. The produce of this may be, after reserving seed, in tolerable crops, about 5 or 6 bolls bear, and 4 or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  bolls oats. The oats will yield only about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bolls meal.

Say

|                                                            |               |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                                                            | Brought over, | L. 3 12 0  |
| Say then $5\frac{1}{2}$ bolls bear, at 7 s.                |               |            |
| 4 d. <i>per</i> boll, is - - -                             | L. 2 0 4      |            |
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ Bolls oat-meal, at 9 s. <i>per</i> boll, is | 1 2 6         |            |
|                                                            | 3 2 10        |            |
| Total earnings for a year,                                 |               | L. 6 14 10 |

He is allowed to keep a few sheep, of which some have half a dozen, some a dozen, or more. From these he has a little wool, which his wife in winter makes into stockings and coarse cloths for the family. Some few will kill for their family's use a sheep or two yearly. He sometimes can spare a few hours for fishing, which is often of great use to his family. His wife prepares the cow dung for fire, and gathers the sea weed for the same purpose. He cuts divots on the common, and also peats in the isle of Eday; and the cottagers assist each other in bringing them home. So that their fuel, bad and little as it is, costs them a great deal of labour, though not much money; but it prevents them from being otherwise employed during the time. They can afford to brew no beer, unless at Christmas, and then only 2 or 3 stone weight of malt. They usually keep a milk cow, and pay for her grazing a lispund, that is, 32 pound Dutch of butter, which is nearly as much as is made from the cow; so that they have only the butter-milk for their trouble in making the butter. They sometimes rear a calf once in two years, or so. I am informed by the farmers, that the wages of servants in husbandry varies somewhat in the different parts of these islands; and, that it consists of other small perquisites besides money; and that, putting a value on these, the wages of a plowman is from 1 l. 10 s. to 2 l. 2 s. yearly, besides his maintenance. A man who can make or repair ploughs, or other instruments of husbandry, will get 10 s. or

15 s. more than this. These servants they consider as cheaper than their cottagers; but they are not always to be got; and they seldom engage for a whole year; and they usually divide the year into 3 parts; that is, from the 11th November to the 11th June, they engage in the service of the farmers; from the 11th June to the last of August, they burn kelp; from the last of August to the 11th November, they engage for the harvest; and, by this division of the year, they make more than if they were to engage for the whole year at the above wages. For their work in harvest, they receive payment in bear. A woman receives about a boll of bear, a man about 1½ boll; and this besides their maintenance during the time. The wages of domestic servants also vary. The wages of a servant-maid is from 10 s. to a guinea yearly, in proportion as they are capable. Besides this, they receive shoes, and other small articles. As the wages vary, I can only state with precision what I myself pay, which is nearly, or rather higher, than the average wages here.

*Sterling money.*

L. s. d.

|                                                                                                        |   |   |   |   |      |    |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|----|---|
| Wages to a maid-servant who takes care of a child,<br>and also sews white seam occasionally, in money, | - | - | - | - | L. 1 | 1  | 0 |
| Ditto, a pair of shoes, 3 s. 6 d. with<br>Christmas present and other things,                          | 0 | 7 | 6 |   |      |    |   |
| <hr/>                                                                                                  |   |   |   |   |      |    |   |
| Yearly wages, with perquisites, to one servant,                                                        |   |   |   |   | 1    | 8  | 6 |
| Wages to a servant maid kept for spinning yarn,<br>in money,                                           | - | - | - | - | L. 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Ditto, a pair of shoes, with Christmas<br>present and other small articles,                            | 0 | 7 | 6 |   |      |    |   |
| <hr/>                                                                                                  |   |   |   |   |      |    |   |
| Carried over,                                                                                          |   |   |   |   | 1    | 2  | 6 |
|                                                                                                        |   |   |   |   | L. 2 | 11 | 0 |

|                                                               |               |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
|                                                               | Brought over, | L. 2 11 0 |
| Wages to a houfe-maid, or cook, the fame as this              |               |           |
| laft,                                                         | - - - - -     | 1 2 6     |
|                                                               |               | <hr/>     |
| Total wages to three maid-fervants, befides main-<br>tenance, | - - - - -     | L. 3 13 6 |

*Antiquities.*—There is a large ftone, about 9 or 10 feet high, and 4 broad, placed upright in a plain, in the ifle of North Ronaldfay; but no tradition is preferved concerning it, whether erected in memory of any fignal event, or for the purpofe of adminiftering juftice, or for religious worfhip. The writer of this has feen 50 of the inhabitants affembled there on the firft day of the year, and dancing with moon light, with no other mufic than their own finging.—There are fome barrows or tumuli; but none has been opened but one, in which was found a building 9 feet in diameter, round in the outside, and fquare and hollow within. In the bottom was a well. In the upper part of the building was found the fkeleton of a human body placed obliquely, or nearly upright. There were large ftones in it, placed upright, of 6 or 7 feet long. There was found in the vault or pended roof of a quire, at Crofs parifh church, when repaired above 30 years ago, a coffin, containing the fkeleton of a man that feemed to have been of fuperior rank, as there was a velvet cap on the head, and feveral pieces of filk and ribbon ornaments.—No remarkable battles have been fought here. Tradition reports, that the inhabitants of Stronfay, the next adjacent ifland, fometimes, or once at leaft, attacked them, and chofe for this purpofe the time of divine fervice, thereby to furprife them; and that the invaders were defeated and flain to one man.

*Character of the Inhabitants.*—The people of thefe iflands  
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can undergo great labour and fatigue, although they are not remarkable for strength or size. It is thought they have a more florid complexion than those of the other Orkney islands, by reason of their not having fire in such plenty, and that by this they can be easily distinguished; so that the inhabitants of the other Orkney islands have the same observation with regard to them, as Tacitus makes respecting the northern nations, "*Sanguine pleno redundantur Septentrionales.*" The people, in so far as can be judged, are not remarkable for any personal or mental qualifications, but are not deficient in natural parts and sagacity. There are some few that are indolently inclined, and plead inability for hard labour; but the generality of the people are industrious, or at least laborious, as may be presumed from this circumstance, that there is no place in the county where a greater quantity of grain is raised, or kelp made, by an equal number of people. There is no manufacture carried on in these islands, unless kelp may be reckoned one. They manufacture linen and coarse cloths for their own use only.

*Seafaring and Fishing* —From being accustomed to manage boats, the people have acquired some knowledge of the sea; and, if not fond of a seafaring life, at least have no aversion to it. Although the kelp and grain exported from these islands might keep 2 or 3 small vessels in constant employ, yet there is not one belonging to these islands. There are boats, from 5 to 10 tons burthen, for the purpose of carrying peats from the isle of Eday, as also several smaller ones of a ton burthen, a little less or more. These last serve for carrying peats, for fishing with, and for crossing the ferries occasionally, and also for shipping the kelp. The number of boats are as follows:

*Boats.*

|                                                                | <i>Boats of<br/>10 or 12<br/>tons.</i> | <i>Boats of<br/>5 tons.</i> | <i>Boats of<br/>1 or 1½<br/>tons.</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| In Crofskirk parifh, ifle of Sanday,                           | 1                                      | 3                           | 20                                    |
| In Burnefs parifh, ifle of Sanday,<br>united to Crofskirk, - - | 0                                      | 1                           | 16                                    |
| In Ladykirk parifh, ifle of Sanday,<br>now vacant, - - -       | 1                                      | 3                           | 42                                    |
|                                                                | —                                      | —                           | —                                     |
| Total boats in the ifle of Sanday,                             | 2                                      | 7                           | 88                                    |
| In the ifle of North Ronaldfhay,<br>united to Crofskirk, -     | 1                                      | 0                           | 21                                    |
|                                                                | —                                      | —                           | —                                     |
| Total boats in both iflands,                                   | 3                                      | 7                           | 109                                   |

*Oeconomy.*—As in other places, fo alfo here, fome are more oeconomical than others. As the method of living is a good deal different from what it was formerly, and more grain expended, by reafon of the increafed labour in making kelp, fome of the old people complain of the extravagance of the young, and efpecially of their turn for finer clothes than was formerly ufed. If we except a few of the gentry and proprietors, all the people formerly came to church drefled in their own manufactures; but now there are few of the young who have not fome pieces, and often the moft of their drefs, of foreign manufactures, which is principally afcribed to the greater influx of money from the labour in kelp; fo that were this fource of wealth to be leffened or withdrawn, there would remain a propenfity to thefe conveniencies it has introduced, without the fame means to fupport it. There is, however, one happy change among the poor people within thefe 30 or 40 years, which is, that there is not one fourth part of the fpirituous liquors ufed now as formerly. The proprietors,

proprietors, sensible that it wasted the means, and corrupted the morals of the people, have endeavoured to check it, by suppressing the retail of it. Thus, the poorer sort are moderate from necessity; those of the higher rank are so from choice.—There has been only a part of two estates sold within these 30 years. The last sold, about 3 years ago, for 20 years purchase of the land rent. The kelp shores were also sold at 50 l. Sterling, purchase money, *per* ton, of what the shores usually yielded, that is, at 20 years purchase also, supposing the kelp to give a neat profit to the purchaser of 50 s. *per* ton only. Landed property was formerly sold cheaper than this, which is perhaps high enough, as the farms are, and have been, it is generally allowed, too high rented. It is supposed, that the rents of many farms could not be made effectual, if it were not for some advantages which the farmers have, by the price allowed them for making the kelp, which, in some places, is 40 s. *per* ton, or more; and the cottagers make it for 20 s. or 24 s. *per* ton; so that the farmer has the difference to go to his credit, in payment of the land rent. Without some assistance of this kind, the land rent would be nominal only, and not effectual; by reason that it is necessary to keep a great number of horses, for the purpose of manuring the land with the sea-ware; and the price of horses is double of what it was 50 years ago, and the wages of servants nearly treble of what it was then, while the advance in the price of grain does not hold pace with the expence of raising it; and besides, there are no fixed markets to which the farmers can bring their grain and other articles to sale. The people, in general, are well disposed to humane actions. There are few whose circumstances will admit of their performing generous ones, although some instances might, too, be given. The assistant to the late incumbent in Ladykirk parish had bed and board at the house

of

of the only residing gentleman heritor in the isle of Sanday for 8 years, without paying any board-wages, although this gentleman's estate did not lie within the bounds of that parish, and although he had no connection either with the incumbent or the assistant.

*Humanity to the ship-wrecked.*—It is alledged by some, that frequent scenes of distress render the feelings callous, and harden the heart against the sufferings of others. If this theory should be supported with respect to certain places, particular facts, or particular professions and descriptions of men, yet I cannot think it holds with regard to the treatment of the unfortunate people who are ship-wrecked on these islands. In no place of this county have so many ship-wrecks happened as on the coasts of these two islands, as will appear from the list inserted in this paper, and yet in no place have they had less reason of complaint against the inhabitants. While the treatment of the unfortunate seamen wrecked on the coasts of Cornwall, and other parts of the kingdom, and even in many places of this county, makes us lament the depravity of human nature, and rouses our indignation, it is with pleasure we bear testimony to the conduct of people among whom these rapacious excesses have not been committed. It cannot be supposed but some of the poor people will pilfer wood, and some other small things, but seldom or never has any thing of value been taken away except in one or two instances. The proprietors or principal farmers on whose shores the vessels are wrecked, usually take charge, in assisting the captain and crew, with their servants, cottagers, carts, and horses, in saving what can be saved. Some of these farmers can raise and command 40 or 50 men from their grounds, with horses and carts sufficient to employ them; and, all these under the command of one man, can  
do



do a great deal; and, as they are also in fear of his displeasure, as well as of the law, they are restrained from rapacious plundering, if they had the inclination. Thus, although some little pilfering is practised, seldom any thing of value is taken away. If a vessel is wrecked either in seed-time or harvest, it must be a great loss to the farmers to order all their labouring servants to the wrecked vessel; and therefore they charge sometimes pretty high for their trouble; and their accounts have been disputed in the Vice-Admiral's court, but seldom modified or reduced. The proprietor of the isle of North Ronaldshay has been twice complimented with a silver vase, and other pieces of silver plate, bearing a grateful inscription, from the Danish West India Company, and others, for his fidelity and attention; and this besides ready payment of his charge. The owner of a Dantzic vessel was so well satisfied with the conduct of a farmer in the isle of Sanday, on whose shores his vessel was wrecked, that he authorized him to sell what of the vessel and cargo was saved. These, with that of the captains themselves, are the best testimony of the attention and fidelity of the people here. One of these captains, whose ship was wrecked in 1774, said, that, if he was to be wrecked, he would wish it to be in the isle of Sanday. His vessel was run ashore near to the house of the only residing gentleman heritor in the isle of Sanday, and the captain and crew hospitably entertained at his house.

*Means proposed to meliorate the condition of the Poor.*—As the scarcity of fuel is one of the most distressing things the poor feel, the taking off the duty on coals would tend to make their condition more comfortable, although even then they could not afford to buy a necessary quantity of it. 2dly, As their houses are generally bad, this might, in some measure, be remedied, if the proprietors would give long leases to the  
principal

principal farmers, at a moderate rent, upon condition that their cottagers should be lodged in houfes that are comfortable and warm, the expence of which might be fettled between the proprietor and tenant, and each pay a share. 3dly, It would be for the advantage of the cottager to have an acre of inclofed ground adjoining to his houfe, for grafs, cabbage, and turnip, which alfo the proprietor could make an article in the tack to the tackfman, and which the cottager might be bound to do upon receiving fome affiftance. 4thly, As it is, perhaps, one of the greateft hardships attending their lot, that after they have worn out their ftrength in hard labour, when old age arrives, they are often and generally deftitute. As their children, if they have any, do indeed affift them; but when thefe have families of their own, it is but a fcanty fupport they can give them, fince they have enough to do to find the neceffaries of life for their own families; and, as the funds for the poor in thefe iflands, are not fuch as can afford them an adequate fupply, if any plan could be devifed, fimilar to that entered into by the benevolent and virtuous inhabitants of the Bermudas iflands, for giving them affiftance at a certain age, provided they had been induftrious in their younger years, would be for the honour of the man who fhould promote fuch a plan. If the heritors were refiding in thefe iflands, they would fee the wants of the poor and the aged, and relieve them. A proprietor in Crofskirk parifh, in the ifle of Sanday, bequeathed in 1762; for the aged cottagers that fhould be on his eftate, 8 acres of land, appointing the kirk-feffion as trustees upon this mortification. This gentleman and his forefathers had refided on their eftate in this ifland, for eight or nine generations. It is to be doubted, if fisheries, although they were encouraged, would be of great fervice to the poor, becaufe in fo far as has been tried, the fifhing is not commonly

ly good on this coast, and the labouring poor are, perhaps, as profitably employed in making kelp during the summer season, which is the best for fishing, and their profits in the kelp manufacture are more certain; but, what has been already mentioned would greatly better their condition; and these, and many other things might be promoted, provided that the proprietors were resident in these islands, and men of generous and benevolent principles.

*Years 1782 and 1783.*—The situation of these islands in 1782 and 1783, was truly deplorable. Farms that usually produced 100 bolls oatmeal, did not produce 20 bolls, and the lesser farms proportionally deficient. The quality too, was in many places as inferior, as the quantity was little. The quantity of grain then imported into these islands cannot be exactly ascertained; but from the accounts of the deficiency of the crop, it may be inferred the imports were considerable, and that still the sufferings of the people were great. Some of the non-residing heritors furnished some supply to their tenants; and these islands received 20 or 30 bolls, as their share of what government gave for the assistance of the north of Scotland. The best assistance, however, was given by Mr John Traill, a gentleman resident in the parish of Burness, in the isle of Sanday, who was factor on the estate of his brother, then in the East Indies. This gentleman imported corn, meal, and pease from Leith, and occasionally supplied not only those on his own grounds, but also the people on the other estates, without any profit, and also upon credit, until they should be able to repay it, which many could not do for some years. Thus by means of these assistances, and the humane conduct of this gentleman, together with the assistance given by the principal farmers, to the people on their own farms, none perished of want, as was the case

case in the year 1635 or 1636, when three or four thousand people perished of famine in the Orkney islands.

There was, however, very little grain imported into the isle of North Ronaldshay in 1782 or 1783; and this has been usually the case in that island, even in some of the worst crops. This may be accounted for in the following manner: 1st, They generally preserve some stock of grain or meal on hand of the former crop. 2dly, They do not expend so much grain as the same number of people in the isle of Sanday, because they do not, perhaps, labour so hard, either in agriculture, or in making kelp, and consequently require less food. They have more sheep too in proportion to the people, than are in the isle of Sanday, and consequently can eat more mutton, and therefore require less bread. 3dly, Their farms are small, and their harvest is quickly over, so that they have a better chance to escape the storms and bad weather, by which the crop is often hurt in the last of harvest. The grey fish called cuths, afforded some supply in 1782 and 1783; as also a cockle-sand in the isle of Sanday, where it was usual to see from 50 to 80 people gathering cockles, in the months of April, May, and June.

*Schools.*—Crofskirk charge. The present incumbent has endeavoured to have schools in the two parishes of his charge which lie in the isle of Sanday. About 16 years ago there was one in the parish of Burnefs by subscription. There was another also by subscription in the parish of Crofskirk, about 4 or 5 years ago, but neither of these continued above a couple of years. As few or none of the heritors are resident here, the minister has never been able to get a parochial school established in these parishes; and, as the Society schools are not granted, where there is not first a parochial school, one of these could not be obtained. There has been

no school in the isle of North Ronaldshay for 25 or 30 years past; and yet almost all the young people can read, and upon examination, appear to be as well acquainted with the scriptures, and the principles of the Christian religion, as they are in many places where regular schools are established. As the farms there are all small, they have a great deal of spare time, and the parents then teach their children to read.

*Ladykirk parish school.*—The school of this parish has been established and continued for 40 or 50 years, or more. It is not a parochial school, nor is the schoolmaster paid from the heritors and tenants as these are. He is paid from a donation or mortification for this purpose. The intention of the donor, it is said was, that he should teach the children of the poor people upon one estate only; for the school is placed on this estate, at the extremity of the parish, and he has not a house large enough to contain many scholars. He seldom has above 6 or 8 scholars, and these are mostly from the estate from which he is paid; but he does not refuse those that chuse to come to him from any other part of the parish. He says he receives no school fees; and his yearly salary, as paid from the above estate is 9 meels bear or bigg, equal to about 5 bolls bear.—4 fettings oatmeal, equal to about 1 boll oatmeal.—12 merks butter, equal to about 16 pounds weight.—Value about 2 l. or 2l. 5 s. Sterling.

*Alehouses and Inns.*—About 15 or 20 years ago, there were a dozen or more alehouses in the isle of Sanday. At present there are in Ladykirk parish, - - 3  
 In Crofskirk parish, - - 2  
 In Burnes's parish, - - none.  
 In the isle of North Ronaldshay, - none.

These 5 alehouses in the isle of Sanday retail ale only occasionally. It is the general opinion, that this decrease of alehouses

houses contributes to the sobriety, and consequently to the industry and morals of the people. As they do not dissipate their money this way so much as formerly, they lay out what they can spare in buying fine cloaths, which is sure a more venial and excusable way of expending it. There are no established inns in either of these islands, although one might be necessary in the isle of Sanday, for the accommodation of strangers. The want of them, however, is not felt by strangers, as the gentlemen and principal farmers are very hospitable, and people on business or boatmen, are well lodged at their houses, and pay nothing.

N U M.

## N U M B E R XLVIII.

## P A R I S H O F Y A R R O W.

(County of Selkirk.—Presbytery of Selkirk.—Synod of  
Merse and Teviotdale.)

By the Reverend Mr ROBERT RUSSELL,

*Extent.*

**Y**ARROW, though inferior in extent to some parishes in the north, yet exceeds in magnitude any in the south of Scotland. Its greatest length cannot be estimated at less than 18, nor its breadth than 16 miles.

*Surface and Soil.*—The general appearance of the country is mountainous. On all sides the hills erect their towering heads, and soon terminate the prospect. The soil is various. In the haughs, in some places, it is deep and fertile; in others, it is light and unproductive. Upon the hills it partakes also of considerable variety. In some parts, the sides are dry and arable; in others, they are spongy and susceptible of no cultivation. The tops are generally mossy, and fit for nothing but pasturage and fuel. The crops are frequently indifferent. Some years they scarce repay the labour and expence incurred in raising them. This is occasioned by the general dampness of the atmosphere, which produces, especially in the upper parts of the parish, a luxuriancy of straw,

but

but hinders the grain from coming to great maturity. In dry and hot seasons, which occur rarely, the case is otherwise: Then the grain is sufficiently ripened, and abundantly productive.

*Climate.*—The air for the most part is moist and raw. This is owing to the mists that so frequently float upon the summits of the hills, and the vapour that is continually exhaled by the sun from the marshy grounds. It does not appear, however, to be unfavourable to health, as the people here attain to as great longevity as those of drier climates.

*Lochs and Rivers.*—There are two lochs adjoining to each other, partly in this parish, and partly in Etterick. The one is called the Loch of the Lows, and the other St Mary's Loch. These are noticed in the account of the parish of Etterick.—The only rivers in this parish are the Etterick and Yarrow. The course of the former has been already described, vol. 3. page 295. The latter takes its rise from St Mary's Loch, and after an easterly course of 15 miles is absorbed in the Etterick, a little above Selkirk. Both rivers run with great rapidity, and swell to a prodigious height. Small salmon occasionally ascend their streams; but the fish with which they chiefly abound are trout of a most delicious flavour.

*Mountains and Hills.*—The hills are, in general, steep and towering. The most remarkable are those called *Blackhouse Heights*. The highest point of elevation, above the level of the sea, measures 2370 feet. For the most part, the mountains exhibit a green appearance. Upon some few, there is a considerable quantity of heath. No rocks are visible.

*Sheep,*



*Sheep, Horses, and Black Cattle.*—The sheep constitute the chief part of the animal productions of this parish, and are of a superior quality, in point of good carcase and delicate taste. The horses and black cattle do not rise above mediocrity. Their respective numbers, as nearly as can be ascertained, are as follows; sheep, 55,000; horses, 149; black cattle, 545.

*Wool.*—The wool is of various qualities. In the lower part of the parish, it is of a considerably fine texture, and sells at the rate of 18s. the stone. In the upper part, it is of a very coarse pile, and does not bring more than 6s. or 7s. For a great series of years, the sheep farmers paid no attention to this valuable article. Their chief study was to produce a good carcase, rather than a fine fleece. Hence the coarse black faced kind of sheep constituted their principal store. Of late years, however, their system of rearing sheep hath undergone a considerable alteration, particularly in the lower district of the parish. Induced by the high price of fine wool, the farmers in this quarter are gradually quitting the old species, and introducing the Cheviot breed. For this purpose, they are at great pains every season to procure tups of a fine quality. Nor have their laudable efforts to improve their stock of sheep been unrewarded. Some, who began early their career of improvement, have trebled the price of their wool. Others again, who were later in their commencement, have doubled it. But these improvements are solely confined to the farms about and below the church. All above remain in their former unimproved state. Still the old breed of sheep are reared, whose wool is of the coarsest kind, and little adapted for manufacture. Although convinced of the great advantage resulting from rearing the Cheviot species, yet the farmers there are afraid to try the experiment,

experiment, from an idea that their lambs could not sustain the spring colds and storms to which their farms are subject. That their farms are in a high elevation, and greatly exposed to the winter storms, and the spring blasts, is beyond all controversy: But, whether their fears and apprehensions upon this head are well grounded, remains yet to be proved. No experiments have been made, and consequently no certain conclusions can be drawn. Some, who have had a good deal of experience in rearing the fine woolled sheep, alledge that they are not so delicate as many represent them, and that they would thrive very well in many places where a tenacious adherence to ancient maxims and customs have as yet prevented their introduction. This being the case, it is to be hoped that those storemasters who have hitherto been prevented from rearing the Cheviot breed, by long established habits or groundless fears, will soon surmount these, and concur with spirit and vigour in forwarding the improvement of the staple commodity of the country, which tends both to promote the prosperity of the nation, and to advance the interest of individuals.

*Birds.*—The tame are geese, turkeys, hens, and ducks. The wild consist of the partridge, moorfowl, hawk, crow, wood-pigeon, thrush, blackbird, bullfinch, lark, linnnet, and the sparrow. The migratory may be reduced to the lapwing, cuckoo, plover, woodcock, and swallow. In severe winters, swans have also made their appearance in the lochs already mentioned.

*Population.*—In Dr Webster's list in 1755, the numbers are rated at 1180. In this there was probably some mistake. From a survey of the parish taken this year, the inhabitants amount to 1230. Of these, 584 are males, and 646 are females.

males. What the ancient population was, cannot now be well ascertained, as all the old records were burnt about 30 years ago along with the manse. The aged people all agree in asserting, that it considerably exceeded the present; and their testimony is corroborated from the numerous remains of old houses. Various causes may be assigned for this depopulation. One, undoubtedly, may be imputed to the monopoly of farms, which diminishes the number of farmers families. Another may be attributed to the aversion of the farmers to rebuild cot-houses, which decreases the class of cottagers. A third may be ascribed to the manufactures carried on in other parts of the country, which draw off the inhabitants from such parishes as this, where they have not as yet found their way.

Abstract of Births, Burials, and Marriages, for the last six years.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1787,         | 28             | 12              | 12                |
| 1788,         | 23             | 10              | 6                 |
| 1789,         | 19             | 9               | 9                 |
| 1790,         | 17             | 10              | 8                 |
| 1791,         | 20             | 15              | 8                 |
| 1792,         | 24             | 21              | 8                 |
|               | —              | —               | —                 |
|               | 131            | 77              | 51                |

*Longevity.*—In this parish, scarcely any person ever attains to 100 years. There is, however, one instance of this remembered. A woman died here several years ago at the great age of 106. At present, there are several persons bordering upon 90, but none exceed it.

*Eminent Persons.*—This parish has given birth to a famous military character, Colonel William Russell of Asbysteel, whose heroic exploits in India reflect honour upon himself, and do credit to his country. One, in particular, deserves to be recorded, as it displays the most undaunted spirit, and the most intrepid valour. When Manilla, the capital of the Phillippine Isles, was stormed by the naval and military forces under the command of Admiral Cornish and General Draper, he, at the head of a select party, was the first man that entered the breach, and took possession of the city. Never was courage put to a severer test, and never was heroism more displayed. When the arduous and dangerous nature of the enterprise is duly considered, it may well be compared to the most celebrated martial achievements either of ancient or modern times.

Mary Scott, “the flower of Yarrow,” so highly celebrated in song, was also a native of this parish. According to tradition, she was the daughter of Walter Scott, Esquire, of Dryhope, and was reckoned the fairest and most handsome woman in the forest. Hence she had a number of suitors, who solicited the honour of a matrimonial alliance with her. In preference to all other candidates, she gave her hand to Scott of Harden. From this marriage there sprung a daughter, who was wedded to the eldest son of the Baronet of Stobbs, commonly called “Gibby with the golden garters.” From them are descended the present Sir William Elliot of Stobbs and Lord Heathfield. A circumstance relating to their marriage-contract merits a place in historic records, as it strongly marks the predatory spirit of the times. Finding it inconvenient to take home his wife, Gibby besought his father-in-law to lodge her for some time. With this request he complied, upon condition that he was to receive, for her board, the plunder of the first harvest moon. A most singular

gular paction, and highly characteristic of the licentiousness and barbarity of the age in which it was made.

*Farmers.*—In former times, the farmers were much more numerous than at present. Several farms, which were occupied by 2 or 3 persons, are now possessed by one man, which has occasioned a great diminution of the farmers. Their present number amount to 40, who rent farms from 60 l. to 360 l. *per annum.*

*Agriculture.*—This parish is not remarkable for agriculture. Wheat is never attempted, as both the soil and climate are unfriendly to its growth. Sown grafs and flax are but rarely raised. Barley, oats, pease, potatoes, and turnips, are the chief crops produced, and these but in small quantities. The number of acres annually employed in raising these may be estimated at 1000. The remainder of the parish consists wholly of sheep pasture. But what may be the quantity of acres it contains in whole, cannot be accurately defined, as a complete measurement has never taken place. Calculating upon the number of sheep, horses, and cattle, maintained by it, they cannot be less than 60,000.

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—In favourable seasons, the farmers begin to sow about the middle of March, and to reap about the middle of September. Both seed-time and harvest are often, however, by reason of the prevalency of rains and colds in this country, much later. April is sometimes considerably advanced before sowing commences, and November is frequently far gone before the crops are all cut down and lodged in the barn-yard.

*Imports and Exports.*—Owing to the little arable land in  
the

the parish, it is unable to supply itself with provisions. Hence considerable quantities of meal of all kinds are annually imported. But, on the other hand, to counterbalance this disadvantage under which the parish labours, it exports yearly an immense number of sheep, a few horses and black cattle, and a considerable quantity of wool and cheese.

*Wood.*—This parish formerly abounded with wood, inso-  
much that it received the designation still belonging to it, of *Etterick Forest*. But the name is now egregiously misapplied, as every remnant of the old wood hath entirely disappeared. From the great quantities of oak still found in the moffes, it seems to have constituted the principal species. The new plantations are but rare and small. At Hangingshaw, the once beautiful, but now ruinous seat of the Murrays of Philiphaugh, there is a considerable quantity of thriving wood. Small clumps of planting are also found upon most of the farms belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh, and which, in a few years, will be of great service to the parish. At present, it labours under a great disadvantage, from the scarcity of this necessary article.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—In former times the parochial church stood in a situation, and went by a name, very different from its present position and denomination. It was situated upon the side of St Mary's loch, and was stiled St Mary's kirk. As this is the very western extremity of the parish, it was found extremely inconvenient for the generality of the parishioners. Consequently, about the year 1640, it was judged necessary to alter the place of worship, and to erect the present church, which is about 8 miles to the eastward of the old one, and much more central for the parish. But although the situation of the church was changed, that

of the glebe was continued and still is, which consists wholly of sheep pasture, and contains at least 200 acres of ground. The old burial ground also remains, and is still employed as such. In it several families, both of this and the adjacent parishes, inter their dead. The stipend, including the rent paid for the above mentioned glebe, may be valued at 120 l. Sterling. There has been no augmentation since the year 1731. At that time it was considered as a good living. The funds for augmentation are still very great. The right of patronage is vested in the Crown.—The parochial school is at present in a very flourishing state. English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, land-surveying, and mathematics, are taught after the newest and most improved methods. The salary is only 100 merks Scots, which is a sum by no means adequate to the extent and land rent of the parish, and totally insufficient either to support the dignity of a schoolmaster, or to reward him for his useful labours. The school-house is in excellent repair, and accommodated for lodging several boarders. Last winter, the schoolmaster had 8 scholars boarded with him. Besides the parochial school, there is another situated upon the Etterick river, where the branches of education already mentioned are also taught. For this school there is no salary allotted. The schoolmaster has nothing to depend upon for his subsistence, but the emoluments arising from the school fees, and a guinea gratuitously given annually by that benevolent nobleman the Duke of Buccleugh. Were the other heritors to imitate his laudable example, and thus countenance a seminary of learning highly necessary for the place, it would surely be highly for their honour. As they are noblemen and gentlemen of the most respectable characters, and generous dispositions, it is to be hoped, this will be brought about upon a proper application to them. The school-house is in good order, being built lately, partly by subscription,

subscription, and partly by the surplus of poor's rates.— There are 57 persons upon the poor's roll at this time. None of them are permitted to stroll and molest other parishes. They are liberally supported at their own homes. Every person's case is duly considered twice in the year, and a sum is allotted to them suitable to their exigency. Besides the weekly collections on Sunday, the funds appropriated for their maintenance are the assessments upon the heritors and tenants. Since their first institution these have increased considerably. At their commencement they were moderate, owing to the small number of pensioners. Now these are greatly multiplied, and the poor's rates are egregiously swelled. Last year they amounted to 120 l. Sterling. Though established upon generous principles, and destined to relieve virtuous poverty and distress, yet their benevolent design is in some measure counteracted, by the temptation they hold out to sloth and dissipation. There is reason to suspect, that many taking advantage of this provision for indigence and trouble, squander away what they earn, and are at no pains to secure for themselves a subsistence, either when laid upon a bed of sickness, or subjected to the infirmities of old age. But notwithstanding its abuse in some instances, it is surely a noble institution, and reflects the highest honour upon this country, which is attentive to every class of citizens, and desirous that every individual should enjoy, if not the comforts, at least the necessaries of life.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally made use of is peat. In the upper part of the parish it is of an excellent quality, and found in great abundance;—in the lower it is both very scarce and bad. Upon which account the farmers in this district commonly make use of several cart load of coal, which they drive  
all



all the way from Lothian. But these as they cost 3 d. the stone by the time they are laid down here, are far beyond the purchase of the poor people. Their sole dependence is upon the peat and the heather.

*Land Rent.*—On account of the rising prices of sheep and wool, the rent of the parish has increased very much of late years. At present it amounts to 7000 l. Sterling. The valued rent is 31,377 l. 9 s. 8 d. Scotch. An immense valuation for a single parish.

*Wages.*—The wages usually paid to servants employed in husbandry are from 6 to 7 l. Sterling to males, and from 3 l. 10 s. to 4 l. to females. Day-labourers receive 8 d. together with victuals, without them 14 d. Tailors, shoemakers, weavers, masons, and wrights, earn from 15 to 20 d. *per* day. Wages of all kinds have rapidly increased of late years, and are still upon the rising hand.

*Antiquities.*—Throughout all the parish, there are numerous remains of old castles, formerly the seats of the feudal barons. Their construction and situation highly mark the rusticity and ferocity of the times in which they were built. They are for the most part constructed upon the sides of the hills, in the rudest and strongest manner; and have been evidently designed to protect the possessors of them from the assaults of neighbouring chieftains and English invaders, with whom they lived in a state of perpetual warfare.

*Disadvantages.*—This parish labours under several disadvantages, one of which is the distance of coal and lime, together with free-stone; the former of which are distant 30,  
the

the latter 18 miles. Another originates from the distance of market towns. Selkirk is the nearest, and even it is distant 8 miles from the manse. The bad state of the roads constitutes a third. It is only of late years that any attention hath been paid to them. Now a communication for carriages is opened up the Yarrow river, from Selkirk to Moffat and the west country. Another road is carried up the Etterick river, as far as Etterick church; but both these, especially that of Etterick, require great amendments. The cross roads are all in a state of nature, and in some places are excessively deep. The snow also at times is productive of great inconveniency and hardship to the storemasters in the upper district of the parish. Frequently they have been obliged to fly to the low countries for provision for their flocks, and after all their toil and expence many of them have been cut off. In the years 1772 and 1774, they sustained immense losses. Some whole farms were almost desolated by the mortality among the sheep, occasioned by the severity of the winters. The scarcity of bridges is likewise a great drawback upon this parish. Frequently is the traveller, by the swelling of the rivers, either obstructed altogether upon his route, or obliged to go many miles about, in order to pursue his journey.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—No particular manufactures are carried on in the parish. Household expences are greatly increased of late years. Landed property seldom changes. The best arable land is not worth more than a guinea *per* acre. Very little of the parish is inclosed. The dress of the inhabitants is much altered from what it was 20 or 30 years ago. A spirit for feuing at present prevails among the people. One whole farm belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh  
was

was this year feued out into small parcels, upon which the feuers are building very neat houses.

The people are in general sober, devout, and industrious. None have been banished the country in the memory of any person now living. They enjoy in a considerable degree the comforts of life, and appear to be contented with their circumstances and situation.

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF CARSEFAIRN.

(Stewartry of Galloway.—Presbytery of Kirkcudbright.  
Synod of Galloway.)

By the Reverend Mr SAMUEL SMITH.



*Name.*

CARSEFAIRN or Carsefern, compounded of *Carfe* and *fern*, most probably derives its name from the situation of the church, which is upon an extensive plain on the banks of Deugh, and which at the time of its erection had been covered with *fern*.

*Soil, Produce, &c.*—Excepting the plain on which the church is situated, and a few more very small spots on the banks of the rivers, the country is all hilly. The high hills are all green—the lower ones generally covered with heath, and interspersed with large flats of moss. The soil for pasturage is chiefly of two kinds: The spongy and wet, which yields the most luxuriant herbage; and the dry, which is by far the most nutritive pasture. It is reckoned, however, an advantage for a farm to have both kinds, and most farms have this advantage. There are perhaps 1000 acres of arable ground in the parish, though seldom above a tenth part in tillage. Double that quantity of meadow grounds; a good

deal of which is cut only once in two years. About 150 years ago wood had abounded; now any that remains scarcely deserves to be mentioned. Iron ore might be found in abundance, and formerly iron mines were wrought; but discontinued as soon as the wood for charcoal was exhausted. Were the working of iron to be again resumed, it is probable from the expence of coal, and the great distance to any sea-port, it would yield but little profit. Almost all the springs are chalybeates, some of which are excellent; but as they lie remote from any habitation, it is probable they never will be frequented.

*Air, Climate, and Diseases.*—Much more rain falls here than in the lower parts of the county; and as the situation is high, and the grounds in most places wet, the air must be comparatively moist, yet it is extremely salubrious. Epidemics are rarely known. An intermittent never was a native of the parish. They are indeed occasionally imported by the cattle drivers, when they return from the fens of England; and in a variety of instances it has been observed, that the disease did not make its appearance for several weeks after the infection had been received. Other fevers here are of the slow nervous kind. They appear only among some of the lower classes, and are evidently owing to cold damp houses, want of cleanliness, and of proper food. Scurvies are little known, though most of the inhabitants live all the year round on salted provisions, which they use in great abundance. The pernicious consequences of this mode of living are obviated by the plentiful use of potatoes, and other vegetables. The rheumatism, it might be expected, would be a prevalent disorder in a cold and damp country, particularly when it is considered, that the shepherds must often after being greatly overheated in climbing the steep mountains,

tains, be exposed to the piercing air on their summits, and that they often continue wet for whole days and nights. That it is not so must be attributed in a good measure to the discreet use of warm woollen clothes, particularly the *plaid*, with which every inhabitant of the parish male and female is provided\*.

*State*

\* It may not, perhaps, be improper, to take notice of one other disease which formerly prevailed in this, and still prevails in many other places of the south of Scotland, viz. the *yaws*. This disease is always caught by infection. The virus which spreads the contagion, is evidently of the venereal kind; but the mode of receiving it is different in this and in the lues venerea. The infection is almost invariably communicated by the saliva of the person diseased. The first symptoms are usually a pricking pain, with a slight inflammation, and sometimes a small ulcer in one or both sides of the throat. The inflammation often extends over the fauces and uvula. The amygdalae, and sometimes parotids, swell on one or both sides. In this stage of the disease, it is impossible to distinguish it from a slight cynanche, or common sore throat. Afterwards the pain and inflammation, instead of being removed by the means which usually prove effectual in the cure of the cynanche, gradually increase for several weeks or months. By this time the whole of the fluids are tainted, and the disease further makes its appearance on the scrotum, penis, and sides of the thighs, or perhaps more frequently in tumours in the anus, which soon break, and become painful ulcers. Red or purple spots sometimes appear on the breast, or other places of the skin, and the whole habit of body is disordered. Though the disease usually begins in the fauces, yet the palate is seldom much injured, or the cartilage of the nose affected, as in case of lues when of long standing. The writer has seen no case where the bones either of the legs or arms were affected.

The mode of cure is exactly the same as in a confirmed lues, by the use of mercury, to such a degree as gently to affect the mouth, and for such a length of time as may remove every symptom, which will seldom be less than six weeks or two months, and often considerably more. An effectual mode of preventing it is neither to sup from the same dish, drink from the same cup, or smoke from the same pipe, which hath been  
used

*State of Properties.*—One half of the parish belongs to Mr Macadam of Craigengillen. The other half is divided among 14 different heritors, only two of whom are residenters. The valuation of the parish is 5760 l. Scots. The real rent 2800 l. Sterling. The farmers at an average pay upwards of 200 l. yearly rent.

|                    |   |        |
|--------------------|---|--------|
| Number of Sheep,   | - | 30,000 |
| ———— Black Cattle, | - | 1203   |
| ———— Horses,       | - | 83     |
| ———— Ploughs,      | - | 20     |
| ———— Carts,        | - | 19     |
| ———— Goats,        | - | 40     |

*Population.* In 1755, the numbers were 609.—At present 461.—Decrease 148.—Under 10 years 112—From 10 to 50, 278—Above 50, 70. No accurate parish register has been ever kept; but it is evident, from remains of old houses in every farm, that the inhabitants had at some former period been nearly double of what they are at present. They have increased a little of late years, and appear still to be increasing, from the building of a village which contains 60 inhabitants.

*Pasturage.*—Though agriculture is yet in a rude state, this is by no means the case with respect to the management of sheep and black cattle. In this, perhaps, the farmers in this parish are inferior to none in any part of Galloway. Few of them have less than 2000 sheep; and they are attentive to every method of improving them, and guarding them against  
the

used by a person infected. By the use of these precautions, a very troublesome disorder is removed from this parish, and might soon be extirpated every where.

the various accidents to which they are liable. The principal methods of improvement which have been adopted of late years are, stocking lightly; taking low farms for winter, or reserving winter grafs in the lowest parts of the same farm; selecting the best rams, which they often bring from distant places where they can find them, of better size and shape, and equally hardy; selling off the weak ewes in the latter end of the season, and the small lambs either at that time or about Lammass. Where the farm is large, dividing the sheep into different flocks, which are kept separate all the year round, and changing the rams from one flock to another; sending the rams to richer pasture in the winter and spring; smearing much lighter than was formerly the practice. It is never found advantageous to give up *smearing* altogether, though it has often been tried. The sheep always became worse, and the wool less in quantity, and inferior in quality, unless the season was remarkably mild.

The farmers here have certainly given less attention to the improvement of wool than it merits. The only sheep used is the common black and grey faced, and no fair trials have been made, whether any other species with finer wool would thrive with them, though they are invariably of opinion that they would not. Hence the wool is in general coarse. It sells these two years past from 6 to 8 s. *per* stone, or 26 lib. averdupois. The mutton is excellent, and improves in quality till the wedder is 6 years old. They are usually sold at three. A wedder of this age weighs 10 or 11 lib. averdupois *per* leg, has 6 or 7 lib. ditto of fat, and sells at 11 s. Part are sent to the markets in the north of England in summer, but the greatest quantity to Edinburgh in the end of harvest.—The two most fatal diseases of sheep are the rot and sickness. These two dreadful maladies used often formerly



merly to sweep away the half of a stock, but seldom now make very great havock. The means to prevent the former is to stock light, and after bad seasons to sell off every one that is suspected. The best method of preventing the latter, is to take the young sheep which are most liable to it either to a different farm, or to another part of the same farm, where the quality of the soil is different. The cure of either is never attempted, though there can be no doubt it would often succeed, if the diseased sheep were observed on the first attack. The proper cure of the rot would be salt marshes, or house feeding. The sickness is an inflammation of the intestines, and ought certainly to be treated by bleeding, injections, and warm fermentation.

In one or two farms a disease also prevails termed the *vanquish*. It arises from feeding on dry barren moss, void of all nourishment, to which the creatures are so attached, that they will never leave it till they die of emaciation. In this disease the horns usually become red. This disease almost constantly proves fatal, unless the sheep are removed to the low grounds, and put on better pasture, which always operates a cure.

Another disease very common on some farms is termed the *gripping*. This is evidently a paralytic or nervous affection, where one or more of the limbs, or sometimes the whole body is affected. It might probably be cured by laudanum. The cold bath is often used with advantage.

The sturdy or hydrocephalus is also a well known disease among the sheep. It admits of no cure but cutting and taking out the water, which sometimes proves successful, even when performed by the coarse hand of the shepherd, with no other instrument than a common knife.

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The farmers in this parish are also well skilled in the management of black cattle, and breed great numbers of them. They never attempt to raise them of a large size; but are very attentive to the shapes both of bull and cow, and accordingly rear them very handsome. It is a well known fact, that in muir farms where the pasture is coarse, a small cow will not only give as much milk, but even breed as good a calf as one much larger. By a little more attention to the breed of horses, which they now begin to pay, they might produce some of the hardiest and most serviceable for riding or light carriage of any in Scotland.

*Manners, &c.*—The inhabitants of this parish have not been careless of their own improvement, and have made no inconsiderable progress in civilization. Placed all in easy circumstances; enjoying not only the necessaries, but many of the conveniences, and some of the luxuries of life; favoured with many intervals of leisure without enticements to dissipation, they have been careful to cultivate their minds; they please themselves with rural or innocent social amusements, of which they are extremely fond; and, upon the whole, appear to be in that middle state betwixt opulence and want, barbarity and refinement, which is perhaps of all others most favourable to happiness. Pride, envy, and ambition are, perhaps, the most prevalent vices: Sobriety, industry, and hospitality the most distinguishing virtues. The writer of this has been surpris'd to find oftentimes in their little libraries, some of the best authors in the English language.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church and manse are small, but in tolerable repair. The stipend 500 l. Scotch, and 3 chalders of victual, two-parts meal, and one-third bear,  
with

with a legal glebe and grags ; but in so high and exposed a country not very valuable. The emoluments of the school are 16 l. a-year at an average.

The poor are few in number, and well provided for. The funds of late years have considerably increased. Seceders of all descriptions are almost entirely extirpated. All the inhabitants are punctual in attending on public worship, yet by no means either superstitious or enthusiastic.

NUM.

## NUMBER L.

## PARISH OF BOWER.

(County of Caithness.—Presbytery of Caithness.—Synod  
of Sutherland and Caithness.)

By the Reverend Mr WILLIAM SMITH.

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*Name and Appearance.*

THE name of *Bower*, as of most places in this country, seems to be derived from the Danish language, and is said to denote a *valley*, (or what in Scotch is called a *carse*). The parish is 7 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. The cultivated land is, in general, a long extended vale from west to east, formed by a gently rising ground on the north and south, but intersected about the centre by a ridge of green hill, running from north to south throughout the whole breadth, which afterwards being directed eastward, is the boundary between Bower and Watten.

This parish is, in general, flat and low lying; and, like the rest of the shire of Caithness, can hardly be said to have hills in it. On the above mentioned ridge of rising ground, which almost equally divides the parish, betwixt Bower Tower and Brabster, to the west of the kirk, is a large stone, about 8 feet above ground, called *Stone Lude* or *Lutt*, perhaps from a great man *Liotus*, mentioned by Torfaeus, who is said to have resided in this neighbourhood; or from *Loda*, and may have been a place of Pagan worship. Besides several tumuli,

or heaps of stones, such as the Cross of Bower, the Cairn of Heather Cow, the Cairn of Ushally, and many others, situated on every eminence in the parish, and in the country in general. Some make *Ludgate* to denote *Lord's gate*, and so called as it leads to St Paul's at London.

The Cairn of Heather Cow is surrounded by 6 or 7 circles, described at different distances around by large stones set on edge, and seems to be some monument of Druidical antiquity. It is situated about an English mile south from the kirk, from which the ground rises by a gradual ascent, till it terminates in a round top. On this eminence, which is the highest ground in the parish, there is a circular building of stones, about 9 feet in diameter, and 4 or 5 feet high, ascending by 2 or 3 steps, like a stair, on one side. From it there is a very extensive prospect of the country, and part of every parish in it. In a clear day, we may here have a view almost of the general outlines of the country: Of the hills which separate Sutherland and Caithness; of the Strathnaver hills; of part of the North Sea and Pentland Frith; some of the Orkney Isles; and the entrance into the Murray Frith at Riese Bay. From this hill and its environs most of the fuel of the parish is taken; and of it there is great abundance.

*Soil and Produce.*—Most of the commons in this parish are covered with green, and may be very easily converted into good arable land. But, by the manner of cultivating them hitherto in patches, and by building small cottages on them, there is no very valuable acquisition of arable land obtained, and the pasture ground is much diminished.—The arable land consists of various kinds of soil, but principally strong clay and loam, and might be much improved by draining the low and marshy grounds.—The grains chiefly cultivated here are bear and oats, but most of the latter; and it is believed, that

a greater quantity of oat-meal is brought to the market from this than almost any parish in Caithness. The quantity of victual sold annually by the proprietors alone, out of their rents and farms, will be upwards of 2000 bolls.—The parish is divided at present among six proprietors, two of whom reside in it.

*Rent and Services.*—The valued rent of the parish is 2761 l. 16 s. Scotch; the real rent about 1500 l. Sterling; and would, no doubt, be much advanced, if the farmers had sufficient encouragement to improve and inclose their possessions, by getting leases, and by being exempted from the services and customs which are still more or less exacted almost every where in this parish, according to ancient practice; though, in many places, some of them are converted into money, and not unlimited as formerly. Benjamin Williamson, younger of Banneskirk, seems to have done most in abolishing the servitude on part of his estate in this parish, and has further encouraged some of his tenants, by giving leases of 19 years. The conversion of services has hitherto been gradual and progressive; and perhaps the most advisable plan, for the present, is to exact victual rather than money for them, as the poor people are frequently at a loss in turning their commodities into money to the best advantage, and are bad oeconomists of it when they have got it. In the first stage of servitude it was unlimited, the people being obliged, upon any occasion, and at any time, when called upon, to come out to their master's work; and the service performed was executed in the most slovenly and superficial manner possible. Besides the unprofitableness of this scheme, it was most pernicious in a moral view, as it laid a foundation for every indolent and dishonest habit. In the next stage, a partial limitation and restriction took place; and

and a certain piece of work was agreed upon ; which being known, was executed more speedily, and was all in favour of the active and industrious, as they had more the command of their time, and might apply themselves with more success to the management of their own affairs.

*Former and Present State compared.*—A proprietor let a certain small extent of land to his tenants, for which he received the greater part of his rent in victual, and a very small acknowledgment in money, (specie being then very rare in the country), in name of gross rent. The tenants of this description were bound to pay the following services : Tilling, dunging, sowing, and harrowing, a part of an extensive farm or mains, in the proprietor's natural possession. They provided a certain quantity of peats for his fuel, carried feal and divot, thatched a part of his houses, and furnished simmons for that purpose, as well as for securing his corns in the barnyard : They weeded the land, led a certain quantity of midden feal from the common for manure to his farm : They mowed, made, and ingathered his hay, the spontaneous produce of the meadow and marshy grounds : They cut down, ingathered, threshed out in part, manufactured, and carried to market, the growth of this farm. Besides these services, the tenants paid in kind the following articles, under the name of customs, viz. straw-cazzies, which were used as sacks for carrying victual ; sive ropes, made of hair, for drawing the plough-halters ; floss or reeds, used for these and similar purposes ; teathers made of heather ; straw for thatch, &c. Besides these, the tenants wintered a beast or more each, according to the extent of his possession, paid vicarage, or small teind, meat lamb, wedder, or more, hawk, hen, and eggs, out of each house, with more poultry, according to the extent of their farms ; meat and teind geese, meat swine,  
and

and mill gault. Besides these flesh duties, grass farms in the Highlands paid veal, kid, butter, and cheese, &c. And tenants on the sea coast paid teind and quatel fish, and oil, out of each boat belonging to them, and carried sea-ware for manuring the proprietor's farm. Amongst other articles of rent, the parsonage, or great teind, being the tenth sheaf of the tenant's produce, was also till lately drawn in harvest by the proprietor in some few places in the country. They also, in general, spun a certain quantity of lint for the landlady, who likewise had from them a certain portion of wool annually.—All these different payments obtained generally in the county of Caithness 30 or 40 years ago. Of late, they have been converted, in many places, by some proprietors in the country, into money or victual, or not exacted. The absence of proprietors from their estates, which, in that case, were let to great tacksmen, or to factors, in some instances, has promoted the conversion; while others, from entertaining different views of their interest, whether present or absent, have continued to exact the above payments, less or more, according to use and wont. In the country, in general, within the last ten years, a different and more approved system of farming has begun to be practised in many places; and men, being convinced of the superior advantages of it, it will, no doubt, in a few years universally prevail; in consequence of which, the wages of servants, and the price of provisions, have considerably risen in value, and will continue to do so. At the period above mentioned, the wages of a man-servant employed in farming were about 12 l. Scotch, or 1 l. Sterling, *per annum*, with  $5\frac{1}{2}$  bolls victual, half barley-meal, and half oat-meal; of a woman or boy, half of the above. At present, the man-servant has about 3 l. Sterling, with 6 or 7 bolls of victual; the others half of that. A day-labourer's wages may be estimated about 6 d. o. 8 d. without meat; but



but there is seldom work performed in this way.—The price of beef, mutton, and pork, is at present, at an average, about 2 d. *per* lib. ; of a goose, 1 s. 2 d. ; poultry, 4 d. each ; which is double, in some instances treble, their value, at the period above mentioned. Butter, of 24 lib. to the stone, 10 s. ; and cheese, 4 s. *per* stone.—At the period above mentioned, most of the wearing apparel used by the people in the country consisted of coarse woollen stuffs of their own manufacture, on which they bestowed no very expensive dye. This cloathing, though less elegant and gaudy than the present fashion, sufficiently answered the purposes of decency and warmth, and was accounted fully adequate to the situation and circumstances of the inhabitants. Of late years, by the extensive importation of cloths, of various kinds, from the southern parts of Scotland, and from England, the home manufactures of woollen stuffs, at least, have been much discouraged, and almost laid aside.—The cultivation of flax, and the weaving of linen cloths, however, seem to be daily more and more increasing in the country.

*Condition and Manners.*—The inhabitants of the country in general, especially of the lower ranks, live on a very spare and scanty diet, and perhaps much less comfortably than formerly, the profits of their labour being principally expended in purchasing fineries, of which they are excessively fond. By the number and vigilance of revenue officers, and by the high duties lately imposed, the manufacturing of malt, and brewing of beer, is much discouraged and prevented ; and, as to spirituous liquors, the encouragement given by the legislature to the erecting of a number of small distilleries, seems to be very unfavourable both to the health and morals of the lieges, especially on account of the consumption in  
public

public meetings, or at markets and country fairs, which are very frequent in Caithness.

*Population.*—The number of inhabitants in this parish were, in 1755, 1287 ;—on 23d February 1791, as follows :

|                                         |          |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Examinable persons 6 years and upwards, |          |                  |
|                                         | Males,   | 639              |
|                                         | Females, | 744              |
|                                         | —        | 1383 examinable. |
| Under 6 years of age,—                  |          |                  |
|                                         | Boys,    | 105              |
|                                         | Girls,   | 104              |
|                                         | —        | 209 children.    |
|                                         | —        | —                |
|                                         | In all,  | 1592 souls.      |

The people are all of the established Church, except 20 or thereabouts, who attend the Antiburgher Seceder Meeting-houses in Wick or Thurso. The first settlement of the Seceders in Caithness was in Wick about 20 years ago. The cause of their disaffection, they say, is principally on account of the moral doctrines preached up by the established clergy, whom they accuse of placing too much weight on the practice of morality.

*Church and Poor.*—In the parish of Bower, the number of people at present on the poor's roll are about 35, who receive only about 2 s. 6 d. each, at an average, *per annum*, out of the weekly collections at the kirk, the contributions being, in general, very trifling ; but, on particular occasions, in collecting for individuals who have fallen into distress, the country people, in proportion to their circumstances, show themselves very liberal.—The stipend is 4 chalders of victual, and

and 600 merks money, with 100 merks for communion elements; being 38 l. 17 s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. Sterling, besides the victual.

*School.*—The schoolmaster's salary is 1 chalder, or 16 bolls oat-meal. The school here was formerly one of the most flourishing in Caithness; but, for 12 years past, has had no legally qualified teacher. Mr Alexander Miller merchant in Thurso, bestows 5 l. a year on a private school in this parish for teaching poor children.

NUM.

N U M B E R   L I .

UNITED PARISHES OF KIRK WALL  
AND S T . O L A .

(*County of Orkney.—Presbytery of Kirkwall.—Synod  
of Orkney*).

*By the Reverend Mr* GEORGE BARRY.

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*Situation and Name.*

**T**HES E parishes have, for a great number of years, been united, or perhaps never were two distinct parishes. For a long time they have had the names which they at present bear. The track of land which stretches around Kirkwall, and which forms the country parish, under the name of *St Ola*, was, in all probability, a parish before the town was built, and derived that name; but at what period, or on what occasion, it is uncertain, from Olaus or Olave, a saint, and also perhaps a King of Norway. Near the center of that parish stands the ancient burgh of Kirkwall, built in a narrow strath, extending from the Harbour of Kirkwall, on the north, to the Bay of Scalpa, on the south, which are about two miles distant from each other. The direction of the town is in that of the strath. It is washed on one side by the sea, which forms the Road of Kirkwall; on the other by a pleasant inlet of the sea, which flows by the back of the gardens at high water: It is near an English mile in length; its breadth is very inconsiderable; and it has only one street,

stretching from end to end, very inconvenient from its narrowness, as well as from the badness of its pavement; and, towards this street, the ends or gables of the houses are generally placed, which gives the town rather an awkward appearance. The time when, and the persons by whom this place was founded, are both of them lost in the darkness of antiquity. If credit is to be given to the Poems of Ossian, to the time when they are thought to have been written, and to the interpretation that has been given of them, it was of considerable note at a very early period. This was perhaps the Carricthura of that justly celebrated work, where was the Palace of Cathulla King of Innistore, which was besieged by Trothal, on account of an indignity which he imagined he had received from that Prince, and which was afterwards delivered by Cathulla's good friend and ally the mighty Fingal. The Danes, we are informed, called it Kirkivog, which both Buchanan and Forfeus improperly thought should have been written Cracoviaca; and that this word had first been corrupted into Circua, and thence to Kirkwall. But all these words are said to signify the same thing, namely, Kirkvaa or Kirkwaa, the Great Church, or perhaps the Church of St Magnus.—The number of houses it contains amounts to about 300; and, though it be the common practice for one family only to occupy a house, yet it sometimes happens that a house lodges two, or even more families. Many of these houses bear strong marks of old age, as the doors and windows are very small, the walls uncommonly thick, and almost all the apartments narrow, gloomy, and irregular. To this form, however, there are also many exceptions; for such of them as have been lately repaired or rebuilt, and particularly such new ones as have been erected, may, both for elegance and conveniency, compare with those of any other town of the same extent in Scotland.

*Cathedral,*

*Cathedral.*—The Cathedral of St Magnus, the King's Castle, and the Bishops and Earl's Palaces, are the only buildings here that are any ways remarkable. The first of these is a large Gothic pile, reared by the superstition of the dark ages, nearly in the same form and dimensions with many others in different parts of the kingdom. Rognwald, Count of Orkney, we are told, laid the foundation of it in the year 1138. Bishop Stewart, who lived in the time of King James IV. made an addition of three pillars or arches to the east end of it, with a window, which, for grandeur and beauty, is far superior to any others in the fabric; and Robert Reid, the last Popish Bishop of this see of Orkney, added three pillars to the west end of it, which were never completely finished, which, in point of elegance, are much inferior to the former. The length of this stately fabric, on the outside, is 226 feet; its breadth 56; the height of the main roof is 71; and, from the level of the floor, to the top of the steeple, is 133 feet. The roof is supported by a row of 14 pillars on each side, besides four, the most magnificent of the whole church that support the steeple. In it there is an excellent chime of bells, which, by the inscription upon them, appear to have been made by Robert Borthwick, in the Castle of Edinburgh, 1528; and they were furnished to the Cathedral by Bishop Robert Maxwell. The window in the east is 36 feet high, by 12 broad, including a circular rose window, at the top 12 feet diameter. There is a window in the west end somewhat similar, but much smaller; as also a rose window on the south gable of the cross, of like form and dimensions with that on the top of the east window. The circumference of the pillars that support the roof is 15, and that of those on which the steeple stands is 24 feet nearly. This church is built of free stone, cut both on the out and inside, covered at present with grey slate; and is certainly the

most

most entire one in Scotland, St Mungo's at Glasgow not excepted; in which state it has been preserved by the judicious management of the kirk-session, out of the seat rents, and other trifling funds, without any the least expence to either the town or the country heritors.

*Castle and Palaces.*—Opposite to the Cathedral of St Magnus, on the west side of the street, stood the King's Castle of Kirkwall. Time, and the ravages of war, have long since laid it in ruins. No tradition remains by whom it was founded; though it is probable, as Wallace observes, from a stone placed in the wall next the street, on which there was seen, even in his time, engraven the mitre of a Bishop with his arms, that it has been built by some Bishop of Orkney. The walls of it are very thick; the dimensions are large; and the stones with which it is constructed are so firmly cemented together, that it is more difficult to dig them from the rubbish of it in which they are buried, than it would be from a quarry. This fortress seems to have been in good repair, and a place of no inconsiderable strength, in the days of Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney. This man was son of Robert Stewart, natural son of King James V. who, in 1581, was created Earl of Orkney. His son Patrick, who was a man of a haughty turn of mind, and of as cruel a disposition, committed many acts of oppression against the people, and of rebellion against his Sovereign; and, in order to screen himself from the punishment he so justly deserved on that account, he took refuge in the Castle, which he maintained with much desperate valour for some time against the King's troops, till it was at last taken and demolished. This same Earl had built that extensive and elegant mansion on the east side of the town, known now by the name of the Earl's Palace. From the date above the principal door, which is  
still

still legible, it appears to have been built in 1607, and indicates much vanity in the founder; for there are engraven on stones, on many parts of it, the capital letters P, E, O, the initials of his name and dignity. This Palace has walls remarkably well built, though only of grey stone. They are at present as straight as if they had been erected only 20 years ago; and there are on several parts of the building, particularly on the corners, projections of hewn stone, in the form of turrets, but, in fact, balcony windows. One very spacious and elegant hall is the chief part of the mansion: Its dimensions are 58 feet long, 20 broad, and 14 high. There is a very large chimney on the side, and a lesser one on the north end of it. A fine Gothic window, 12 feet by 13, lights it from the south; and, on the east, there are no fewer than two, not much different in form, and 12 feet by 12 each of them. The building, though considerably long, consists of only two storeys, which renders it less pleasant to the eye, and gives it rather a mean appearance. The ground-floor is divided into a great many vaults or cells, with little flits of windows; and this circumstance must have them made not only dark, but damp; and, of consequence, if ever they were inhabited, very inconvenient and disagreeable habitations. Near the door, which is entered from the north, is the bottom of a beautiful stair, which, by three flights of steps, leads to the hall; below which is a well built of cut free stone, and furnished with water by leaden pipes underground, from the high land to the east of Kirkwall. Like other fabrics reared at the same period, variety seems to have been more studied here than uniformity. For a long time past, it has been unroofed; and no person has dwelt in it since Dr M'Kenzie was Bishop of this place, who died in 1688.

Almost



Almost adjoining to this stands the ruin, denominated the Bishop's Palace, of much greater antiquity; for neither record, nor even tradition, has ventured to assert any thing requesting either the time or circumstances of its foundation. So long ago as 1263, the year in which Haco, King of Norway, undertook an expedition against Alexander III. King of Scotland, on account of a dispute that had arisen about the Western Isles, it would appear to have been a place of consequence. This Monarch, on returning from the mouth of the Clyde and the Highlands of Argyleshire, where he had spent the summer in waging war with the Scotch, with little success, resolved to winter in Orkney; and, for this purpose, stationed his ships in the harbours about the main land, and he himself took up his quarters in Kirkwall. Here he kept court in a hall in the Bishop's Palace for some time, till, worn out with disease, occasioned perhaps by disappointment, and the fatigues of his unsuccessful campaign in the south, he expired, after a lingering illness, and was interred with much pomp in the Cathedral Church of Kirkwall, near the steps that lead to the shrine of St Magnus, Earl of Orkney. Bishop Reid repaired, we are certain, or, more properly, rebuilt several parts of this ancient mansion; for, on more than one place, there are to be seen, engraven on stones in the wall, the first letters of his name, and below them his arms and his mitre. The whole of that round tower, to the north-west, was raised by him; and, on the side that looks to the town, there is a small niche in the wall, occupied, even at present, by a rude stone statue of that very celebrated Prelate. Near to this Palace, on the west, this beneficent churchman mortified to the town of Kirkwall a piece of ground, for the purpose of building a college, for instructing youth in grammar and the various branches of philosophy, with a very considerable sum of money, for carrying his  
pious

pious design into effect : But his death, which unfortunately happened soon after, on his returning from France, where he had been witnessing Queen Mary's marriage with the Dauphin, prevented any part of this excellent plan's being carried into execution.

*Private Houses.*—No marks can be observed of the town's being ever of greater extent than it is at present ; nor are there any houses in it uninhabited nor fallen into ruin, and no new ones built on their foundation. So far is this from being the case, that a good many houses have been built beyond the precincts of the burgh, though so near it as to make a part of the town ; and within it a house no sooner goes into disrepair, or tumbles down, than a new one is raised in its stead, of more than double or treble its dimensions. Besides, houses of every sort have become of more request of late than they used to be, from a competition among those who wish to rent them ; and they cannot be obtained but with much difficulty, and at a rent more than double of that which was formerly given for them. Provisions, too, of every sort, are raised in as great plenty as they were at any former period, and brought into the town in as considerable, if not in greater quantity ; and yet they cannot be purchased now for less than double the money they cost 20 or 30 years ago. To this it may be added, that, since the writer of this account was settled minister here, 1782, an accurate list of the people has been twice taken by him, or under his eye, and at his direction ; and, though the interval between them was only about 6 years, the latter list exceeded the former by near 200.

*Trade.*—The commerce of this place, though it can by no means be called flourishing, is, without doubt, rather in an  
improving

improving condition. The catalogue of the commodities which this country produces, and which are carried out of it, either over seas or coastways, as well as of the articles brought into it, is very considerable, as will appear evident from a detail of particulars. The principal articles which are generally exported are beef, pork, butter, tallow, hides, calf skins, rabbit skins, salt fish, oil, feathers, linen yarn, and coarse linen cloth, kelp; and, in years of fruitfulness, corn in considerable quantity. The chief commodities imported are wood, flax, coal, sugar, spirits, wines, snuff and tobacco, flour and bisquit, soap, leather, hard-ware, broad-cloth, printed linens, and printed cottons. The imports, in the following account of their value, are stated at the prices given for them at the places from which they are commonly brought; and these are London, Manchester, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. The value of the exports, on the other hand, is estimated from the prices they most commonly bring at the markets where they are sold; and these are, for the most part, the above mentioned places, with the addition of Dunbarton, Liverpool, and Bristol. For both the kind and the quantity of the articles imported and exported, the information is drawn from the customhouse books; and, where these seemed to labour under any defects, they have been supplied from the books of merchants and other traders. To give a clear idea of the trade, three years have been taken, 1770, 1780, and 1790; and the value of the imports and exports for these years, at the rates above stated, is as follows:

*Years.*

| Year. | Exports.  | Imports.  | Balance.  | Shipping. | Tonnage. | No. of Men. |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 1770  | L. 12,018 | L. 10,406 | L. 1611   | 17        | 825      | 76          |
| 1780  | 23,247    | 14,011    | 9236      | 20        | 940      | 90          |
| 1790  | 26,598    | 20,803    | 5795      | 33        | 2000     | 170         |
|       | L. 61,864 | L. 45,220 | L. 16,643 |           |          |             |

*Manufactures.*—If we except linen yarn, and coarse linen cloth, and kelp, which with propriety may be considered as the chief commodity, there is no manufacture here of any consequence. About the beginning of this century, indeed, and a little earlier, the wool of the country is said to have been wrought into cloths and stuffs for the wear of every rank of the inhabitants, and even for exportation. It is excellently fitted for the purpose, for it is in general very fine; some of it is short, and would make excellent broad cloth, and some of it being long, is as well calculated for stuffs and stockings. In some families still cloth, of an excellent quality, is made of it for their own use; and, not very long since, stockings have been wrought by some of the women, who are by no means very expert at the business, which have been sold in the public market for near about 30 s. Sterling. Now, however, the sheep which were once very numerous, and are considerably so still, and the wool which they bear, are equally neglected, as almost all the articles for men and womens wear, which were formerly manufactured of Orkney materials, to the great benefit of the place, are now almost all of them imported.

The manufacture of linen yarn was introduced 1747, and as every innovation commonly is among a rude and ignorant people, it was at first very unpopular. Soon, however, it triumphed over those difficulties that arose from vulgar prejudice; it was diffused pretty generally among the islands; and is said in years of extreme dearth and scarcity to have preserved the lives of some poor people, who otherwise would have died of want, and certainly made those who were em-

ployed in it live much more comfortably. For the space of 15 or 20 years, while it was under the management of one, or a very few men, who attended to and were sufficient judges of the business, it flourished much, and produced for export annually near 25,000 spindles of yarn, which, in the opinion of those who saw and examined it, was as good as any in Scotland. After that period it began to decline; for some people observing with regret the profits which they imagined those by whom it was introduced and conducted made, resolved to share of them, by importing flax, dressing it, and giving it out to spin among the people. The consequence naturally was, that the spinners no sooner observed a competition among their employers, than they were more careless about performing their labour; the yarn was ill spun, worse measured, and worse counted; and by this means, in a very few years, it lost all the character which it had formerly gained in the market. The shopkeepers in Kirkwall and Stromness, and also some of those in the islands, give almost all of them out lint to spin, and even some of the landholders exact the spinning of yarn from their tenants as a part of their rent; and this circumstance of its being at present in so many hands must, it is evident, have gone far towards hastening the ruin of the manufacture. Still there is some lint spun here, and carried to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and wherever the price of yarn is highest; and when the price is low, which has been the case for some years past, the yarn is manufactured into linen cloth, mostly for the English market. Besides the yarn which was sent south last year, and the quantity bartered with the merchants who come over from Murray, which is sometimes considerable, there was stamped by Mr Magnus Lindfay about 30,000 yards of coarse linen intended for sale, and not for private families. Much more advantage might this manufacture have been of, had the yarn  
been

been spun from flax raised in the place, where the soil is believed to be very fit for the purpose.

The manufacture of kelp has been much more fortunate than that of linen yarn. About the year 1730, it is said to have been introduced, and had long to struggle hard against the strong and rapid stream of popular prejudice. Averse to have any kind of labour introduced among them, but what they had been accustomed to see and hear of, they represented to the proprietors, how hurtful that new business was likely to be, for they could have no doubt of its driving the fish from the coast, and it would therefore ruin the fishing; they were certain it would destroy both the corn and the grass, and they were much afraid, that it might even prevent their women from having children. As the price was very low for the first ten years, the quantity made was but trifling. From the year 1740 to 1760, the price is reported to have been 45 s. *per ton*, and the money which it is believed to have brought into the country during that period near about 2000 l. *per annum*. The average price for the subsequent ten years amounted to about four guineas *per ton*, and the whole value to the place to above 6000 l. Sterling *per annum*. Of each ton at the market from the year 1770 to 1780, the price rose at a medium to about 5 l. and the gross sum which the proprietors in that time received for it was not less than 10,000 l. *per annum*. For 13 years preceding the present 1791, the value of a ton was nearest to 6 l. and the quantity each year to the sum of 17,000 l. Sterling. Thus, in the space of 50 years, the proprietors of these islands, where the seasons are very deceitful, and the crops can by no means be depended upon for subsisting the inhabitants, have received in addition to their estates, the enormous sum of 370,000 l. Sterling. A sum of this extent introduced in a country where money was formerly scarce, where there could not be  
laid

said to be any other kind of manufacture, and where fisheries which might have been supposed to constitute the riches of the country, were neglected, must, it is evident, have produced the most remarkable consequences. That it has done so here, may appear from the slightest observation. The manufacture of kelp for some years past has employed near 3000 hands, and every one of those during June and July, the months when it is commonly manufactured, will earn about 40 s. Sterling. Since the year 1780, there has been such a failure in the crops for 6 or 7 years, that Orkney has sometimes been almost visited by a famine, and if the people had not had the produce of this very beneficial article to depend on, many of the poor in all likelihood would have starved; while the lairds, instead of being able to help them, would have been stripped of their estates, and reduced to bankruptcy. Many other effects besides preserving the lives and the estates of those connected with it, have been produced by this manufacture. Industry, which was before very low, has considerably increased. The lower class of people live much better in point of food, clothing, and houses; and since they began to know of what importance they are to their superiors, they are throwing off by degrees, that servile subjection under which these islanders were formerly kept, and discovering more and more of the spirit of liberty. But while we trace with pleasure the advantages which it has produced, candour forbids us to conceal its disadvantages. Owing to the kelp manufacture, every species of provisions has greatly increased in price, which makes it difficult for those to live who have only fixed incomes. Wages are much higher. Agriculture, which in every country is the first, and most necessary of all arts, is greatly neglected; and a stile of living has been introduced among the proprietors, which their lands can by no means support, and which, if ever this  
manufacture

manufacture should fail, must bring certain ruin upon them, their tenants, and their families.

Kirkwall is composed of several sorts of people, namely the gentlemen of property, who with their families generally reside here;—shopkeepers, who have multiplied almost tenfold of late;—tradesmen, sailors, boatmen, and domestic servants.

*Education.*—Here we have an excellent school, under the direction of two regularly bred, and well qualified masters, who with much fidelity teach the learned languages, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and the various branches of mathematics. This one is for boys, and another is just now to be established for girls, who are to be instructed by a woman sufficiently accomplished for the purpose, in reading English well, and writing it grammatically, all kinds of needlework, the French language, and music. To diffuse the blessings of education among the poor as well as the rich, a charity-school has lately been erected, and in it are taught reading, writing, accounts, and the principles of the Christian religion.

*Soil and Culture.*—The soil through this parish is very various. In some parts, especially towards the hills or high grounds, we meet with a mixture of cold clay and moss; near the shore it is generally of a sandy nature; rich black loam is also to be met with in some few places, especially near Kirkwall; and not only there, but in almost every other parish in the country, the soil is shallow, with a bottom of rock that is soft and mouldering. In most places it is very fertile, considering the way in which they manage it. The plough which the ordinary class of people use, is of a singular construction, having only one stilt, and strange kind of irons.

With



With this they only scratch the surface of the ground in the spring, for they labour none in winter nor in harvest. The only manure they use is rotten ware or sea-weed, alone or mixed with turf, and without ever giving it a summer fallow to destroy the weeds, with which it is generally overrun. They sow on it the only grain they have, a small kind of black oats, and a puny sort of bear alternately.

*Air.*—The air in Kirkwall and around it through the parish, must be confessed to be rather moist than dry; and yet it cannot with justice be said that the place is unhealthy, for no epidemical distempers are generally prevalent here, if we except the small-pox, measles, chincough, and others of that nature. To damps, however, occasioned by the great quantity of rain that falls, especially in the winter season, and the spongy nature of the soil that retains it, together with small loughs of fresh water here and there to be met with, are to be ascribed, perhaps, those diseases that affect us most frequently. The most common of these are pains in the stomach, and in the bowels—the king's evil—frequent colds and coughs, with asthma, consumptions, rheumatisms, and dropsies.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is only one mineral spring, so far as has been discovered, in the parish, and that is about a mile and an half from Kirkwall, on the post-road to Holm. It has been long known by the name of Blakeleys-well, for what reason is not said. It seems to be a chalybeate; and has been frequently used with much effect in removing complaints of the stomach and intestines.—The shores not very high but rocky, are washed by the sea for about 15 miles; in which there are sometimes caught silaks and cutts, which are the young of the seath fish, small cod, haddocks,

haddocks, mackrel, herrings, lobsters, partens; cockles, muscles, and spouts or razor fish. Kirkwall is the place where they come for sale; and their price cannot be easily estimated, for they are purchased for meal, salt, bent, a kind of tough grafs for making ropes to bind their horses and cows, and potatoes, and the quantity of these articles given for them varies much, according to the seasons of the year, and the plenty or scarceness of the commodity. Sea weed is every where used as manure, though there be marl at no great distance, seemingly of an excellent quality, and were this applied to their land in a judicious manner, it might greatly improve the fields. The kelp which constitutes the chief ingredient in the manufacture of glass, soap, allum, and of some others, is formed of the ashes of the different species of sea weed, burned in a round hole in the earth made for the purpose, and the average quantity of it which the parish of St Ola produces, may be about 50 or 60 tons annually.

To the north the road of Kirkwall, to the east the bay of Miel and Ingonez bay, and towards the south the bay of Scalpa, the ordinary landing place from Caithness, are the principal roads we have; and both the bay of Ingonez, and the road of Kirkwall, are large, safe, and commodious harbours.

Almost all the quadrupeds are of the domestic kinds. According to a very absurd custom the horses are generally bought from Caithness when they are a year old, though they might certainly be raised, as experience demonstrates, in as great perfection in the country. They are well shaped, though of a small size; they are neither deficient in strength nor in mettle, and when they are trained with any degree of care, they are fit for the draught as well as the saddle. To many diseases they are subject through bad management; for they have often improper provender given them, both in the  
stable

stable and in the field;—they often want food in sufficient quantity, and they are exposed to heavy rains after being warmed with riding or with work;—the houses in which they stand are commonly dirty, and no attention is ever paid to cleaning the skin of that most useful animal. Great numbers of them are kept on every farm, more it would appear than are necessary, and as they bring when in their prime about 5 l. Sterling one with another, and many of them die before they are old, the expence of labouring with them must be considerable. This has induced some gentlemen to turn their attention of late to the rearing and using of oxen; and these animals which here answer very well, have now become pretty numerous. They are much less liable to disease than horses; their original price is not above one half of that of the other; they can be fed fully as cheap; and when through old age they become unfit for service, they will bring as much money as they at first cost from the butchers in Kirkwall and Stromness. The cows of this place are also small, but well formed, and they give milk of a good kind, and in sufficient quantity, which considering the great numbers of them which are every where kept, and the small quantity and coarse kind of food they have, is really surprising. The ordinary size of country cows when about 6 years of age, sell at present for about 40 s. or 45 s. and this price is more than double of what the same cows would have brought 20 years ago.

*Animals.*—The sheep though very numerous, there being supposed to be in the whole islands about 50,000, turn to little account, as there is so little care taken of them, that they are allowed to run wild in the hills, which are almost all of them commonities. Here these innocent and defenceless animals, with their ears cut into a thousand different forms, to mark out the persons to whom they belong, roam

at large, exposed to all the severities of hunger and cold, to the depredations of ravenous birds of various sorts, especially carrion crows and eagles, to dogs which here abound, and to thieves of the human kind more ravenous and destructive than any of them. The breed is so puny, that 5 s. is considered as no bad price for a sheep fit for the knife in autumn: Few of them have any horns; their faces are white or grey, and their tails are remarkably short;—they bear at a medium a merk, or a pound and a half of excellent wool, which is valued here at little more than 6 d. and from the best information, they seem to be the same kind with the sheep in Shetland. Notwithstanding their want of food and of being tended, and all the disadvantages under which they labour, they are much more prolific than those in almost any other part of the kingdom. Two lambs at a birth is common, three we may sometimes meet with, and if the pasture be but tolerable, and the ewes are left at liberty and not shackled, which is sometimes the case, the mothers have milk sufficient to maintain them. Their flesh in general is not very pleasant; and of such of them as are compelled by hunger or led by custom to feed upon sea-ware, the carcase is black and dry, and when cooked the taste of the mutton somewhat resembles venison. A fact respecting these animals, which is as well vouched as it is curious, must here be mentioned. In the little uninhabited islands, or holms as they are called, which are here in considerable numbers, sheep, especially ewes, are put where they remain the whole year for pasture. If in the spring about lambing time, any person goes into the island with a dog, or even without one, the ewes suddenly take fright, and through the influence of fear it is imagined, instantly drop down as dead as if their brains had been pierced through with a musket bullet. Such as die in this manner,

manner, are commonly found to have two, and sometimes three lambs in their bellies.

Goats have never been common here, though one would imagine from the hills, and rugged rocks bold and steep, with which Orkney in several places abounds, they might have been of benefit to the proprietors.—Swine there are in vast numbers; and as they go generally at large, even in summer, they are uncommonly destructive to the corn and grass ground, and particularly to the potatoes. The kind that is here is remarkably small, and very ugly, the back being very high, and the bristles long and coarse, and the colour which they commonly have a dirty white; the pork of them when pickled for some time makes excellent eating, and sells for 2 d. *per* pound, and the whole carcase of a middle sized one may be purchased for 5 s.—There are rabbits in great plenty, but no hares; nor did ever wolves or foxes disturb the flocks, or if they did the species has long since perished.—Six different kinds of dogs are here, the shepherd dog, the greyhound, the pointer, the water dog, the mastiff, the lap dog, and the terrier.—The black Muscovy water rat, which is the only one now to be met with, has destroyed the grey or brown sort, and has proved as destructive as it is prolific. There are plenty of seals and otters.

*Birds.*—The domesticated fowls are common here, the cock and hen, the tame geese and tame ducks, turkeys, and pea-fowls. The wild fowl of these islands are very numerous. Among these we may reckon eagles of various sorts; wild geese and ducks in no small variety, herons, hawks of different sizes, gulls of many kinds, the ember goose, the dunter or eider duck, the fly goose, the awk, the lyre, and the tyfte, the pickternie, the norie, and culterneb, the calaw, the scarf, and the seapie or the chaldrick. To this list must be added  
swans,

swans, gannets, crows, pigeons, curleus, the green and common plover, moorfowl, and snipe, the starling, and fieldfare, the sand and sky-lark, the swallow, the snowflake, the rail or corncrake, the wren, the check, the linnet, and the sparrow. How many of these are natives of this place cannot with much certainty be determined. But we do not recollect to have seen on the shores of either England or Scotland the ember goose, which is a bird of a large size, and an elegant form, which is never seen on land, and which is supposed to hatch her eggs under her wing, where there is a hole which nature it is thought has prepared for the purpose. Neither do we remember to have seen in the south the dunter or eider ducks, which are so remarkable for the fine down which they take from their breasts to build their nests;—nor the tyfte or lyre, which last is a bird somewhat larger than a pigeon, and though extraordinary fat, and moreover very fishy tasted, is thought by some to be extremely delicious. No partridges, nor pheasants, nor land-pies, nor cuckoos, are ever seen in this country. The birds of passage are pretty numerous. Among these the swans, the horie geese, or as they are called in England the brant geese, which take their departure from Orkney in the spring for the north to obey the dictates of nature, the pickternies, which come here about the beginning of the month of May from the east or north-east, and the lapwing or green plover, and perhaps the swallow, and the rail or corncrake, which come here some time in the spring from the south, are the principal. After a hard gale of wind, especially from the east, south-east, or south, birds are often to be seen which are by no means inhabitants of this region. These seem to be overtaken by the storm, and driven hither by force of weather, and as they frequently disappear in a short time, they either perhaps re-  
turn

turn to the places from whence they came, or die through the influence of a climate not suited to their constitution.

*Population.*—These parishes are now it would appear more populous than formerly. In 1755, they were rated at 1989 souls. According to a list recently taken, the numbers are about 2550. Of these there are near 2000 in the burgh, and the remainder compose the landward parish; and the proportion of men to women is as one to two nearly in both of them. Since the year 1780, the marriages, births, and deaths, inserted in the parish register, which, for some time past at least, has been kept with much accuracy, are as follows:

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Marriages.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Burials.</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1781,         | 7                 | 41             | 62              |
| 1782,         | 17                | 48             | 41              |
| 1783,         | 17                | 35             | 52              |
| 1784,         | 18                | 42             | 34              |
| 1785,         | 16                | 43             | 38              |
| 1786,         | 21                | 61             | 50              |
| 1787,         | 16                | 52             | 40              |
| 1788,         | 7                 | 54             | 46              |
| 1789,         | 25                | 61             | 50              |
| 1790,         | 21                | 69             | 36              |

The number of people at or above 10 years of age is a little below the proportion of 5 to 1. Here few instances of extreme old age are to be found. Many, however, reach the age of 80 and 85, some to 90, and some few years ago there died in this town, a gentlewoman who had been wife to Mr Thomas Baikie, the first presbyterian clergyman of Kirkwall, at the age of 95 years, well authenticated.

Though the country parish be small, it contains a considerable number of farmers. This is owing to the narrow limits

mits of their possessions. They amount to 50, exclusive of cottars or cottagers. Their families consist of about 10 persons each, and this number includes their children, who when they are grown up, whether they be male or female, remain with their parents in the capacity of servants.

In the town the tradesmen are pretty numerous. The master weavers are 53, their journeymen 8, and their apprentices 14.—The shoemakers amount to masters 16, journeymen 2, and apprentices 17.—The taylorers are masters 15, no journeymen, apprentices 11.—The hammermen, which include several crafts, are master wrights 22, with only 1 journeyman, and 29 apprentices; master masons 7, journeymen 16, and apprentices 6; master slaters 6, no journeymen, and only 2 apprentices; the smiths have 4 masters, 1 journeyman, and 4 apprentices; and there are only 3 coopers, and all of them masters. The number of failors that live here varies according to circumstances. In time of war there are very few; peace brings home many of them; at present there are about 200, and above 25 boatmen. Besides navigating the ships belonging to the place, which employs a considerable number, they go generally to sea in fair weather to catch a few fish for the immediate subsistence of themselves and families. To the hurt of this country, and perhaps of the kingdom at large, there are here no fishers by profession.

The town contains 120 domestic women servants, and not above 10 or 12 domestic men servants. Many more reside in the country parish; for there, every man that rents a farm, however small, must have at least one male, and two female labouring servants. This will make the number of them amount to upwards of 150. For some considerable time past it has been the custom, perhaps for the sake of society, for the gentlemen of property to reside in Kirkwall. This has been undoubtedly attended with several bad consequences, among



mong which perhaps may be reckoned, an increased luxury, from an emulation that has been excited amongst them, and their tenants being deprived of the benefit of their example in improving their lands, and even perhaps in improving their manners. To convince us that this observation is founded, it is obvious, that in such islands and parishes as the proprietors, when they have been men of sense and virtue, have for some time resided, the people are more decent in their appearance, more civilized, and much more industrious. There are at present a dozen of gentlemens families resident here. Two established clergymen, 1 physician that practices, 2 surgeon apothecaries, and 4 practising proctors or attorneys. To the causes which have been mentioned above, as contributing to increase the population, we may with propriety add three more, namely the almost total failure of the crops for some years, which drove many poor families from the isles into the town; the partial suppression of smuggling, which has forced the monied men to lay out their capitals in more useful, as well as in more honest industry; and the circumstance of many of the owners of kelp living here, and laying out a part of their augmented incomes in employing tradesmen. The marriages, especially among what are called the better sort of people, are usually very productive. They have often 10, 12, and even 15 children. There is a clergyman in this Synod still alive, though above 80 years of age, to whom one wife bore 22; and the present provost's father, who was a native of this country, had by only two wives 36 children.—As the trade is but small, and the manufactories still less, in proportion to the population, every year drives many of the most promising young men abroad in search of a livelihood. Many female servants annually leave this place for London, Newcastle, and particularly for Edinburgh, from which they seldom

dom return; for after serving a while, which they commonly do with much honest sobriety, they get married, and rear numerous families. The tradesmen that are bred here go also to the same places in considerable numbers, where they not only support themselves with credit, but sometimes attain much eminence in their respective professions. But the sea, as it might be naturally enough supposed, is the element of these islanders. Most of the young men, even from their earliest days, show for that element a strong predilection. Accordingly, every year many of them engage with the Hudson's Bay Company, with whom they go out, and live generally five years in their settlements. Some enlist themselves with the Iceland, and some with the Greenland fishermen, with whom they only continue for 3 or 4 months; and when they return, the money which they have earned instead of furnishing the means of industry, is almost always spent in idleness, and often in dissipation. Many of the men are employed also in the royal navy; for in the last war, as well as in some of the preceding, when the navy books were from curiosity looked into, there were found in them upwards of 2000 Orkney men.—Kirkwall and St Ola united, contains 400 houses, and each house of consequence lodges about six people at a medium.

*Productions.*—For the plants raised here we refer to Wallace's History, where they are not only enumerated, but some of them described with much seeming accuracy. There are almost no trees in all this country, if we except a few fruit trees in Kirkwall. They seem, however, to have grown in considerable numbers, and no small size formerly; for in the peat mosses, which are common in many of the islands, they are dug up nearly as frequently as they are in other parts of the kingdom. The natives imagine, that no trees of any  
kind

kind will ever live, much less flourish in Orkney, on account of something very unfriendly in either the soil or the climate. The attempts, however, which have been hitherto made to raise trees have not been very judicious. A rich soil in a sheltered situation has not been pitched upon for that purpose; the ground has not been properly prepared; nor have the weeds after planting been from time to time picked from it; nor yet have the species of trees been well chosen; nor planted in clumps thick enough to screen each other from the influence of the climate in their infancy. Should it after repeated judicious trials prove as certain that trees will not grow here now, as it is that they did formerly, natural history would be called upon to solve a curious question, What are the causes of this so remarkable alteration?

The black cattle, considering the extent of the parish, must be regarded as numerous: They are upwards of 500 in number; and the horses, young and old, amount to near 300; and the sheep, that run almost wild upon the common, do not exceed 1500. The number of acres it contains has never been ascertained by any measurement; and therefore the proportion between the waste ground, and what has been used for raising grain, can only be known by conjecture. It is supposed to be as six to one, or thereabouts. Little or no grass-feed has ever been used here, except in a very few places, where it has thriven well, and turned out an excellent improvement. A good many cabbages are now planted in the vicinity of the town, which the inhabitants find their account in using plentifully, though they pay, for every acre of the land where they grow, fully 3*l.* Sterling. The rest of the arable ground is cultivated, though in a very bungling manner, for the purpose of producing oats and bear alternately. Much of the waste land might be improved at even a small expence, into near ten times its present value; and not only

grain

grain of various sorts, and of a quality much superior to what is produced just now, might be raised on it, but also grass, turnip, and other green crops, to the no small benefit of Kirkwall. Such parts as are already in tillage, seem of a nature well fitted for the production of flax and hemp; and, could these very useful articles be produced here, to dress and to manufacture them, would afford employment for our people when they are but too often idle through the tedious season of winter. But making of kelp rouses the attention, and occupies the industry of almost all descriptions of men here. Every employment else is regarded as of little moment. The farmers here seldom yoke the plough, in order to prepare the soil for a new crop, till the spring season arrives, when there is only time to give it a hasty rude scratch on the surface with the clumsy one-filted plough, just before the oats are sown, which happens generally in the month of March, or about the beginning of April. The land which is intended for bear is commonly stirred in the last mentioned month; it is soon after covered with rotten or fresh sea-weed as a manure; and it has the seed thrown into it when it has received a second plowing in the month of May following. Though, at first sight, it might appear, that, in this remote northern climate, the harvest would be late, yet this is by no means the case. In ordinary seasons, the corn is as soon reaped as it is in many places of Scotland; for they begin about the 1st of September to cut down the crop, which they continue doing for that month; and, unless when the weather is very bad, it is generally all in the corn-yard by the first or second week of October.

*Language.*—The Gaelic language, so far as can be discovered, was never spoken by the people of these parishes. They at present, like the rest of Scotland, speak a mixture of Scotch

and English, which language has taken place of the Norn or Norwegian, which anciently prevailed much; and some old people that live near the middle of the main land, are said to have, some years ago, retained not only many of its words, but some of its phrases. Many of the names of places seem to be derived from that language; of which *Holland*, which signifies a house built on an eminence; *Garth*, which implies a place where there is a small patch of ground cultivated amidst a large waste; and *Cleat*, which means a house on a gently rising ground, are said to be examples.

*Rent.*—So far as can be ascertained, the land rent of St Ola may amount to about 500 l.; and the rent of the houses in Kirkwall, which it is still more difficult to know with certainty, is conjectured to make the sum of 900 l. in all 1400 l. Sterling.

*Church and Poor.*—There are two established clergymen here who officiate by turns in the Cathedral of St Magnus. The first minister has a manse and a glebe, and the second has neither. The value of the first living, which is paid in malt, butter, and money, at an ordinary conversion, is, including the value of the glebe, 80 l. Sterling. The second minister's living, which is paid in much the same articles, is not worth much above 60 l. Sterling. To both these charges, which were within the bishopric of Orkney, the Bishop, in the time of Episcopacy, presented. The Crown, at the abolition of that mode of worship, succeeded to the rights of the Bishop; and afterwards, either by gift or by favour, or some other way, the Earl of Morton, and then Sir Laurence Dundas, who purchased the superiorities of these islands in 1765, have been considered as the patrons. About 20 years ago, the last mentioned gentleman, wishing to confer

for an obligation on Kirkwall, on account of favours received or expected, gifted the right of patronage, so far as it was in him, to the magistrates, town-council, and community; since which time the town has claimed and exercised the right of presenting the clergymen of Kirkwall.

The heritors in the country parish are 14 in number, and only 4 of them are not resident. The poor are not dependent upon them; for, though there be commonly 50 or 60 of them upon the roll, besides others who, through sickness or misfortune, apply sometimes for charity, they are supported by the kirk-session out of funds furnished by the ordinary collections at the church-door, and occasional donations, which, at an average, seldom exceed 25 l. Sterling. To whatever cause the number of the poor may be ascribed, it surely cannot be the dearth of provisions; for here they are undoubtedly as low as they are in any other district in the kingdom. In proof of this, we may observe, that beef never sells at above 2 d. and seldom at more than 1½ d. *per* pound. Mutton, lamb, and pork, are much about the same price. A goose, fit for the spit, is purchased for 1 s.; ducks for as much the pair; hens at 4 d. each; and chickens at 2 d. The Amsterdam pound of cheese is worth 2½ d. while the same pound of butter is worth 6 d. In years of ordinary plenty, the oats, which are of a small black coarse kind, sell at about 5 s. 6 d. the Linlithgow boll; and, while that is the case, the bear, which is also very small, brings about 7 s. Sterling. The labourers in husbandry not only here, but through the other islands, receive, *per* day, 8 d. of wages; and tradesmen, particularly wrights and masons, when they do not work for so much the piece, in the common mode, they can earn every day 16 d. or 18 d.

*Fuel.*—The fuel that is most commonly made use of is peat  
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and turf, which are procured from mosses at about 2 or 3 miles distance. Every cart-load of peats, and the carts are very small, costs 9 d. the horse-load a penny; and, to furnish this article to an ordinary family, whose income may be about 50 l. *per annum*, it will require fully 5 l. Sterling. As this necessary of life, as well as almost every other, has increased very much of late, some people have begun to use coal, carried from the Clyde, from the Forth, and from Tyne; and, though there be imposed on it a pretty high duty, the most absurd and impolitic that ever the legislature thought of, they find it to be cheaper, as well as better firing.

*Wages.*—To support a man, with a wife and four children, through the year, it would require at least 10 l. and perhaps 11 l. or 12 l.; and all that he is able, by his industry in common labour, to procure, does not exceed 8 l. Sterling. The wages of servants employed in husbandry, and maintained in houses, are, for men, 2 l. 10 s. and for women, not above 15 s. Domestic servants, though not more usefully employed, are much better rewarded; for the men that serve in that capacity receive no less than about 5 l. and the women 20 s. Sterling.

*Antiquities.*—Through several parts of this parish, as well as almost every other in the country, there are to be met with a kind of ruins, many of them of a very large size, and all of them situated in some pleasant spot by the sea-shore, commonly three, or at least two of them, within view of, and at no great distance from each other. They are universally known here by the name of *Picts houses*. Such of them as we have seen and examined are of a circular form; and, when measured as near to the foundation as could be reached, they have been found to be from 100 to about 50  
feet

feet diameter. They have been built at some very remote period with very large stones, without any sort of cement, contracted gradually from the base, as it would appear, to the top, which was perhaps closed in the form of a cone, to cover the whole building. Curiosity has looked into some; avarice has searched others of them; and, when a few of them have been dug, for the purpose of procuring stones to build with, a great many bones have been found in them, some of them human, and some of them the bones of other animals. For what important purposes such huge piles as these were at first erected, and to what uses they have been afterwards applied, cannot now with much certainty be determined.

Near the house of Caldale, some tumuli have been opened, in which stones, placed in the form of square urns, have been found, containing human bones, partly consumed with fire, intermixed with a considerable quantity of ashes. Several other parts of the parish contain tumuli of a similar kind, which, were they opened, might perhaps exhibit contents also similar. In most places where they are to be found, we meet with several of them, placed almost close by each other; and, in one place, about two miles distant from Kirkwall, to the south-east, not far from the Bay of Scalpa, and near the post road to Holm, there are five of them, so arranged as to form somewhat of the appearance of a circle; and this has been conjectured by some to be the Circle of Loda, mentioned in the Poems of Ossian.

*Roads.*—The state of the roads is very indifferent at present. They were made about 30 years ago, through the exertions of the gentlemen of the place, partly by contribution, partly by road-money, and partly by statute labour. One of these roads leads to the excellent and much frequented harbour of Deersound, on the east side of the main land; a second to Holm, which



which is the post road ; and a third to Stromness, about 12 miles west of us, which is the principal resort of the shipping. These three, together with some few more of less note, are the only roads that have yet been formed. They are now fallen, in a great measure, into decay ; and this has been owing to a defect in their original formation. Instead of drawing a ditch at some distance from the road, to carry off the water, which they ought to have done, they have dug one close by the side of it, in which the water, running with rapidity, has, in some places, undermined and carried away the road itself. From time to time, these roads have been repaired by means of the statute labour, which is performed here with as much reluctance, and as imperfectly, as any where, and had much better be converted into money. No turnpikes have as yet been erected ; and, considering the poverty of the country people, and the vast number of horses which they never fail to use on almost all occasions, it is probable they would feel the expence of them burdensome. Since they began to use carts, however, which they have now done for some considerable time past, roads, they are abundantly sensible, afford them several signal advantages.

*Land and Services.*—Arable lands rent here from about 3 l. Sterling the acre, which some ground gives, for the purposes of raising cabbages, near the town, to 10 s. or 15 s. in the other parts of the parish. The value of the meadow and grass ground we have no method of ascertaining. Through the whole of this country the farms are uncommonly small, not being above 10 l. Sterling rent, at an average ; but those around Kirkwall are increasing of late, because the gentlemen have taken several of them into their own hands, and joined two or three of them together, in order to furnish provisions for their families, as there are no public markets. Some of  
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the tenants are yet rather in a poor condition. Their leases are very short, being only a year, three years, or at longest seven years; and the abominable practice of exacting graf-funs at every renewal is not quite abolished. Neither is the still more blameable custom of demanding services from the tenants quite abandoned. In some places, they are required to cast, and win, and lead peats; to plough some days in spring, or shear a few in harvest; or to go with boats some of their masters errands upon occasion. But, to the credit of the proprietors of land, these, and such like services, are wearing much out of fashion; they are now exacted with much less severity; they are more limited, and better defined; and, with many, they are abolished altogether. Inclosing of ground is with us yet in its infancy, and confined to a few gentlemen; for the country people, who, from their attachment to old customs, hate every thing new, have not the least notion of its utility.

*Years 1782, &c.*—In the year 1782 and 1783, the people suffered a dreadful calamity. Through the badness of the seasons, combined with damaged seed, the crops not only here, but in all these islands, failed so totally, that, had not the Government humanely interposed in their favour, several of our poor people would, in all probability, have perished with hunger. To save their lives till the supply from the Treasury arrived, the kirk-session exerted themselves vigorously, by purchasing for them pease, and other cheap food, from the south country. Much about the same time, or soon after, the small-pox were introduced here, after being for some length of time absent; and, in order to overcome the aversion which some of the meaner sort of people still have to inoculation, the kirk-session, on a motion made, agreed to bear the expence of inoculating the children of such parents

as could not afford to pay for that salutary operation. The scheme succeeded to their wish; for many who seemed averse before, now, when they had an offer of having their children inoculated for nothing, applied. Above 30 poor children were, at the expence of the session, inoculated in the space of one or two weeks, and all of them soon recovered perfectly.

*Disadvantages, Advantages, and Manners.*—The former of these are, it must be confessed, neither very few in number, nor yet very inconsiderable. Several inconveniencies, it is evident, must arise even from the remote and secluded situation of this place. This deprives the people of a free and frequent intercourse with intelligent strangers; to instruct them, by their conversation, in what is useful; and the example of more cultivated countries, to excite among them the spirit of improvement. To the same cause it is perhaps owing, that many of the lower class of the people are still so ignorant as to be under the baneful influence of superstition. In many days of the year they will neither go to sea in search of fish, nor perform any sort of work at home. In the time of sickness or danger, they often make vows to this or the other favourite saint, at whose church or chapel in the place, they lodge a piece of money, as a reward for their protection; and they imagine, that if any person steals or carries off that money, he will instantly fall into the same danger from which they, by their pious offering, had been so lately delivered. On going to sea, they would reckon themselves in the most imminent danger, were they by accident to turn their boat in opposition to the sun's course. They do not marry but in the waxing of the moon. They would think the meat spoiled, were they to kill the cattle when that luminary is wanting; and they would consider it as an unhappy omen, were they, by any means, disappointed in getting themselves married, or  
their

their children baptised on the very day which they had previously fixed in their mind for that purpose. To these prejudices, arising from ignorance, there are still connected several of the meaner kind of vices. If they are detected in telling a lie to promote their own interest, in over-reaching their acquaintance in making a bargain, or even in pilfering their property, they are not so much ashamed as to argue a great degree of civilization. Murmuring at their own poor condition, complaining of, and wishing to conceal every thing they can call their own, and a constant endeavour to throw the thick veil of mystery over every transaction they engage in, form the most prominent features of their characters. Of these foibles and vices, however, to which, it must be confessed, the meanest of the people are but too much addicted, no traces almost are to be met with among those of better condition. The ladies here are as agreeable in their persons, as they are polished in their manners: They discover much good sense, and equal virtue; and, when they are raised from their father's family to that of their husband, they are no less remarkable for their faithful affection as wives, than they are for their parental attachment as mothers. Neither are the men of the same rank much inferior; for such of them as are engaged in trade, are generally reputed fair in their dealings. Such as are bred for the navy, rise to considerable rank; and those gentlemen that live at home upon their estates, and that have been fortunate enough to obtain a liberal education in their youth, need not be afraid to bear a comparison with those of the same rank in other parts of the kingdom. To form the minds, and mark the characters of the inferior ranks of people here, the illicit trade which till lately has been carried on to no small extent, has, without doubt, contributed very considerably. Formerly, the money they had, which indeed was but little, ran al-

most all of it in the channel of smuggling. This species of business, which has always been the disgrace, and at last proved the ruin of almost every place where it has been practised to a great extent, enriched indeed a few merchants, who circulated their profits in the place. But it also contributed to introduce, among the farmers, sailors, and even tradesmen, a sort of low cunning, to give them such a taste for drinking spirits, as not only hurts their health, but stints their growth, to draw off their attention from sober, honest industry, to a kind of gambling for gain; and, what is worst of all, to weaken in their hearts that sacred regard for truth and fair dealing, which are the principal ingredients in every respectable character. Though this shameful trade be now much discouraged by some of the proprietors of land, who long saw with regret its pernicious tendency, and indeed almost suppressed by the vigorous exertions of the revenue officers; yet, though the cause be in a great measure removed, the effects, still unhappily indeed, are visible in Kirkwall.

The mode the farmers have of paying their rents has also a considerable degree of influence in forming their characters. They are generally but poor;—they have very short leases; some of them are obliged to pay entry or grassum at every removal; and as their tack-duties are for the most part paid in kind, they are anxious to conceal from their landlords, or as they are sometimes still called their masters, what the lands produces. The feu-duties too, which on many estates are equal to the rents paid to the lairds, are all paid in kind; and as the crops frequently fail, this mode of payment becomes a very heavy burden, both on the tenants and proprietors. Very unlike the more favoured regions in the south, where the spring comes in early with a genial warmth, our spring continues cold until the month of June and July, when

when the vegetation is very rapid, and both corn and grass flourish much, till they are checked in the month of August, which too often blasts the hopes of the husbandman. About that season the winds generally blow with such fury from the west and south-west, that the sea by dashing against the rocks, which on that side of the country are high, steep, and rugged, spreads a shower or spray of salt water over almost the whole islands. By means of this spray, the grass which before looked green and healthy, and the fields of corn which had promised plenty for man and beast, in the space of one night put on the garb of mourning, looking black as if they had been burnt, and are thenceforth almost good for nothing.

Many inconveniences the people are also liable to from the nature of their weights, which are peculiar to this place, and which were originally derived from Norway. The instruments they have for the purpose of weighing, are a kind of staterae or steelyards;—they are two in number; and the one of them is called a pundlar, and the other a bifmar. On the first is weighed fettings and miels, and on the last marks and lispunds.—24 marks make 1 setting or 1 lispund, and 6 fettings make 1 miel, and the articles of oats, and bear, and meal, and malt, and butter, are most commonly weighed upon these instruments. So very uncertain are these weights, that no person can say what should be the exact quantity contained in either of these denominations. The deacon of the weights for the time, has the important charge of making, and mending, and adjusting these instruments, the smallest defect in which must, it is evident, render them very false; and even when they are as perfect as their nature will admit of, by a sort of slight of hand trick perfectly easy, and perfectly well known to those who weigh, great injustice may be done, without almost the possibility of detection. Many intelligent

telligent people here confidently assert, that these weights have increased much of late; and others as strenuously contend, that they are the same now they were many years ago; but almost all except a few ignorant or interested men are agreed, that they are very fallacious. Though this be an evil of no inconsiderable magnitude, the people must it seems endure it; for no permanent and effectual remedy can be applied without the interposition of the legislature.

Before any reasonable expectation of improving the condition of the people can be entertained, more just weights must be introduced; the leases of land, which are at present far too short, must be lengthened double or treble at least; all the tack and feu-duties must be converted into money; better seed must be sown, and that changed annually; and the barbarous feudal customs of grassums and services totally abolished. In order to have a number of spare hands for the purpose of manufactures and fisheries, several of the farms, which are at present by much too small, must be thrown into one; and were this circumstance to be attended to, it would induce men of some stock or substance to rent them.

Even in the town the people labour under several inconveniences. All the intelligence of any importance which they have, must come from the south, and it is often very slow in reaching them. This, indeed, happens partly from the boisterous friths which the post must unavoidably cross in his way to Kirkwall. But notwithstanding this circumstance, were the post to go out on Friday instead of Sunday; were he to *ride* through Caithness and Sutherland where he now *walks*; were he to come straight from Wick to Houna, or should he still continue to come by Thurso; were he to cross the Pentland Frith from Scarfscarry to Walls, in place of coming by South Ronaldshay, they might have the return of a letter in one third less time than it now takes to come

to them from Edinburgh. Were these changes brought about, and they certainly could be done with no great expence to government, the business of this place would reap from them evident advantages.

But this inconveniency of the want of quick and regular returns of the post, is trifling compared to those the inhabitants sustain from the want of regular markets. The Mainland is situated almost in the middle of the islands, which extend from north-east to south-west upwards of 70 miles. Kirkwall stands near the center of the Mainland, or principal island, which stretches from north to south, in some parts 7 or 8 miles, and from east to west about 30. Thus situated in the heart of the whole country, which is abundantly fertile in all the ordinary kinds of provisions, one would naturally imagine, the inhabitants could be in no want of any of the articles of living. But this is really not the case; for if we except beef, which can be purchased in the market from harvest till some time in the end of winter, they are much at a loss to procure any sort of provisions. If they wish to have beef, either in spring or summer, they are under the disagreeable necessity of sending to purchase it in different parts of the country. In the same way when they stand in need of malt or meal, of mutton, pork, poultry, or fish, as they cannot have them at home, they must send for them from the Mainland, or from the islands at a distance. Numerous are the hardships to which the want of markets exposes the inhabitants of almost every description. Men of landed property, indeed, feel these much less than others; for such articles as they are in need of, and as the country produces, are furnished in abundance to their families from their estates by an agreement with their tenants. But such as have no estates, and especially poor tradesmen and labourers, are often even with money in their pockets, at a loss to subsist  
their



their families. In order to furnish themselves with the necessaries of life, they must watch the country people as they come into town occasionally with the produce of their little farms for sale; they must buy them at certain seasons, many months before they are needed; or they must hire people at a considerable expence to go through the islands to purchase them. People thus employed, either on their own account, or on that of others, have been known in winter, when the weather is bad, and the seas stormy, to have been detained five or six weeks from their labour and their families. These, and many other evils of a similar nature, which arise from their having no regular markets, call aloud for a remedy, and should certainly as soon as possible be listened to by those whose duty it is to apply it. But the attachment to old established customs which so generally prevails here, is the parent of many of the inconveniences the people labour under, and were this once weakened or destroyed, they might soon be in a better condition.

Flax might be raised here, as the soil is by no means unfit for it; and had the people once acquired skill sufficient to sow, to weed, and to water it, they might find a very useful employment in dressing it, when they are now almost idle during the winter. To spin it would employ a number of females—to weave it into cloth would give bread to weavers; and a manufacture thus carried on from a raw material reared at home, would soon introduce an alteration for the better into the people's circumstances. Similar advantages might arise from a due attention to the wool, which is certainly of an excellent quality. Did the farmers take that care of their sheep which their importance merits; did they employ skilful hands to sort and to dress the fine soft wool which they bear; and were there people of knowledge in that particular business to manufacture it, the people of Orkney might, in a  
very

very short time, have not only what was sufficient for their own wear, but many thousand yards of woollen stuffs, as has been said was the case formerly, for exportation.

A brewery might also be erected here, in order to furnish beer of various kinds for the inhabitants, and the shipping that occasionally comes among them. They might have a distillery, with a view to supersede the necessity of bringing British spirits from the south. Hides, which makes such a considerable article in the exports, might be tanned here; and as there are kelp and tallow, and butter and oil, which are said to be the chief ingredients in soap, they might also have a soap manufactory. But neither these, nor any other kind of manufacture that requires fire will ever thrive here, or indeed any where in the north, until the duty on coals carried north of the Red-head be no longer ranked among the number of our taxes. This tax has undoubtedly disgraced the book of rates, from which it ought instantly to be cancelled, and committed to oblivion; and the member who would introduce a bill into the House of Commons, and carry it into a law for that effect, would deserve well of his country. In almost every point of view, it is both unjust and impolitic; for it has an evident tendency to hurt trade, to hurt manufactures; it subjects those that live at a distance from coal to a duty, from which they that reside near the coal pit are exempted; and when it is collected with the utmost care, it makes but a very inconsiderable addition to the revenue.

The advantages which the inhabitants of this country might draw from manufactures are, except kelp, perhaps not superior to what might be obtained from fisheries. For this species of industry, the people here are admirably well situated. Lobsters of an excellent kind, and in very considerable numbers, have, for many years past, been caught here; and  
though

though the fishery be at present carried on by an opulent company, it is confined to the south isles, whereas, were it extended, as indeed it should be through the whole, twice the number at least might be annually carried to the London market. There are plenty of them to be found every where around the islands; and though they be sold at the low price of a penny, or a penny farthing each, where they are caught, they are said to bring into the country about 800*l.* annually. A sum equal to this might, perhaps, be received from the capture of herrings. That most excellent species of fish comes, it is well known, in several great shoals from the frozen ocean in the north, and one of these in its progress south, hovers about the northern isles, and the east coast of Great Britain. Vast multitudes of them are taken on the coast of Shetland in the month of June; and in the end of July, and first of August, they frequently touch at Wick, and other places on the shores of Caithness and Sutherland. In the intermediate time and space, they might certainly be got here in no small quantity, for the bays of Orkney are, in the months of July and August, in some seasons at least, full of them. But the people here, are either so destitute of spare hands, from their present mode of agriculture, and from the number of people usefully employed in burning kelp through the summer, or they are so void of enterprize, or perhaps of the means of this species of industry, that though this fishery has an appearance, that promises profits sufficient to reward those that would undertake it, there is scarcely at present a herring net in the whole country. No small benefit, it is believed, might also be obtained from a cod fishing. Every where almost around this country cod are to be found, when the weather permits boats to get off to them, which indeed is but seldom the case, as the banks which they usually haunt lie at a considerable

derable distance. The stations most fit for this fishing seem to be the town of Stromness, the islands of Stronfay and Sanday, of Westray and Walls, at the last of which, the little farmers on the shores of the Pentland Frith, in the times they could spare from their labour on land, have been known to catch 40,000 fine cod in the space of only one season. Before much can be made of it, however, skilful fishers by profession must be procured, as well as boats constructed for the purpose, and little floops to cover them from the rage of the sea, and the inclemency of the weather.

Besides all this, the inhabitants of Orkney are invited by their circumstances and situation to engage in the seal and whale fisheries. An evident advantage they have in being nearer the fishing ground than others, their seamen are as good, and would serve for less wages, and their provisions are still much cheaper than they are elsewhere; and as the price of labour is not yet very high here, the spick or blubber might, to great emolument, be converted into oil in this country. In fine, were they to improve their agriculture in proportion to the goodness of the soil—were they to increase their manufactures, and raise raw materials for them at home, or even import them from abroad—and were they wisely and vigorously to avail themselves of the advantages of their situation for carrying on various sorts of fisheries, and both foreign and domestic commerce, the people, by means of that industry, the sweets of which they would in that case taste, would in a short time become more numerous and more happy, and the Orkney islands, by no means inconsiderable either in point of extent or fertility, would emerge from obscurity, and assume the character of a respectable province, and add not only to the strength, but the splendour of the British empire.

## NUMBER LII.

## PARISH OF REAY.

(Counties of Caithness and Sutherland.—Presbytery of  
Caithness.—Synod of Sutherland and Caithness.)

By the Reverend Mr DAVID MACKAY.

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE greater part of the parish of Reay lies in the county of Caithness. A part, however, denominated Strathalladale, is in the county of Sutherland. It is computed to be about 17 miles in length, and 8 or 9 in breadth. It is bounded by the parishes of Thurso and Halkirk, in Caithness; and of Kildonan and Far, in Sutherland. Its figure is very irregular.

*Surface, Soil, and Air.*—The general aspect of the country is hilly through this parish; but a considerable track, bordering on the sea, is level. In the Caithness division, the soil is generally fertile. A great part of Strathalladale is shallow, barren, and fitter for pasture than for cultivation; yet, even there, the industry of the inhabitants, and the skilful use of manure, raise excellent crops. The air is dry and healthy. Colds, cough, fevers, consumption, and rheumatism, are the most prevalent distempers. Rheumatism has been known here only within these last 40 years. The small-pox, measles, and chincough, carry off numbers of children.

Fevers

Fevers often occasion a considerable mortality. The dropsy sometimes makes its appearance here; in which cases it is supposed to be brought on by the excessive drinking of raw spirits.

*Springs, Rivers, &c.*—In this parish are several mineral springs, all seemingly chalybeate. The most remarkable of these issues at the foot of a rock at Craigtown, on the sea shore. The river Halladale runs through the strath of the same name. Torfs divides the parish of Reay from the parishes of Thurso and Halkirk. Of the lakes, which are numerous, but small, the principal is the Loch of Shuriry. The fishes caught in the rivers are salmon and trouts. The salmon in the river Halladale, weigh commonly from 14 to 20 pounds. The fishing of Halladale may be estimated at 50 or 60 barrels annually. The river Torfs yields from 12 to 18 barrels of salmon in the year. The larger salmon are estimated at 3 d. a pound; the smaller at 2 d. In the months of June and July, they are in their greatest perfection. Loch Sleital, in Strathalladale, is remarkable for its large red trouts. The river of Halladale might be made navigable to boats for several miles.

*Sea-coast, &c.*—The extent of the sea-coast is computed to be about 9 miles. It affords the two bays of Sandside and Bighouse; and the creeks of Portkerry, which is supposed to be susceptible of considerable improvement, and of which the situation is thought an eligible one for a fishing village. The most improvable, and best harbour in the parish, is the water mouth of Halladale, where small decked vessels can lie in great safety. The principal head-land is Fresgo-head, near Sandside. Wrecks have been frequent upon the coast. A brigantine, laden with iron and hemp, was wrecked at the  
mouth

mouth of the bay in 1771; another, laden with logs, at Dunreay, in 1781. Two floops were wrecked in the same year; one in the Bay of Bighouse, the other in the Bay of Sandside. A brigantine, laden with salt, was lost at Lybster in 1788; and a herring bus at Portskerry in 1789.

*Sea-fishes.*—The fishes caught upon the coast are cod, ling, turbot, haddock, skate, whiting, dog fish, mackarel, horn-back, sand-eels, and flounders. The best season for the cod and ling is from the beginning of April to the beginning of July. They are taken with the hand line, the great line, and the small line. Haddocks, the white of the cod's belly, sand eels, limpets, and crabs, are used for baits. A sort of small fish, of the size of trouts, named *fillacks*, and supposed to be the fry of large fishes, are taken in great numbers among the rocks on the shore with a pock-net, having some broken crabs cast into it for baits. The cods are commonly at 2 d. ling at 5 d. and skates at 3 d. each. The haddocks are in their greatest perfection in December, and sometimes large enough to bring 2 d. each. Seals abound on the coast; and it has been occasionally visited by whales, sharks, and porpoises.

*Sea-ware, Shells, &c.*—The winter storms frequently throw in broken pieces of sponge; and, among these, now and then, whole sponges spreading out in a bush, from one stem. Enough of shell-sand is thrown up on the shore, but very few entire shells. At flood-mark, indeed, the shell of the sea-urchin often appears. The sea-ware, used as manure, is thrown by storms in great heaps into the bays and creeks, and is a mixture of tangle, and other common sea-weeds. At Portskerry, and round the Bays of Bighouse and Sandside, about 20 tons of kelp might be annually made. The tide  
flows

flows from west to east, from the Atlantic Ocean down the Pentland Frith.

*Mountains, Caves, &c.*—Of Binra, the only considerable mountain in the parish, the steepest side is computed to be a large mile from top to bottom. There is abundance of limestone, moorstone, and granite. Four quarries of freestone have been opened; one in the hill above Bighouse; another in the hill above Sandside; and one upon each side of Sandside Bay. Blocks of stone for millstones are found in different parts of the hills. Marl has been found in Braabin and Dunreay. A slender vein of lead-ore was lately discovered near Reay, but in circumstances that afforded no encouragement to work it. Iron-ore is found in different places through the parish. There is, in this parish, a cave, which, when a stone is cast into it, emits a hollow, echoing sound, of which the name given it by the country people (*glungang*) is imitative. In Binra, too, is a natural cave, into which cattle retire for shelter from storms. The entrance is formed by two natural stone-pillars, inclining towards each other. In the top is an aperture. This cave was once the resort of a gang of robbers. The shore at Borrowston presents a number of small caves, and a strong natural arch, covered with green turf, in a level with the adjacent ground, and leading over a chasm, about 40 feet deep, into which the tide flows.

*Quadrupeds and Fowls.*—The quadrupeds are, black cattle, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, cats, hares, rabbits, otters, foxes, badgers, rats, mice, moles, weasels, and wild cats. The rat is not to be seen in Strathalladale, nor in any other part of Sutherland. The birds are, eagles, hawks, swans, ducks, wild geese, sea pies, sea plovers, scale ducks, herons, cormorants, marrots or auks, kings fishers, rain geese, muir fowls, plovers,



plovers, partridges, lapwings, snipes, tame ducks, plover pages, tillings, linnets, thrushes, hill sparrows, common sparrows, wrens, buntings, larks, swallows, yellow hammers, water-wagtails, titmice, jackdaws, jackbits, ravens, woodlarks, whimbrels, starlings, curlews, redbreasts, cuckows, night rails, pigeons, snow-fowls, rooks; and, in the higher parts of the parish, woodcocks, blackcocks, and heath-hens, are sometimes seen. Of these, the swan, wild-goose, sea-duck, marrot, night rail, redbreast, cuckow, woodcock, and snow-fowl, are migratory.

*Population.*—The return made to Dr Webster of the number of the inhabitants of this parish was 2262 souls. The present amount of the population is 2298. The males are 1128; the females 1170. The annual average of births in this parish is 75: The deaths, as nearly as can be ascertained, are 36. The number of souls, under 10 years of age, are 602;—from 10 to 20, 484;—from 20 to 50, 943;—from 50 to 70, 258;—from 70 to 100, 11. The heritors are 8; and, of these, 2 reside in the parish. The farmers, with their families, are 328. The handicraftsmen are, 20 shoemakers, 18 weavers, 11 taylors, 4 wrights, 1 mason, and 5 smiths. Here are 9 distillers of whisky. The apprentices are 5. The household servants, male and female, 35. The labouring servants, male and female, 249. 39 of the present inhabitants of this parish are incomers, not born in it; and, of these, 3 were born in England; the remaining 36 in different parts of Scotland. All the inhabitants are of the communion of the established Church, except one Seceder. Two persons were banished from this parish in 1772. In 1773, several families emigrated to North America. Some poor people, and one or two reduced families, went from this parish to the cotton mills in Lanark and Stanley in 1788. The proportion

proportion of marriageable bachelors to the married men is as 1 to 7325. Within these few years, about 20 cottages have been suffered to fall into ruins, and two good farm houses have been built.

*Produce, &c.*—Bear, black oats, and white oats, are the usual crops. Wheat and pease have been tried with no great success. The gardens afford the common pot-herbs and flowers. There are, indeed, few trees—only some birches on the heights of Strathalladale; nor any fruits, except apples and pears. By ancient calculation, the parish contains 271 penny lands of arable ground, at 8 acres to each penny land. The pasture ground, unfit for agriculture, is very extensive; nor has its measurement ever been ascertained. The number of black cattle in this parish may be at a moderate computation 3441—The sheep 3110—The horses 982. Abundance of all provisions necessary for the use of the inhabitants, is produced in the parish. The exports are in general bear, oatmeal, beef, mutton, pork, geese, hens, butter, cheese, tallow, malt, whiskey, to the market of Thurso;—black cattle, sold to drovers from the south;—horse colts, sent to Orkney;—lambs, to the lowlands;—geese, sometimes to Sutherland and Ross;—as also hides, skins, goose-quills, and other feathers. Flax is an article of crop which has lately been introduced. Grass-seeds have been sown upon about 50 acres of the arable ground. Oats are sown commonly in April—bear in the end of May; and are reaped in September and October. The lands of this parish are in general uninclosed. The farms consist commonly of what is called a penny land—Many farmers possess only the half of a penny land. The principal farmers pay from 20 l. to 60 l. Sterling of yearly rent; and the rate of the penny land is from 5 l. to 8 l. There are in this parish 181 ploughs, and

92 carts. In the Caithness district are 10 water-mills, and in the division of the parish belonging to Sutherland 4. In each district too, there is also a *highland-mill*, having but one horizontal wheel immediately under the mill-stones.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The present prices of provisions are for beef, mutton, and pork, from 2 d. to 3 d. a pound—geese, 1 s. each—hens, 5 d.—chickens, 1½ d.—butter and tallow, from 8 s. to 10 s. a stone—cheese, 4 s. a stone—bear and oatmeal, from 10 s. to 12 s. a boll—oats, 5 s. a boll—wool is sold at 14 s. a stone.—Day-labourers in husbandry receive, men 6 d. with victuals—women 4 d. with victuals—without victuals, the former 8 d.—the latter 6 d.—Carpenters, masons, and slaters, are paid from 1 s. to 2 s. a day.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—The church was built in 1739. The stipend is 4 chalders of grain, 500 merks Scots in money, with 60 l. Scots for communion elements. The patronage is with the Crown. The glebe lies at a mile's distance from the manse, and when let yields only 2 l. 10 s. of yearly rent; a small part, indeed, contiguous to the manse, may be worth 1 l. more of rent.—The parochial school of this parish has a salary of 200 merks Scots, obtained by a decret of the Court of Session in November 1773, at the expence of the General Assembly. The schoolmaster possesses also an acre of ground, for which he teaches two children. In summer and in winter about 50 scholars attend the school; in spring and harvest when people are commonly obliged to employ such of their children as are fit for labour, the number falls to about 20. Salary and perquisites, if regular payments were made by the scholars, would together make the schoolmaster's salary amount to 24 l. a-year.—The poor receiving  
 alms

alms are about 50. The contributions for their support are between 5 l. and 6 l. yearly.

*Manners.*—The people of this parish are on the whole industrious and economical, although, perhaps, rather too much addicted to the drinking of spiritous liquors. They are very hospitable. They are in general poor. It must be confessed, too, that all the attention of the well disposed can hardly restrain the lower classes from pilfering in cases of shipwreck. To what has been said above of the rate of wages, it may here be added, that married labourers living with their families, receive 6 bolls of meal for board, and from 2 l. to 3 l. of wages in the year, with shoes. They sometimes have besides this a piece of ground for raising potatoes, with grazing and winter fodder for a cow. Servants living in their master's house receive the same wages as the others, without the allowance for board.—1 l. with shoes, is the year's wages for a female servant. Recruiting parties in Thurso have frequently picked up young men of this parish for the army. Reay furnished the greater part of two companies of Fencibles during the American war.

*Services exacted from the Tenants.*—There are personal services performed by tenants and under tenants with their labouring cattle, in the parish of Reay for time immemorial; but are abolished in some parts of the parish, being converted to money rent. On some estates and tacks they are limited; on others unlimited or discretionary on the master's part. The unlimited services are carried to a great extent; and, it is to be regretted, that a long custom, with other circumstances, has rendered that thralldom less odious to those, who in other respects are of benevolent tender feelings, and an obliging disposition. In such cases, though the tenants or

under tenants make a shift to perform the services demanded, they would find it impossible to pay an equivalent in money were they converted. The limited services are not established by a general rule, and therefore vary on different estates and tacks. A tenant of a penny-land on one estate performs three days in spring with his cattle, five days shearing and leading with horses every leading day, and mealing 16 bolls oats. A tenant of a penny-land on another estate, is bound to perform 24 days in spring with labouring cattle, 12 days in harvest, and leading every leading day, and mealing 20 bolls of oats. Cottagers who possess little more than one-eighth part of a penny-land, perform services three days every week in spring and harvest, and one in the week during summer and winter. The tenants or under tenants are obliged to perform these services every day their master is pleased to call them, perhaps from 20 to 120 days in the year. The nature of these services is plowing and manuring with their own cattle—weeding growing corn—cutting, leading with their own cattle, and building corn—mealing corn—cutting, curing, and leading hay—carrying victual to a feaport, in ordinary to Thurso, from 6 to 8 computed miles distance, or to any distiller in the country—cutting, curing, and leading peats, which is done by the piece, and running expresses, but not frequently. If a well esteemed master falls behind in his spring or harvest work, his tenants lend him their help voluntarily, beyond their limited services when in their power. Services are still performed, (though moderately) where they have been converted many years ago, notwithstanding the conversion money is still paid as a part of the rent. Hence it appears, that nothing but a prohibitory law can abolish this practice. As the tenants and under tenants are generally in straitened circumstances, it would be difficult to devise a method of abolishing services, without  
considerable

considerable sacrifices being made by superiors. But were the tenants by a little relaxation brought to easier circumstances, and their own labour under proper management, applied to the improvement of their farms, there is little doubt but the consequence would be advantageous to the landlords, and ready payments made more effectual.

*Public Houses.*—Little ale is drunk in the parish excepting in private houses. There are three inns or public houses wherein whiskey is retailed, and travellers are accommodated, but not very comfortably for the better sort. The hospitality of the parish supplies the public instead of elegant inns.

*Language.*—The Gaelic or Erse language is chiefly spoken through this parish. Many indeed now speak both Gaelic and English. The names of places are mostly of Gaelic derivation. Some ending in *ster*, as Shebster, Brubster, &c. are supposed to be of Danish origin. Reay, the name of the parish, is thought to be a corruption from Urray, the name of a Pictish hero who inhabited the castle, to this day called *Knock Urray*.

## N U M B E R LIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF AITHSTING  
AND SANSTING.

(*Sheriffdom of Orkney and Zetland.—Presbytery of Zetland.*)

By the Reverend Mr PATRICK BARCLAY.

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE parish is situated in the middle of the main land of Zetland. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Delting, from which it is separated by a large inlet of the sea, called *Swarback's Minn*, and which forms many fine bays and harbours in Delting and Aithsting. On the south, it is washed by the ocean. It is, in most places, 9 miles long, and 6 miles broad. A very inconsiderable part of it is under cultivation, and no exact measurement has ever been taken of it. There are 801 merks land in the parish; but the extent of a merk land is very indefinite. Some farms, which are rented for 6 merks, are of more extent, and worth more rent, than others that are rented for 10 or 12 merks. These merks are valued by sixpenny, ninepenny, and twelpenny land. Sixpenny land pays to the proprietor 8 merks butter, and 12 s. Scotch, *per* merk. Ninepenny land pays 12 merks butter, and 1 l. Scotch; and twelpenny land pays 16 merks butter, and 1 l. 4 s. Scotch. [*N. B.* The lands are reckoned by merks, and the butter is weighed by merks and lispunds.]

[lispunds.] The merk is equal to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  Amsterdam pound. 24 merks equal to a lispund, or 30 merks Amsterdam. The butter rent has never been raised above this rule in any part of this parish; but the price has been raised from 5 s. to 10 s. per lispund; and the money rent has, in some places, been quadrupled. There are also many *ontjeth*, i. e. small parcels of ground lately inclosed from the common, and set to a tenant for money rent only.

*Appearance and Climate.*—The appearance of the parish is rather hilly, but none of the hills are of any remarkable height when compared with those in the neighbouring parishes. The cultivated ground is generally at the foot of the hills, and on the sea-shore, and there is not a house in the parish half a mile distant from the sea. On the west side of the parish the hills are generally green on a mossy soil, and affording little pasture for sheep or horses in winter. On the north the hills are dry and rocky, with small long heather, and fine sweet grass. In the middle of the parish the hills are deep moss, and afford plenty of coarse grass called Lubba, and short bushy heather. The parish is every where intersected by long narrow bays called here Voes, or Friths. The pasture on the side of the Voe and in the Nefs, or peninsula formed by two Voes, is generally good, and great plenty of sea-weed or tang to be found on the shores. There can be no river in the parish—some small burns or rivulets, which afford excellent trout, and the sea-trout come into the burns to spawn, and are often caught in nets in August and September. There are upwards of 40 fresh water lakes in the parish; many of them might be drained at a small expence, and would greatly improve the pasture, or might be inclosed for meadows, as the bottom is mostly green or muddy. There are two inhabited islands, containing one family each,



each, who take care of the proprietor's sheep flocks, and 7 small islands or holms, in which the proprietor feeds sheep and cattle. The small part of the parish which is bounded by the ocean, is a very high and rocky shore, and some curious caves formed by the western ocean, much frequented by seals, wild pigeons, sea-fowls, &c.—There is no wood in the parish but in a gentleman's garden, although there is pretty good evidence, and an imperfect tradition, that the parish was once overrun with wood.—The air is moist and foggy, but not unhealthy—The heat or cold never disagreeable.—The most prevalent distempers here seem to be complaints on the liver; and are said to be occasioned by the violent exertions the men are often forced to make at sea, and the sudden transitions from heat to cold, to which they are frequently exposed. Cramps and rheumatisms also very common. The epilepsy, to which the women in the northern parishes are very liable, has not been seen here these many years. The people are not so healthy now as formerly, owing to the great alteration in the mode of living. The general use of tea, though but lately introduced, has made a very rapid progress. The poorest family in the parish will not now dispense with it, and will sell their clothes, yea their meal, to purchase it. They use a very coarse kind of black tea, drink it very strong, and often without milk or sugar: The latter hardly ever used. The immoderate use of spirituous liquors also materially hurts the constitution, as well as ruins the circumstances of many. Several of the last generation lived to a great age. One man died, within these 12 years, aged 107; and one woman, this year, of 95; but there is now only one man above 80 in the whole parish.

*Rent.*—There are 17 heritors in the parish. Seven of the smallest reside in it. There has never been any valuation of  
the

the lands. The rent paid to the landlords is 326 lispund, 19 merk butter, and 1713l. 16s. Scotch. Converting the butter at 3l. Scotch *per* lispund, it is in all 2693l. 16s. Scotch, or 224l. 9s. 8d. Sterling; but the butter rent is now charged by the heritors at 8s. and sometimes at 10s. *per* lispund. After all, this is but a nominal rent; for each tenant receives his possession from the landlord, on condition of putting out the sixth share of a boat to the long fishing, and delivering the wet fish to him or his tackfman at 3s. 6d. Sterling *per* quintal or cwt. and his oil at 10d. or 1s. *per* cann; so that the real rent of the parish depends on the profits the landlords make of the fish and oil, and is only known to themselves\*. Great part of the parish was lately set to a tackfman, who paid above double rent for it; and, as the fishings proved remarkably good during his tack, he made considerable profits. The poultry (one for each merk land) is included in the rent, as stated above. They pay also three days work from each family, when required; and, when not paid in kendars, converted at 6d. *per* day. They are always maintained by the landlord; and their meat very often exceeds the value of their work. The parish also pays to Sir Thomas Dundas, the superior, for scatt, wattle, and oxpenny, 110½ canns oil, and 30 lispund, 6 merk butter, and 140l. 3s. Scotch money; in all, 297l. 6s. Scotch, or 24l. 15s. 6d. Sterling. This was evidently the land-tax paid to the King of Norway or Denmark before these islands were annexed to the crown of Scotland, and has been, perhaps very unjustly, continued on the tenants in Zetland, who, as they pay cefs or land-tax to Britain besides, amounting generally to 5d. or 6d. *per* merk, may be said to pay double cefs every year. They pay also corn teind, 8d. or 10d. *per* merk land; one half of which to the superior, as bishop's rent, and

\* Vide parish of Dunrossness.

and one half to the minister. They pay also vicarage teinds for cows, sheep, and boats. The total payments from the parish in a year, exclusive of cess and day's works, is 3742 l. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  d. Scotch, or 311 l. 16 d. 9 d. Sterling, converting the butter as above.

It is very probable that all the lands in Shetland were allodial or udal. The proprietor had no right to shew but uninterrupted succession. But, as these udallers divided their lands among all their children, (the son got two merks, and the daughter one; hence *the sister part*, a common proverb in Shetland to this day), the possessions soon became trifling, and were swallowed up by great men, generally strangers, many of whom acquired estates in a very short time. None of these udallers remain in this parish, and great part of the lands are now feued from the superior. The superiors formerly had many ways of procuring property in Shetland. Patrick Earl of Orkney, in a disposition of the lands of Sand to Jerom Umphray, narrates, that he had evicted 7 merks of that land from Powl Nicholson in Cullswick, for *stealing a swine*, and that he had evicted 6 merks from \_\_\_\_\_ in Cullswick, for stealing bolts from his Lordship's trood, probably some piece of wreck which had been drawn into Cullswick. In that same disposition, the Earl grants receipt for the money from Jerom Umphray, at the rate of 17 l. 16 s. Scotch *per* merk land, "being full land's price at the time." In 1789, three merk land in Fogragarth sold for 100 l. Sterling, and 40 sheep; and one of the merks is only feued.

*Agriculture.*—Very little can be said for the method of cultivation: It is, at best, slovenly, and often preposterous. The soil is in a few places sandy; in some, it is clay; but in general, it is deep black moss. Every farm is inclosed or  
divided

divided from the common pasture by a turf or stone dyke ; but, in what is called a *farm* or *town*, there are perhaps 12 or 14 tenants, whose lands lie *pro indiviso*, and often runrig, which effectually prevents smaller inclosures, and is, in many other ways, inconvenient for the tenant. In some farms of 30 or 40 merk land, there are often 4 heritors. As the possessions are by far too small, the land is too frequently laboured.

There are 14 ploughs in the parish, 4 oxen in each, who go a-breast. A large yoke is laid on the neck of the two outermost, and a small yoke on the innermost oxen. These yokes are joined by a double rope, to the middle of which is fixed the draught or chain, which is from 24 to 18 feet long, from the neck of the oxen to the nose of the plough. The plough is of a very singular construction. A crooked piece of wood, bent (naturally) almost to a right angle, forms the beam ; to which is fixed a piece of oak stave, about 7 feet long, which must be very pliable, and yield to the pressure of the driver's hand, when he would deepen his fur. The coulter stands almost even up and down, and is always too short. A square hole is cut through the lower end of the beam, and the *mercal*, a piece of oak about 22 inches long, introduced, which, at the other end, holds the sock and sky. The furrow is made deep or shallow, by driving a wedge below or above the mercal, on the outside of the beam. There is a stilt on the top of the plough ; and the man who holds it, walks on the white land at the side of it. This slender machine is liable to many accidents. A stone in the land, or even a stiff furrow, often breaks it in pieces, and the labour is much retarded : It turns the furrow almost quite round about ; and people are employed to cut and smooth it with spades, before the seed is sown. The outfields generally lie ley one year, and are sown next April with

black oats. After the seed is sown, the dung is laid about it, and both are very slightly harrowed. By this means, a tolerable crop is generally procured, but the soil is never meliorated. Prejudice and obstinacy prevent their adopting other methods, which have, on experience, been found to answer better, such as allowing the lands to lie two or three years ley, then take two crops, always turning down the dung, by which means dry outfield may soon be meliorated, and converted into infield. Some outfields or outbreaks cannot admit of this, being 5 or 6 feet deep, and only give a crop while the surface is rotting.

Infield is generally laboured to bear or potatoes. The bear land is always dunged, and the dung ploughed, or turned down. Sometimes a crop of infield oats is taken, but very seldom in this parish. There are some infield grounds which are well known to have produced bear for these 40 years, without ever lying ley, or being sown with oats. These lands get a great deal of dung every year; and, in rainy seasons, the crop is always laid to the ground. The manure for infield is cow-dung, kept in the byre until seed-time, and frequently mixed with ashes and light mossy earth, which is gathered in summer, and kept in storehouses for that purpose. The dung is carried out in winter on the outfields, and made up in small dunghills, mixed with earth and seawe. As the farms are generally too small for keeping ploughs, by far the greatest part of the parish is digged with a curious light spade, made for that purpose. The dung is carried on people's backs, though sometimes horses are employed to carry it in creels. There are only two carts in the parish. One of them has put out as much in a day as nine people would have carried on their backs. No man in this parish will sow oats before the 17th April, by which means the best season is often lost. Harvest generally begins in  
September,

September.—No estimation can be made of the quantity or value of each species of crop, as every man has his own water-mill or hand-quearn, and grinds his own crop; but, in good seasons, the crop in this parish would always maintain the inhabitants, with the help of milk and fish, and potatoes and cabbage. The two latter grow in great abundance.

*Wages.*—Men-servants get from 15 l. to 8 l. Scotch, for three-fourths of the year. In summer, they are all employed in the ling fishing, and the boys on beaches. The men get from 12 l. to 24 l. Scotch; boys from 6 l. to 10 l. Women-servants get from 12 l. to 8 l. sometimes cheaper, when they get their “*hands to themselves*,” that is, liberty to spin and knit stockings, for their own behoof and emolument, at leisure hours. The yarn is generally spun at night, when they would be otherwise idle; and, when carrying dung, or travelling on the road, they are always knitting. Their service to the master is often very inconsiderable; and they would not get meat for their work in any other place. Artificers are seldom paid by the day, and are always maintained by the employer. A mason has from 10 d. to 14 d. a day; his servants 6 d.; wright, 10 d.; taylor, shoemaker, and boat-builder, paid by the piece, and generally earn 8 d. or 10 d.

*Provisions.*—A fat ox, weighing from 3 to 4 cwt. sells at 3 l. Sterling; a cow, 2 l.; sheep, 3 s.; lamb, from 10 d. to 15 d.; calf, 1 s. 2 d.; swine, 2 s. or 3 s.; pigs, 6 d.; goose, 8 d.; hens, 4 d.; chicken, 2 d.; butter, from 5 s. to 8 s. or 9 s. *per* lispund; potatoes, 6 d.; cabbage, never fold; ditto plants, from 3 d. to 12 d. *per* hundred. When meal is fold in the parish, it is from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. for oats, and 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. for bear-meal, *per* lispund; feed oats, 1 s. 3 d.; bear, 1 s. 8 d.

*Manufactures.*

*Manufactures and Fishing.*—The parish produces a great quantity of wool, which sells from 10 d. to 15 d. *per* lispund. Very little good use is made of it in the parish. A few coarse cloths are manufactured for common use; and all the stockings, nightcaps, mitts, &c. used in the parish. The remainder is commonly destroyed in coarse stockings, which can hardly bring the original value of the wool. They are generally bartered in Lerwick for tea, snuff, tobacco, linen, lawns, cottons, &c. and seldom bring above 2½ d. real value, though they are nominally allowed 5 d.; for neither meal nor ready money can be obtained for stockings. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the manufacturers are much to blame for the low price of stockings, as they are generally of an extreme bad quality. A considerable quantity of kelp is made in this parish, perhaps from 40 to 50 tons in a year. The shores are generally let to a farmer, who makes the kelp at his own expence, and receives from the landlord 40 s. *per* ton. He employs women or boys at 7 s. 6 d. *per* month, or 2 d. a tide. This manufacture is but lately introduced, and is of very essential service, as many people earn something at it, who never had or could have earned a penny in any other way.

The people, in general, have a turn for handicrafts; but, as they have no opportunity to learn, and but very little steadiness in themselves, they seldom come to perfection in any trade. Every man almost tans his own leather, (often with the tormentile root), makes his own shoes, coarse cloths, &c. There is no convenient fishing station in this parish, nor any beaches fit for drying the fish. The small part of it which has immediate access to the ocean, is a bold rocky shore. The ling and cod fishing is, however, carried on with great vigour by the inhabitants, who are not inferior in skill and activity to any of their neighbours. In the month of  
June,

June, almost every man in the parish leaves his home, and goes to the proper fishing stations in the neighbouring parishes of Walls and Northmavine. The expence of this fishing, and the mode of carrying it on, will be described by the ministers of these parishes. There are about 36 six-oared boats, for this fishing, belonging to the parish; and many young men are hired by fishers in Northmavine. A few ling and cod are caught at the south end of the parish, and sell, ling 6d. cod 2d. Plenty of haddocks and whittings sell 1d. *per* dozen. Pollocks, or young feath, caught in summer, and sell for 1d. *per* score. Sillocks set in, in great quantities, to the bays or voes in winter; but, as every man is now at home, and can fish for himself, these are seldom sold. Herrings, caught in the bays in autumn, sell for 1d. *per* score, or 3s. *per* mett, nearly a barrel of fresh ungutted herrings. No tide-ways in this parish. The only exports sent directly by sea are kelp, herrings, butter, and a very small quantity of oil. Black cattle, horses, and stockings, are generally sold to the Lerwick merchants. No town or village. No inns; perhaps 30 or 40 gin and tea shops, to the great ruin of the morals, health, and circumstances of the inhabitants. The landlords could easily prevent this trade; and it would be much for their advantage to do so, as several of the tenants spend more in these shops than they give to the landlord in a year; and some spend all they are worth, so the landlord gets nothing; yet this trade is carried on by his own tenants, (who have no tacks, and might therefore be soon removed.)

No road in the parish; and, in many places, it is not possible to make them, the hills are so rugged, and the moss so deep. Great plenty of fine bays and harbours, which are of little consequence here, as a ship has hardly been seen in some of them within the memory of man. On the north, the bay of Aith, and voe of Burra Frith, afford very fine anchorage



anchorage for many miles. The entrance is from St Magnus Bay, through Swarback Minn Clousta Voe, where vessels would be safe in all weathers, and could lie alongside of the rock, in 20 feet water. Voe of Unrurith, great quantities of kelp made and shipped in the two last;—Snarranefs, where herrings are often caught and loaded. Gruten Voe, and Ollas Voe, on the west, very fine large bays, sheltered from all sea and winds. The entrance is through the south end of Vaila Sound, a much frequented harbour in the parish of Walls. On the south, are Skeldavoe, Selivoe, and Trestavoe, all of them fine harbours, but very little frequented. The entrance is from the ocean. As the parish is every where intersected by long voes, the traveller has often occasion to cross ferries. There are, however, no stated ferry-boats; but the people are very ready to assist and forward their neighbours, often for nothing, and at best for a very small hire. There is no ship or vessel belonging to the parish.

*Church and Poor.*—The church was built in 1780, and got a new roof in 1789. The manse was built in 1770, and was repaired in 1788. The stipend is let to a tacksmen for 60 l. Sterling, exclusive of an augmentation of 11 l. 19 s. lately obtained. Hugh Sutherland was minister here in the beginning of last century; was succeeded by James Strachan, who was drowned in 1691, crossing a small ferry in the parish. His successor, Cornelius Barron, was very unjustly, as is said, deposed by a committee of the General Assembly, sent here in the beginning of this century, to inquire into the state of the church, and see if the ministers had conformed to Presbyterianism. Mr Barron had conformed; but they fought after, and pretended to find other causes for setting him aside. It will perhaps hardly be believed now a-days, that  
bodily

bodily infirmity, and affliction from the hand of providence, were his greatest crimes.

The number of poor on the roll are 10, 8 women and 2 men, all of them aged and infirm. Each of them has a particular district in the parish to which they are confined, and every householder keeps them one night for every merk land he labours. They get clothes and shoes from the session annually, and the expence of their funerals is paid from the poor's funds. There are therefore no travelling beggars of this parish. Many poor families also require assistance to buy seed corn, or purchase meal, cattle, &c. The frequent misfortunes at the fishing, greatly increase the number of widows and orphans, who must receive occasional supply. The only fund for the support of the poor is the Sunday collections, which amount to about 7*l. per annum*, and a few fines imposed by the session for misdemeanours. In 1784 and 1785, the whole money in the session's hands was exhausted, excepting 10*l. Sterling*, which had been lent, and could not be recovered at that time. It has been since repaid; and the funds now amount to 17*l. Sterling*. So great was the poverty and distress of the people in general at that time, that many would have perished for want, but for the charitable contributions of well disposed persons in England and Scotland, and a large supply sent from government.

*Population.*—In 1733 there were 987 souls. In Dr Webster's list, in 1755, 911; in 1775, 1223; and January 1792, 1285.

*Amount*

Amount of Population in Sandfing and Aithfing, Jan. 1. 1792,  
1285, of which 630 are Men, and 655 Women.

|              |     |                |     |
|--------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Men above 80 | 1   | Women above 90 | 4   |
| — — 70       | 11  | — — 80         | 7   |
| — — 60       | 46  | — — 70         | 15  |
| — — 40       | 92  | — — 60         | 54  |
| — — 30       | 64  | — — 40         | 109 |
| — — 20       | 100 | — — 30         | 76  |
| — — 10       | 131 | — — 20         | 143 |
| — below 10   | 175 | — — 10         | 103 |
|              | 630 | — below 10     | 144 |
|              |     |                | 655 |

Men, 630

In all, 1285

Average of births for 10 years, from 1734, is, Boys, Girls,

11 $\frac{2}{5}$ , 9 $\frac{1}{5}$

Ditto for last 10 years, - - - - - 14 $\frac{4}{5}$ , 11 $\frac{1}{5}$

Average of marriages for 10 years, from 1734, is, 5 $\frac{6}{10}$

Ditto for the last 10 years, is - - - - - 13

*N. B.* From December 1739, to December 1740, there was no marriage in the parish.

There are 46 widows, 14 widowers, and 12 bachelors who have house and land; but most of these are young men staying with their mothers on their father's tacks. There is no exact register of deaths, as there are four burial places in the parish, and no stated grave-digger; but as far as can be made out, the average of 10 years preceding 1791, is 9.5 but last year there died 47, 30 of which in the small-pox. There have been 16 twins born in the parish within these 10 years, 8 of which by two sisters.

The

The increase of the people is owing to the number of outsets, and splitting of tacks, by which means the number and poverty of the people are much increased. There is one farm now possessed by 7 tenants, and 3 outsets, which, in 1742, had only 2 tenants;—many others, where the number of families is tripled. Formerly, the landlords in this parish were little concerned in the ling fishing. Many persons now alive remember when there was not one six-oared boat in the ministry; and the first master of a boat to the Ha-af, or ling fishing, from Sansting, is still alive. Many of the tenants had large flocks of sheep and cattle, and found their profit in staying home to look after them, and others went to North-mavine fishing for fees; and, if they paid their rent to the landlord, nothing more was asked. The landlords now find it necessary to prosecute the fishing on their own account; and to increase the number of seamen, is their great and constant endeavour. With this view, outsets were increased, greatly to the detriment of the pasture and sheep flocks. The rented lands were subdivided, and set on this express provision, that they should fit out a sixth share of a boat to the ling fishing; and every encouragement was given to young men to marry, and settle in the country. The revenues of the parish are certainly increased; but the number of women and children, who can do nothing for themselves or the landlord, in much greater proportion. The stock of cattle and sheep is perhaps nearly the same; but, being divided among a much greater number of people, any material loss, such as happened in 1784, is much more severely felt; and the production or profit of that stock cannot go so far in supplying the necessities of an increased number of people. The fishing is not nearly so plentiful now as before; but the quantity of land under cultivation, has perhaps increased in equal proportion with the people, (*i. e.* a much greater quan-

tity of land is under cultivation now than was 60 or 70 years ago). It must, however, be stated here, that the number of poor on the roll, about 60 years ago, was more than double of what it is now. Whether this was owing to improper admission, or if their necessities were really greater, cannot now be discovered. One probable conjecture is, that the number of servants must have been greater then than now; and, as they could hardly be supposed to save any thing from their trifling fees, they had little other dependance, when old, but on the poor's funds. One other observation is, that the Sunday collections were much greater then than they are now.

There are 205 families in the parish, (the average in a family  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ); but, in many of these families, there are two sets of children; the father and his family, and the eldest son married, and has a family. They are divided, and classed by their ages, as per the table. No other division can be made. All the people in the parish are natives of Shetland, except one man from Argyle, and one woman from Aberdeenshire. There are no sectaries of any denomination;—no town or village;—no distinct division can be made by their occupations or situations in life. There are 3 blacksmiths, 4 masons, many taylors, weavers, wrights, boat-builders, shoemakers, &c.; but none earn their bread by that occupation alone: Every man almost is fisher, farmer, and artificer; so that hardly any man in the parish, except the minister, makes his bread by one trade.

*Cattle.*—The number of horses cannot be ascertained; (they exceed 800); they are very small, but generally handsome, and of high mettle;—are employed in the parish in carrying peats and turf, and in riding to church. A great number are sold annually to the farmers in Dunroffness, to Orkneymen,

Orkneymen, and to the merchants in Lerwick, who send them to Leith, London, Hull, Holland, &c. They fetch from 12l. to 36l. Scotch, *i. e.* from 1l. to 3l. Sterling.

The number of sheep cannot be properly ascertained, as they go at freedom on the hills; and some of them are so wild, as only to be caught by dogs; and the owners are very careful to conceal their number, to cheat the teind-master. Perhaps 9000 may be near the truth.

There are 850 milching cows, besides oxen and young cattle, and a great number of swine, who go loose in the pasture in summer; and not being ringed, do a great deal of mischief; and, in winter, they turn up and destroy the corn land and meadows. No mines or mineral springs of any consequence.

*Disadvantages.*—The want of manufactures is a great loss, as the people, especially women and children, are idle for at least half of the year.—The woollen manufacture most naturally presents itself, in the first place. The tenants have no tacks, but sit from year to year, at the will of their landlord. By this means they are discouraged from improving their farm; because, when they grow old, or unable to go to sea, they may be turned out, and are very often overbid by young stout men. The immoderate consumpt of tea and spirituous liquours is a great ruin to their health and circumstances. It would be impossible to carry on the fishing without gin; but the small retail shops in the parish are a great nuisance and ruin.

The people, in general, have too great a turn for fine clothes. A great deal of money is laid out in a year for Scotch and English cloths, stuffs, cottons, lawns, &c. while their own wool is neglected or destroyed. Perhaps a premium offered to the man who had the best suit of clothes spun

spun in his house, and manufactured in the country, if not in the parish; and to the woman who had the best plaid, gown, and petticoat, of her own spinning, might prevent this, and give the people, in general, a turn for manufacturing their own wool.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The language spoke is a mixture of Norwegian, Dutch, and English; but all the inhabitants now understand pure English, though they could speak among themselves so as an Englishman could not understand them. The names of places are of Norwegian extraction, and are generally expressive of the situation, or some property of the place. Examples are needless. Many people now living observe the great change in manners and dress of the inhabitants. They remember when tea was not known;—when there was not a coat in the parish but what had been spun and woven in it;—and only two or three hats in the parish. They observe also, that there is not a sixth part of the finall fish to be caught along the shores now as when they were boys. Boats were then seldom used but for ling and cod; they got plenty of fillocks and pillocks from the rocks.—The small-pox have not been general in this parish within the memory of man until 1791. Whole families of people, from 60 years and downwards, were seized with this disease. The people were at first much afraid of them, and used every mean to avoid the infection. It soon, however, spread through the parish; and, of about 30 who caught it in the natural way, full two thirds died. They were at last persuaded to submit to inoculation. 327 were inoculated by a physician, of which 5 died; one of them a woman past 60; another a very sickly boy. About 100 were inoculated by common men, who pretended to no skill, and gave no medicines. Five of these died; and the greatest  
part

part of the rest, had the good fortune to fall under the physicians care, and all of them learned his cool regimen. (A young gentlemen in the neighbourhood inoculated above 200 there, and did not lose one). There are still about 250 in this parish who would not submit to inoculation, and had the good luck to escape the infection. The small-pox spread over about half the parish in 1740; and it appears, from a register of deaths at that time, that there died 78. About 40 years ago, they were in a small corner of the parish, especially about Cullswick; there are at least a third more inhabitants there now, than were then, and there died 17 in that place, 11 of which were buried in one week. In 1791 there were 58 inoculated in Cullswick, and not *one* died.

A number of young men from this parish go to sea. Sometimes they engage with the Greenland ships for the season, and are landed again in the autumn. Their wages are high; but they learn many bad habits, and seldom put their money to good use. Many of them bind apprentices to Greenland, and other ships, and make fine hardy seamen. During the American war four men enlisted for soldiers, which is very uncommon here. The country, in general, agreed with government for a certain number of men during the war, for which they got protections to fishers from being impressed. Of these 20 went from this parish, and only eight returned, or are alive.

NUM-



## NUMBER LIV.

## PARISH OF MUIRKIRK.

(County and Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

By the Reverend Mr JOHN SHEPPARD.

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*Name, Soil, and Surface.*

**T**HIS parish was formerly called “the Muirkirk of “Kyle;” and no person who looks on its *face*, can be at any loss for the origin of its *name*.—No great proportion of this parish is arable, or fit for tillage. As the country is hilly, the surface of the greater part of it is heath or hether, interspersed with spots of verdure; both of which, taken together, afford good pasture for sheep. Where two thirds of the surface is hether, and the other grass, the pasture is reckoned by the sheep-farmers preferable to any other. Even where the plough is employed, which is the case in many parts of this parish, the ground is not well adapted to the improvements of agriculture. The soil is, in general, mossy, and the alternative commonly light and gravelly. Some few spots, indeed, are to be found where it is deep, and of a pretty strong clay; but these bear no proportion to those of a contrary quality. As much of the ground is wet or marshy, draining is a most necessary improvement; indeed so necessary, that it must be first in order, before any other can be attempted with any possibility of success.

*Hills,*

*Hills, Woods, Rivers, &c.*—The only remarkable hill, in the parish, stands at a small distance from the manse, and is called *Cairn*, or *Cairn-Table*. It is of a considerable height; and, in a clear day, affords a prospect both extensive and diversified. Two large cairns of stones are heaped together on its summit; and here, tradition says, was formerly a place of worship.

There are no natural woods of any extent in this parish. Some few banks indeed, in different parts, and pretty far distant from one another, are covered with trees that seem to grow spontaneously; but the general face of the country is by no means so agreeably diversified. It would appear, however, that this was not its original state, especially from the names given to particular farms, such as *Nether-Wood*, *Har-Wood*, &c. The names still remain, and so do the farms; but the woods are now no where to be seen. They have left no vestiges, not a single representative behind them, except a few decaying old trees can be called by that name, which after all are, in all probability, of a later origin. Long trunks and branches of trees, found deep buried in mosses, confirm the notion that the woods once covered these very spots where now only their names remain. It is much to be regretted, especially in such a country and climate, that these woods are now no more, for surely the ground, or rather pasture, to be gained by destroying them is by no means an equivalent for the loss of one of the most natural, as well as greatest ornaments, of the face of any country. Among these trees that here seem to grow spontaneously, the chief is the mountain ash, or rowan-tree, as it is called in the language of the country. It adorns the wildest scenes; and often meets the eye unexpectedly by the side of a barren rock or sequestered stream, seldom seen, indeed, except by the inhabitants of the air, and the flocks that pasture around, or their solitary

tary keeper as he moves along to "call his wanderers home." There are no rocks either of size or shape sufficient to strike the eye of the traveller, or deserve notice. There are no remarkable rivers that run through the parish, though a variety of lesser streams. The principal are, the water of Ayr and that of Greenock; the latter takes its name not from its source, or from the adjacent country, but, in all probability, from a range of farms near its banks; it joins the water of Ayr at the boundary of the parish to the west. The last mentioned rises in this parish a few miles eastwards of the manse. It is soon swelled by a number of lesser streams; and taking its course by Lorn, and the picturesque scenes of Barskimming, at last runs into the sea, at the county town. Both of these waters abound with trout of a blackish colour, but excellent quality, with some few eels, but here are scarce any perch. They have suffered much of late by the ravages of poachers with nets, who, at once, pillage the rivers, and destroy the more moderate sport of the angler, who seldom fails to pour forth blessings liberally on them, as he returns home with his basket much lighter than usual.

*Birds, &c.*—The birds are much the same as in other parts of Scotland. It is to be regretted that there are few songsters of the grove; and indeed, except the sky-lark, few of the spring, as the melody of the blackbird and thrush is seldom heard. The larger curlew or *whaup*, which hatches here in summer; and returns to the sea shore in autumn, is one of those early visitants that announce the approach of spring, and call to begin the labours of the garden. Like the cuckoo\*, it has little variety of notes, but it appears much earlier;

\* The cuckoo has been celebrated in a little ode, that may almost vie with the music of the spring (vide Logan's poems.)  
but,

earlier; and its view is the more pleasing as it announces that the severity of the winter is past, and that 'the time of the singing of birds' is approaching.

*Climate and Diseases.*—The air is naturally sharp, and favourable to health, though often loaded with vapours and damps, owing to the mosses and marshy grounds, so frequently to be met with, and the surrounding hills which intercept the clouds. It is no wonder that both of these taken together should form an atmosphere not perfectly dry. As a proof of this, a few days will affect, with mouldiness on its surface, any thing placed on an earthen floor or lower storey. A convincing proof that the atmosphere would, in all probability, prove unfavourable to the health of the inhabitants, were it not for the frequent high winds which disperse the moist vapours, or at least change their places, and prevent them from stagnating. Neither this, nor indeed any other cause, arising from situation, affect the inhabitants with those distempers which are commonly produced by a moist air or damp situation. There are here no peculiar diseases, nor any other that do not equally affect other countries, and other situations.

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uations.

But, the curlew, though one of its earliest birds, has never been so fortunate, and as the writer of this cannot deck him in poetic plumes, like the other, he begs leave in humble prose to relate the following anecdote in his praise. A country gentleman, from the west of Scotland, and who lived in a parish very similar to this, both in soil and climate, being occasionally in England for a few weeks, was, one delightful summer evening, asked out to hear the nightingale. His friend informing him, at the same time, that this bird was a native of England, and never to be heard in his own country. After he had listened, with attention, for some time, upon being asked if he was not much delighted with the nightingale. "It's a' very gude," replied the other, in the dialect of his own country, "But I wad na' gie the *wheuple* of a *whaup* for a the nightingales that ever sang."

tuations. Perhaps daily habit gradually forms the constitution to every climate and every state, and prevents the human body from receiving injury from these circumstances that would affect the constitution of others not born to them.

*State of Property.*—Property has been changing its possessors for some time past, and is still in a fluctuating state. Formerly the greater part of the whole parish was divided among a number of smaller heritors. But as a gentleman of extensive fortune has bought the lands of several of them, the number of proprietors is considerably diminished of late. The number of these, who reside, does not exceed 4, whose property is not very extensive. The non-residing heritors amount to about 10, including the two principal ones; one of whom comes into the parish only occasionally, and the other seldom or never at all.

The value of property is much increased in this parish within these few years. A sheep farm, for instance, which, a few years ago, was bought for 300 l. within this twelve-month gave 1000 guineas; and this is by no means disproportioned to the price of other lands lately sold here. What, at first sight at least, makes this appear extraordinary is, that the rise above mentioned is not, as in some like cases, owing to the advanced improvements of agriculture, or cultivation, or, indeed, to any material change of the soil in any one respect, but the discovery, and expectation of farther discovering, those useful minerals, which even the most barren spots cover and contain, and which are so necessary for carrying into effect the manufactures lately established here, has stamped a superlative value on those grounds, on whose surface the traveller was formerly apt to cast his eye with indifference, and sometimes with disgust.

*Husbandry.*

*Husbandry.*—The implements of husbandry here are the common ones, which are too generally known to need either enumeration or description: The mode of cultivation, is the easiest and simplest the inhabitants can find. Ashes and the contents of the dunghill, the manure commonly in use. Such melioration as may be got by vicinity to the sea shore, is not to be procured here; even lime, with which the country abounds, has been hitherto seldom, and but sparingly, used by the common farmer, who alleges that it calls forth the whole strength of soil in a single year or two, and, of consequence, impoverishes the ground in proportion for double the number following. But the more satisfactory reason, alleged at least, is that lime spread on the ground, is unfavourable to sheep pasture, which last is, indeed, the principal object with every farmer and smaller proprietor: Here, as on the other hand, there seems but little encouragement to the improvements of agriculture, or even of common tillage, in a country where, whatever other advantage it may possess, it must be acknowledged both the soil and climate forbid the luxuriance of growth, or where, should the grain outgrow the ordinary size, the too early frosts either check or arrest it in its progress, and prevent it from ripening, while, on the contrary, the lighter and poorer increase coming earlier to maturity, escape the danger. Though, from the above causes, husbandry has remained only in its infancy here for a considerable time past, yet, from the fluctuating state of property, and its sometimes falling into the hands of men of fortune, who have money to spare in making experiments, it is to be supposed that new implements, and new modes will be introduced, though, after all, it is hard to say whether good crops of grass, for pasture in summer and hay for cattle in winter, is not the utmost to which the ground here can be brought;  
and,

and, upon the whole, the best mode of melioration and improvement.

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—The seed-time is much the same here as in other parts of the country, but the harvest is late, being seldom general before the end of September, and sometimes not till the beginning of the month following. There is hardly any possibility of hastening it by sowing earlier, as the ground, from various causes, is not sooner in case to receive or nourish the seed; to sow grain therefore of the earliest kind that can be procured, is the only probable method of providing against this material inconvenience. Those generally raised here are oats, and common or rough bear, in contradistinction to barley, sometimes rye, seldom pease, which, unless in favourable seasons, do not ripen. Potatoes commonly thrive well, and make a great part of the food not only of the poorer sort, but of the generality, in the end of autumn and during the whole of winter. In common they are dressed with milk, and make both a palatable and wholesome meal\*.

*Good and bad Seasons.*—No particular incident has marked the seasons here for years past. The common calamities  
which

\* Hardly any root cultivated in this country is so generally agreeable, and suited, at once, to the taste, both of the luxurious and of the poor, of children, and grown persons, as the potatoe, yet perhaps no root whatever is, taken by itself, more insipid and tasteless. Its agreeableness is perhaps owing to this very cause, as we find those foods that affect the palate most strongly, though ever so agreeably, most quickly lose their relish, and soonest become disagreeable or nauseous; and presumption, at least, that the simplest foods are the most conducive to health, because most agreeable to nature.

which affected the country, in general, and its highest parts in particular, in the year 1782 were severely felt here\*.

*Real and Valued Rent.*—The real rent about 1400l. Sterling; and the valued rent 188l. 6s. 8d. Sterling.

*Price of Grain and Provisions.*—Meal per boll from 16s. to 17s. 4d. common bear from 1l. to 1l. 2s. Ayrshire boll.

These

\* In this parish, severe frosts in the harvest months, heavy rains, snows, and frost again, reduced the corn, while on the ground, or in the sheaf, to the state of barley during the first stages of malting. The meal still retained an unnatural and disagreeable sweetishness, and in colour resembled coal or peat-ashes. The straw, by the above process, was discoloured, and, when dry, seemed deprived of every vegetable juice, appeared tasteless, and void of nourishment. Physicians, and some who were no physicians, declared both grain and straw to be unwholesome, and prognosticated diseases and death to men and cattle. Yet it is remarkable none of those direful consequences ensued, and the cattle, in particular, never appeared healthier, or more stout for labour than in the spring immediately following. The same all-governing power which permitted the calamity to take place, seeming to interpose to prevent or suspend its natural and so much dreaded consequences. Possibly, too, the nourishment of the grain was arrested in the straw, but though this will account for the healthiness of cattle, yet, by no means, for that of the species. Much praise is due to the humanity of those who, this season, so strenuously and successfully exerted themselves to save their fellow men from famine and from hunger, in those parts of the kingdom where the fruits of the earth were entirely blasted or destroyed, by bringing grain from the more fruitful fields of richer countries in happier climes. Much also is to be ascribed to the exertions of those who brought foreign aid to those parts of this country, where the calamity was still felt, though not so severely. A species of white field pease imported, became very seasonable supply to this parish, especially in the spring months, and moderated in a great degree, the threatened calamity. Upon the whole, it may be affirmed that dearth of meal, but not absolute scarcity, and the destruction of seed grain, were the only material inconveniences which this part of the country suffered from the unfortunate season 1782.



These are the only marketable grain produced in the parish. Beef from 5 d. to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* pound, mutton  $4\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 5 d., veal 6 d., pork from 5 d. to 6 d.; lamb 4 d. and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  d., butter from 9 d. to 10 d., cheese from 4 s. a stone to 7 s. 6 d., ewe-milk cheese when new 6 d. *per* pound, when old 9 d., fowls from 9 d. to 12 d., chickens from 3 d. to 4 d., eggs *per* dozen 3 d., 4 d., and 5 d. It is here proper to remark that provisions of all kinds have risen considerably of late, from the vast increase of consumers. This parish never did raise grain sufficient to maintain its inhabitants even in its former state, now it may be asserted, that even at a moderate computation, its produce of grain, &c. is not equal to above one third of the demand.

*Wages and Price of Labour.*—Both of these too have had a very considerable rise from the above cause, and the manufactures lately established. Men servants receive from 8 l. to 12 l. yearly with victuals, women from 3 l. to 4 l. Labourers *per* day from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d. without victuals; mowers, in hay time, 1 s. 3 d. with victuals; wrights, 2 s. without victuals; masons, the same; taylor, from 10 d. to 1 s. with victuals; shoemakers, weavers, &c. charge by the piece, but their wages have risen in the same proportion.

*Manufactures.*—There are two considerable manufactures lately established here, that of iron and coal-tar. The latter now produces likewise a manufacture of lamp-black. As the former is yet in its infancy, an account cannot be given of it so minute, at least, and particular, as if it were in a more advanced and mature state. Its first commencement was in the year 1787, and the furnace began to blow in July 1789. The manufacture is not yet brought to the perfection intended, but is gradually advancing, and in a progressive state.

There

There are, for the encouragement of those concerned, the most favourable appearances in the necessary articles of coal, iron-stone, and lime. Several attempts have been made for discovering iron ore, but it has not yet been found in any large quantity. Appearances however favour farther experiments.

*Towns and Villages.*—The only village, or rather *clachan*, as they are commonly called, that deserves the name, lies at a small distance from the church, by the side of the high road, on a rising ground called Garan-hill, which therefore gives name to the range of houses that occupy it. They have increased greatly in number since the commencement of the works, and new houses and new streets have risen around them. Many new houses, besides some of them of a very neat structure, have been built at the works themselves, and others are daily appearing that will, in a short time, greatly exceed in number and elegance those of the old village, formerly indeed the only one that the parish could boast.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The road from Edinburgh to Ayr by Carnwath and Douglas-miln runs through this parish, and, excepting a few miles in the parish itself, is in tolerable repair. Another great road from Glasgow to Dumfries and Carlisle is now in great forwardness, and will be completed before the end of the present year. It will run across the parish somewhat in a transverse direction, and intersecting the other near the great new inn, and then stopping its course southwards to Sanquhar, will shorten the communication with Dumfries by several miles. There are three bridges now a-building, on the line of road from Edinburgh to Ayr. One on the water of Ayr itself; one on the water of Greenock, before its junction with Ayr; and, a third, on the water of Garpel.

Garpel. These bridges have been long much wished for by the public; and it seems strange that they should not have been built sooner on a line of road so long and so much frequented.

*State of Church, Manse, &c.*—The parish kirk was repaired, and heightened, in the year 1775, when the present minister was admitted. Though sufficient *then* to accommodate the whole parish, it is now, by no means, large enough to contain the present inhabitants, and those numbers that have been pouring in from all quarters, in consequence of the manufactures. To accommodate with seats, even those of them who seem earnestly to desire the means of religious instruction, it would be necessary either to make a considerable addition to the present kirk, or to build a new one.—The glebe consists of between 8 and 9 acres, almost all arable, yet unfit for tillage, because unfit to raise such crops as sufficiently repay the labour. For some years, it has been used only as pasture, and raising hay for winter, a mode of treating it that seems best adopted to its nature. In many places, it is wet, and, in others, runs into the opposite extreme, being light and gravelly. Draining has been attempted for the former, and in many places with success. Indeed this mode never almost misses its aim, for it seldom fails to drain either the *ground* or pocket.—The original stipend is 400 l. Scots, 2 chalders meal, and one of bear, about 70 l. in value at an average. An augmentation has been lately decreed, which, including communion elements, does not amount to 14 l. Sterling. This, it seems, from the want of free teinds, is the utmost that can be granted.

*Poor.*—The poor are supported by the weekly collections, together with the interest of their money. The principals amounting

amounting to 130 l. and lent out for the above purpose. The yearly collections formerly were 12 l. they are now about 17 l. These funds are managed by the kirk session, the trustees in the first instance, who generally take care that the yearly income and disbursements keep pace with one another, and that the principal is not encroached upon. None of the poor are allowed to stroll into other parishes; and there is seldom an instance of one begging within the bounds of the parish itself, yet the country, in general, and this parish in particular, is much visited, or rather infested, by strolling poor, from other quarters. One cause of this is the improper police of some larger towns. Nothing is more common than to banish those that are convicted of bad practices the "Liberalties of the city," as they are called. This is neither more nor less, than to *punish* the adjacent country for sins committed in the town, to lay it under contribution for the convenience of the city, and free the *one* of nuisances by sending them to the *other*. Because the worthless behave ill in one part of the kingdom seems no good reason for sending them over the country at large; and allowing them a wider range for their depredations. Banishment, besides, from one particular district, or, in other words, *enlargement*, is no punishment to *vagabonds*, but the contrary. It is told of a soldier, from a neighbouring kingdom, who being convicted of mal-practices, was to be banished *Scotland* for life. When the judge intimated the penalty, "Bless your honour," said the culprit, "put your sentence soon in execution."

*School and number of Scholars.*—There is a parish school established, with a salary of 7 l. 15 s. about 40 scholars attend in winter and 30 in summer. The branches taught are Latin, English, writing, arithmetic, book keeping, and occasionally church music. The schoolmaster possesses, besides,

a free house and garden; and his whole emoluments, exclusive of the two last, may amount to about 30 l. *per annum*.

*Parish Records.*—For about 20 years past, a regular list has been kept of marriages, births, and deaths; before that period, the accounts are very imperfect, often broken off, in some places hardly legible, seem to have been irregularly taken, or, if regular, are now lost.

|                                  |   |   |     |
|----------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Marriages, for the 3 last years, | - | - | 40  |
| Births, for ditto,               | - | - | 145 |
| Deaths, ditto,                   | - | - | 74  |

The greater number of growing persons have died of consumptions, of children the greater number of the natural small-pox.

*Population.*—In 1755 the numbers were rated at 745. When the present minister was admitted in this parish, the number of examinable persons was 447. The increase of men, women, and children, connected with the manufactures, is 532. The whole number of souls, at present, may be computed at about 1100. The word computed is used because, in a crowd of people, that are perpetually shifting, some going and some coming in their room, it is difficult to mark the precise number for even a few weeks; and were the numbers *now* fixed, they would not probably remain the same till the account of them is published. They will, however, in all probability, greatly increase, and that in a few years.

*Horses, Sheep, &c.*—The number of horses has increased considerably within these few years. The iron works, in their several employments, maintain about 30, and these, together with those employed in other parts of the parish,  
amount

amount in all to about 75. Horses are at present about three times the price they gave 40 or 50 years ago.—About 14,000 sheep are produced and pastured in this parish. They have risen in value considerably within these few years also. Though the chief article of trade here, there is only one market for them upon the spot, and that chiefly for lambs, about the beginning of August. They are commonly driven for sale to Linton, Lanark, Carnwath, Kilbryd, and sometimes Glasgow and Edinburgh.

*Mineral Springs.*—There is only one spring that has yet been discovered that is of a medicinal nature. It is useful in complaints of the stomach or bowels. Indeed, from the great quantities of iron stone, together with some ore, it is to be presumed that several chalybeates might be found, or perhaps already flow unseen and undiscovered, especially as the water, when confined or checked in its progress, seems tinged in the same manner as when it touches iron or steel.

*Antiquities, &c.*—There are here, scattered up and down, the monuments of some of those covenanters who fell during the calamities of the period in which they lived. Of these the most remarkable is the grave-stone of one John Brown, erected at a sheep farm-house, called Priest-hill or Priest-shiel, near the confines of the parish of Lesmahagow. His monument is placed on the spot where he suffered, not far from the threshold of his door. The inscription is legible, and bears that he was shot through the head by a party commanded by Graham of Claverhouse, while upon his knees, and in the act of prayer. Tradition adds, that Claverhouse, or one of his party, lifted up his dead body, and carried it to his wife, asking her, “ what she thought of her husband? “ Mair, said she, than ever I did; but the Lord  
“ will

“ will avenge this another day ;” Such are the blessed effects of enforcing or attempting to enforce *uniformity* in religion.

*Size, Manners of the People, &c.*—Nothing very singular distinguishes the people here from those of other parishes of the like nature. They are of the ordinary size in general, and of a healthy and robust constitution. Their turn of mind, so far as it is peculiar, is, in a great degree, formed by their situation and manner of life, and they discover a strong attachment to the place of their birth, and former residence, or, in their own words, “ weary fair for the Muir-  
“ kirk,” even when they remove to countries more fruitful and better cultivated. Their chief amusement in winter is *curling*, or playing stones on smooth ice ; they eagerly vie with one another who shall come nearest the mark, and one part of the parish against another ;—one description of men against another ;—one trade or occupation against another ;—and often one whole parish against another,—earnestly contend for the *palm*, which is generally all the prize, except perhaps the victors claim from the vanquished, the dinner and bowl of toddy, which, to do them justice, *both* commonly take together with great cordiality, and, generally, without any grudge at the fortune of the day, or remembrance of their late combat with one another, wisely reflecting, no doubt, that *defeat* as well as *victory* is the fate of *war*. Those accustomed to this amusement, or that have acquired dexterity in the game, are extremely fond of it. The amusement itself is healthful ; it is innocent ; it does no body harm ; let them enjoy it. There is another custom here, less noted indeed, but seemingly of equal antiquity, commonly known in the language of the country by the name of *rocking*, that is when neighbours visit one another in pairs, or three or more in company, during the moon-light of winter or spring,  
and

and spend the evening alternately in one another's houses. It is here marked because the custom seems to have arisen when spinning on the *rock* or *distaff* was in use, which therefore was carried along with the visitant to a neighbour's house. The custom still prevails, though the *rock* is laid aside; and when one neighbour says to another, in the words of former days, "I am coming over with my *rock*," he means no more than to tell him that he intends soon to spend an evening with him.

*Disadvantages and Advantages.*—The disadvantages may be collected, in general, from what has been already mentioned as to the nature of the soil and climate. The principal meliorations or improvements still requisite are inclosing; but the inclosures must be formed with stone dykes to render them effectual in a sheep country; also draining, and planting trees, in order to shelter the fields from cold, and "clothe the nakedness of the land." In all these respects the exertions of Admiral Stewart, who has now a large share of property in the parish, are worthy of notice, particularly in the last. His large plantations of trees of various kinds that diversify the scene, some in belts, some in other forms, but all extensive and covering different grounds, formerly of little use, as they now begin to strike the eye of the passenger as he moves along, promise, in a few years, to give a very different aspect to the face of the country. Some plantations too of the Iron Company begin to rise to view. They are disposed with taste, on spots happily chosen, where they will soon rise to beauty. Though not so extensive as the other, yet, for the share of property the Company possesses, they are very considerable.

This parish possesses many advantages that are not always the lot even of better climates, and of richer soils. No coun-

try



try abounds more with peat, coal, lime, and good quarries of stone for building. Were any remark to be made upon the *qualities* of these; the coal does not seem to have equal strength with that found in the deeper soils of the Lothians, therefore burns for a shorter period, but that inconvenience is sufficiently compensated by it abounding almost every where along the sides of the water, its cheapness to the consumer, and its accessibleness to all. Perhaps the lime too may be liable to the same remark, and from the same cause; but the stone lies under no such exception. It is of a proper colour, and takes an excellent polish, being equally adapted to conveniency or ornament.

These are the local and natural advantages of this parish, and they are no doubt considerable. But it boasts, of late, *other* advantages, still greater in one respect, because they enhance its natural ones, give them value, and call them forth into effect, I mean the manufactures lately established, and which have been already mentioned. The success of these is an object truly desirable. Every friend of his country and of the public must, upon all occasions, wish well to laudable and useful enterprise. We respect, nay we *praise*, that man who can improve or enrich the surface of the earth, can mow down rich crops from fields formerly barren, or even double the grains of corn, upon those that bore before. But surely an equal share of praise is justly due to that man, who, in countries that are ungrateful to the labours of cultivation, and either discourage or forbid its ungainful toil, can drag from the sluggish bosom of the earth, in which they lie concealed, inactive, and useless, those minerals, which under the forming hand of art gradually assume every figure and every shape, and serve at once to accommodate, or adorn life.

NUMBER LV.

PARISH OF DUNDONALD.

(County and Presbytery of Ayr.—Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.)

*By the Reverend Mr ROBERT DUNCAN.*

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*Name and Situation.*

NO word in the English language accurately determines the form of that rising ground which is known in Scotland by the Celtic term, *dun*. The parish of Dundonald derives its name from an eminence on which stands an antient and royal castle. In this castle lived and died Robert II. the first King of the Stewart line. From Irvine harbour, which is within its limit, this parish extends eight English miles along the sea coast, and terminates on the south, at the place where the Rumbling and Pow-burns meet, and discharge themselves into the sea: A place which, on account of its quick sands, is very dangerous to travellers\*.

*Soil*

\* The sea coast between Ayr and Irvine being flat, and, excepting at this place, which is about three miles from Ayr, the sands being firm and the prospect delightful, a strong temptation is presented to pass from the one town to the other along shore. But, as some persons have been burried alive at this spot, it is an important caution not to attempt passing it at high water, and at other times to keep as close as possible to the low water mark.

*Soil and Appearance.*—The parish of Dundonald presents as great variety in point of Soil and external appearance as is to be met with in any part of the kingdom. The Claven hills and Shoualton mofs, which lies immediately under them to the north, divide it almost into two equal parts; upper and lower. The former being inland, is, in general, of a fertile clay, though some farms are more inclined to a loamy, and two or three to a light texture. This part of the parish consists of gentle eminences, adorned with clumps and belts of planting. The lower part, between the hills and the sea, is very flat. Some barren sandy hillocks are to be seen in different places by the shore. Cutting the bent, which grows upon them, no doubt, adds to their barrenness, and renders them a better sport to the winds. However, there is a great extent of arable, and especially of good pasture, ground near the sea, and particularly about the Troone. Half a mile inward, and along the skirts of the hills, is a mixed soil of excellent quality; very proper for culture, and which, after regular tillage, runs immediately into rich grass.

The Claven hills consist of various heights, and extend about three miles from south-east to north-west, and a mile and an half from north-east to south-west. Many of these heights are arable, all of them afford pasture, and some of them have their shelving sides ornamented with oak, ash, birch, alder, hazle, &c. None of them are so elevated as to require critical measurement, or comparison with many hills in the county of Ayr, yet they have long been distinguished by particular names. The two highest are stiled the Lamont and Warley hills. Perhaps the latter, which overtops the rest, is a corruption for warlike; the lines of two encampments being still distinct upon it. These are usually designed Roman encampments, though their form appears sufficiently to confute that designation. The largest contains, within a circular embarkment of loose stones and earth, ten  
acres

acres of ground ; and there is an inner circle of the same kind, and from the same center, which incloses one of these acres. The other encampment is about two hundred yards distant. No artificial work has ever been raised upon its north-east quarter ; the steepness of the declivity being a sufficient defence. But, on the south and west, the circular embankment is strong, and within is a beautiful platform not exceeding an acre in extent. Historians seem to agree that the Norwegians, who afterwards were defeated at Largs, landed near to Ayr ; and it is not improbable that these heights were immediately occupied, and in this manner fortified, by them. No place could be more proper for their purpose, both on account of the extensive prospect, and of its great security before the invention of fire arms. A person standing within either of these encampments, is entertained with a delightful prospect, to the south, of the lands lying upon Ayr and Doon rivers ; and the prospect, upon this quarter, is terminated by the high hills of Carrick and Galloway. Turning to the north-east, Cunningham and part of Kyle exhibit a grand and rich amphitheatre, at least 14 miles in diameter. In a clear day, the eye is lost among hills stretching far beyond Ben-Lomond. To the west, the spectator has a noble view of the frith of Clyde, of Bute, Cumbræ, Cowal, the Paps of Jura, Arran, Plada, Sanda, the point of Cantyre, and different parts of the kingdom of Ireland appearing between Kintyre and Ailsa. The singular form of this last island, rising like a mighty pyramid from the ocean, is beautifully contrasted by the similar appearance of Loudon hill, rising on the opposite side from the land. No wonder that the inhabitants of the bleak mountains of Scandinavia were captivated with the prospect, and excited to contend vigorously for the possession of this part of Scotland.

*Population.*—In 1755, the number of souls was rated at 983.

|                                          |   |   |   |   |      |
|------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| In 1792, the total is                    | - | - | - | - | 1317 |
| Of these—Males                           | - | - | - | - | 658  |
| Females                                  | - | - | - | - | 659  |
| Below 10 years of age                    | - | - | - | - | 338  |
| From 10 to 20 years                      | - | - | - | - | 293  |
| From 20 to 30                            | - | - | - | - | 220  |
| From 30 to 40                            | - | - | - | - | 165  |
| From 40 to 50                            | - | - | - | - | 146  |
| From 50 to 60                            | - | - | - | - | 82   |
| From 60 to 70                            | - | - | - | - | 43   |
| From 70 to 80                            | - | - | - | - | 26   |
| From 80 to 90                            | - | - | - | - | 3    |
| From 90 to 100                           | - | - | - | - | 1    |
| Annual average of births during 28 years | . | - | - | - | 35   |
| ————— of marriages                       | - | - | - | - | 16   |
| ————— of burials                         | - | - | - | - | 17   |

*Rent.*—Valued rent 6367 l. 17 s. 5 d. Scots. Real rent about 6100 l. Sterling.

*Church, School, and Poor.*—To the ministers stipend, which formerly was 100 bolls 14 pecks of meal, 32 bolls 11 pecks of bear, Ayrshire measure, and 20 merks Scots; the Lords Commissioners of teinds have, this year, granted an augmentation of 25 l. 3 s. 2½ d. Sterling, and 5 l. Sterling to defray the expence of communion elements. The manse was rebuilt in 1784, upon a very neat plan, and was the first in this part of the country, which had slated offices. The glebe is 4 acres. No grafs is allowed for horse or cows. The school-masters salary is 100 merks Scots. The average of scholars, 34. The inhabitants are obliged to keep two private schools, in two corners of the parish, which are at too great a distance  
from

from the kirk town, for their young children. The schoolmaster has a dwellinghouse and schoolhouse, but no garden.

The funds for the poor are, the interest of 144 l. stock in the bank of Ayr, the monies received at private baptisms and for mortcloths, and the weekly collections: The average of the provision for the poor for nine years past, is 36 l. Seven persons, receive, at present, a weekly pension from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; and eleven receive occasional supply. None are allowed to beg. Near to the village of Dundonald, is the castle already mentioned, which gives name to the earldom in the family of Cochrane. The rising ground on which the castle stands, with 5 roods of land adjoining, is all the property in this parish which now pertains to that family. No authentic record can be produced at what time this castle was built, or when it was spoiled of its roof, and rendered desolate. A large pile still remains: The walls are very thick, and built of whinstone, which is in abundance near it. The corners are of a freestone, superior in quality to any now found in the parish. The Stuart arms are engrossed in different parts of the building, and the whole has much the form of those castles which were raised in many places of Britain during the 12th and 13th centuries. Among the hills is still discernable the vestige of another castle, called *Kemplaw*, and which is said to have been of high antiquity.

Opposite to the village and castle is a very beautiful bank of wood, upwards, in most places, of 100 feet in height, and extending near a mile to the northwest. In a grand curvature of this bank, and on a gentle eminence, stands the house of *Auchans*, for a long period the residence of the *Wallaces* of *Dundonald*. About 1640, this estate came into the possession of *Sir William Cochrane* of *Lowdon*, knight; who was afterwards created *Earl of Dundonald*. Since the beginning of this century, the estate has been the property of the  
Earl

Earl of Eglintoune, who, with it, acquired the patronage of the parish. At the Auchans, are the remains of a small orchard which was once in high reputation. The pear, known in Scotland by the name of Auchans, derived that name from this place. The tree came originally from France, was planted in this orchard, grew to a great height, and was, not long ago, blown down by a storm. Some large trees, particularly planes and ash, may be seen in different parts of the parish, especially at the Auchans.

*Heritors.*—The heritors of the parish are in number 16, and, excepting two of them who have only 39 acres, reside either within the bounds of the parish, or in its vicinity. The houses of Fullerton, Fairlie, Hillhouse, and Newfield are modern buildings, very commodious and elegant in their respective forms. To Mr Fairlie of Fairlie, the country is indebted for a considerable share of its improvement in agriculture. Of this not only his own estate in this parish, but the numerous estates belonging to the Earl of Eglintoune, in the counties of Ayr, Lanerk, and Renfrew, all under his management, are a sufficient demonstration. Persevering with uncommon firmness in combating the prejudices of old tenants, dividing the lands and making restrictions suitable to the soil and situation, he has rendered the farmers, in general, more wealthy and respectable, and the lands much more valuable. To Mr M'Kerrel of Hillhouse, the country is under great obligations in another line. He was the first who introduced the silk manufactory into Paisley, and his sons still carry it on to a considerable extent. Colonel Fullerton of Fullerton, and Major Crawford of Newfield, particularly distinguished themselves in the East Indies.

*Fuel.*—This parish is well situated for fuel. Shoualton  
mofs,

moor, which is of an irregular figure, near 4 miles in circumference, is an inexhaustible fund for peat. But there is little demand for peat owing to the abundance of coal. At Fairlie a seeing coal has been wrought for many years for the benefit of the country, and, for some seasons past, a good blind coal, which is exported at Irvine for the Irish market. On account of this coalwork, a village, named Rumford, has of late years started up close by Fairlie bridge. It contains at present 74 inhabitants. At Shoualton a seeing coal is wrought both for the use of the people in the town and neighbourhood of Irvine, and for exportation. The load of coals has lately been raised, and is now sold at the former of these works at 8 d. and at the latter 10 d. These coal-eries employ many failors and carters in Irvine, and during the summer and winter months, a number of tenants, who, by these means, give constant work to their horses.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A cotton work has lately been erected in the village of Dundonald, which employs 30 persons, old and young. The carding machines are turned by a horse. Excepting 6 weavers, 3 taylors, 4 shoemakers, 2 mafons, 4 joiners, and 3 smiths, the rest of the inhabitants, able for work, are employed in agriculture. Land is let from 15 to 30 shillings *per* acre, according to its quality. Most of the farms are in 3, some in 4, breaks. Oats and bear are the principal articles of culture. There are 3 mills upon this side of Irvine river. One of them for oats; another for oats and lint; and the third, lately built upon the land of Shoualton, at considerable expence and with great improvements, for wheat, oats, and barley. No lime has ever been discovered in this parish. The farmers in the lower part of it have for many years imported lime-stone from Ireland. Considering the greater quantity of calca-  
reous



reous earth in the Irish lime, they are at less expence for this kind of manure than to cart it from the neighbouring parishes of Symington and Riccartoun. They have likewise the advantage of the sea-wrack. Notwithstanding the hills and moss already mentioned, the parish produces more than double the quantity of grain necessary for its own consumpt. The attention of the farmers has, of late years, been turned to the rearing of young cattle, both horses and cows, and to the making of sweet-milk cheese. Both must in a short time be highly beneficial to the country; much money having long been drained out of it, to England for cheese, and to Ireland for horses. In summer 1791, there were in the parish 235 draught horses, 120 young ditto, 14 bulls, 597 milch cows, 782 young ditto, bulls and stots; 433 black cattle feeding for market; 1090 sheep, viz. 603 of the small kind and black faced, 338 of a mixed breed between the English and Scotch, white faced; a Turkish ram brought by Colonel Fullerton from Constantinople in 1790, and 48 lambs the offspring of this foreigner, and ewes of the mixed breed.

There are 4 licenced public houses in the parish; but the inhabitants are, in general, very sober and industrious. Their mode of living is much improved within these 20 years. Their way of living and their industry have a mutual influence. No customs or amusements are peculiar to them. Great weddings are fast going into disuse. Country burials are not well regulated. The company are invited at 11 o'clock forenoon, but they are, probably, not all arrived at 2. Till of late a pipe and tobacco were provided for every one of the company; but this custom is entirely laid aside. An antient practise still continues in this parish and neighbourhood of kindling a large fire, or tawnle as it is usually termed, of wood, upon some eminence, and making merry around it,  
upon

upon the eve of the Wednesday of Marymas's fair in Irvine. As most fair days in this country were formerly popish holy days, and their eves were usually spent in religious ceremonies and in diversions; it has been supposed, that tawbles were first lighted up by our catholic fathers, though some derive their origin from the druidical times.

The Troone, which might be made an excellent harbour, is the west point of Dundonald parish. In its natural condition, it affords safe anchoring ground from every quarter but the north-west. It is an arm of rock running near a mile into the sea, and bending from south to north, broad and covered with rich pasture towards the land, and narrowing into a barren point, part of which is for a little distance concealed even at low water. Within the point at half a cables length from the rock, the mariner may trust to have three fathoms water at half-flood. The merchants of Glasgow, sensible of the advantages of this natural harbour, near a century ago made offer to the proprietor of feuing the lands adjoining to it. But their offer was rejected, for a reason, as it is reported, which however ridiculous it may now appear, would be accounted very cogent in those days; lest a rise should be occasioned in the price of butter and eggs. The place, where Port-Glasgow now stands, was deemed by the merchants the next station most eligible for their trade. The Lady-Isle, which lies in the mouth of Ayr Bay, is a pendicle to this parish; and, as it affords security to vessels upon this flat and dangerous coast, the Magistrates of Glasgow have erected two pillars to direct them \*. Upon the Troone stands

an

\* The following is the best statistical account of the sea-coast of this parish that can be given to the sailor. ' Lady Isle is ' about half a mile in length, of an oval figure, and lies in the ' Frith of Clyde, about 15 miles east south-east from Holy Isle ' in the mouth of Lamfash, 9 miles south from Saltcots, 5 miles south-west

an elegant octogonal temple, built by the late Fullerton, who was a gentleman of classic taste. This temple commands an extensive prospect, and is, *Baccho laetitiae datori, amicis et otio sacrum*. The Troone is an excellent situation for sea bathing, and is much resorted to by the inhabitants of Kilmarnock, and of other inland parts. People from Elgin carry on fishing of salmon at the Troone, and the Black-rock which is near a mile to the southward. In dry summers they are most successful, as floods give the salmon an opportunity of ascending the neighbouring rivers. Salmon, when most abundant, are sold at  
4d.

‘ south-west, one half south from Irvine, 2 miles west from  
 ‘ Troone-point, 5 miles north north-west from Ayr, and 24  
 ‘ miles north-east by east from Ailsa. The above bearings are  
 ‘ ascertained by the compass, without allowing any variation.  
 ‘ —In the inside of this Island, opposite to the main land,  
 ‘ there is good anchoring ground; and, for the direction of  
 ‘ ships and vessels, 2 stone beacons are erected on the north-  
 ‘ west part thereof, of such a height as to be easily seen at a  
 ‘ distance.—The best anchor ground is where these two beacons  
 ‘ are brought under one, where there is 5 fathoms water with-  
 ‘ in a cable’s length of the shore, and clean ground, which  
 ‘ grows gradually deeper for half a mile to the south-east, till  
 ‘ there is 14 fathoms water, and then it grows gradually shall-  
 ‘ lower towards the bar of Ayr.—There is a ridge of rocks be-  
 ‘ tween Lady Isle and the Truce-point, about three quarters  
 ‘ of a mile east from the largest beacon, which is not broad,  
 ‘ and runs near south and north. On this ridge there are, at  
 ‘ low water, 3 and 1 half fathoms, and vessels coming too near  
 ‘ it are only in hazard of damaging their cables.—The half  
 ‘ tide rock lies from 1 eight to 1 quarter of a mile north north-  
 ‘ east from the largest beacon, and is covered at half floods;  
 ‘ and there is a channel betwixt it and the Island 4 feet deep at  
 ‘ low water, where small craft may go through, but large ves-  
 ‘ sels must keep on the outside of it.—The rock called Lap-  
 ‘ poch, about 100 yards in length, is in a line with Irvine stee-  
 ‘ ple, the half tide rock, and Lady Isle; and lies about 1 mile  
 ‘ and 1 half south south-west from the bar of Irvine; it is dry  
 ‘ at low water, and has a broad channel betwixt it and the  
 ‘ main land, from 7 to 8 fathoms deep—Navigated and sur-  
 ‘ veyed by James Barry.’

4 d. *per* pound. There are some lobsters and crabs among the rocks. Some tons of kelp are made, every third or fourth year, from the sea weed which grows upon the rocks. Colonel Fullerton has lately built a house at the Troone, for drying the sea-weed thrown in by the surf, and for making kelp from it. But, it is very uncertain, whether a manufacture of this nature will yield a profit sufficient to recompense the loss of manure. The Colonel has two extensive rabbit warrens near the shore ; both of them very thriving. While the Isle of Man remained a distinct sovereignty, the Troone was found to be a very convenient station for vessels employed in contraband trade. The British government gave the first check to smuggling upon this coast, by purchasing the regal power of that petty state. Happily the commutation act has nearly annihilated the hostile traffic. It must be acknowledged, that lessening some duties to a certain degree would not injure the revenue ; and yet more effectually cut up this business, than a fleet of cutters, or an army of custom and excise officers. Uncontrovertible evidence must convince every attentive man, living upon the coast of Ayrshire, of the great wisdom of the apostle, in joining those two precepts in one sentence, Fear God, Honour the King. Smuggling, in its very nature, tends to weaken in the dealer that sense which he has of lawful authority, to disturb his peace, to injure his health, to corrupt his manners. Must it not be regretted, that men of aimable dispositions should be seduced by the temptations of this trade. Were profit and loss upon it clearly calculated, the balance would be much against the profit side, putting health and peace and character out of the question.

END OF VOLUME SEVENTH.

